



# Project News

No. 1, 19 July 2006

## Keeping you up-to-date with redevelopment news

A message from Mary Bonner, RNS General Manager

Welcome to the first edition of our new Royal North Shore Hospital redevelopment newsletter.

Although it's early days yet, there's so much happening on campus that we thought it might be a good time to provide staff with an update about the redevelopment.

We've also had a lot of questions, and a few concerns, about some projects, so this issue features the facts on the child care centre, staff gym, Rotary Lodge and early works.

As most of you will know, some buildings must be demolished. This is absolutely necessary to unlock the site and create space for the new main hospital building. Without this space, we will be unable to deliver a health care facility for the next generation.

During this complex process, we are committed to consulting with you about the decommissioning of old buildings and as well as the planning of new ones.

As information becomes available, we will let you know. And if there are changes, we will give you as much notice as possible.

This is a long-term commitment for our health service – it will take about six to eight years before the project is finally completed. Your patience, co-operation and support will be important as we work toward this new vision for RNS.



*Above: Demolition of the old Maternity Block is part of the early work on campus. Below: The site has been grassed over to improve its visual amenity.*



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# No change to child care until 2012

The Area Health Service has reassured parents that there will be no changes to the RNS Child Care Centre for at least another six years.

"Many staff members will be aware that there are long-term plans to relocate the child care centre," said RNS General Manager Mary Bonner.

"We are now able to confirm that a site off Herbert Street has been identified for the future child care centre.

"Members of the project team have already met with child care centre staff and representatives to discuss a way forward and address any questions."

The final size and design of the centre will be determined by the number of child care places required, and the available funding.

"This is a great opportunity to design a new, more modern centre to accommodate our growing need for child care," Mrs Bonner said.

Despite recent interest in the issue, Mrs Bonner said that the child care centre is one of the Hospital's long-term projects and that there is no cause for concern.

"A user group including child care centre staff and parent representatives will provide a brief for what is required so detailed planning can take place but the final design for the child care centre would not be done until some time later," Mrs Bonner said.

"This is to allow innovations in child care centre design and best practice, which are expected to occur over the next five years, to be incorporated into the plan.

"The redevelopment program will not affect the child care centre until at least 2012."

For more information, email [L.Dolenec@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:L.Dolenec@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au) for a fact sheet.



## The Projects

The **Staff Recreation Centre** is on schedule to close at the end of August to allow for the construction of the new research and education building. After extensive consultation, a temporary location has been identified for the gym. The gym will move to Vindin House for up to 12 months, or staff can take advantage of discount deals at nearby gyms. The pool and tennis centre facilities will close as scheduled. Alternative facilities and gym options will be available on the intranet shortly.

The demolition of the old **Maternity Block** has been completed (see pic page 1). The area has been grassed over to improve its visual amenity until required for redevelopment.

A **Redevelopment Clinical Advisory Group** has been created to provide advice and support to the General Manager on issues relating to the RNSH Campus Redevelopment Project and specifically the development of the models of care.

The group includes Mary Bonner, Professor Carol Pollock, Professor Greg Fulcher, Dr John Vandervord, Dr Tom Hugh, Dr Lewis Macken, Dr Andrew Ellis, A/Professor Greg Knoblanche, Dr Cameron Bell, Dr Danny Stiel, Dr Paul Douglas, Debra Stewart, Joanne Prendergast, Helen Grant, Dr Michael Nicholl, Karen Roach and Andrew Bott.

# Rotary Lodge to close: new plan for carers

For some years, Rotary Lodge has provided simple, motel-style accommodation for patients' families or carers who need to be close to seriously ill patients at Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH).

Construction of the original building, now about 36 years old, was funded by the Rotary Clubs of St Leonards and Lane Cove.

As part of the reconstruction of RNS, Rotary Lodge now needs to be demolished to make room for the new research and education building.

"This is the best site for the new research and education building, which needs to be completed before we can start work on the main acute care facility," said RNS General Manager Mary Bonner.

"While there are long-term plans to provide village-style accommodation on site for staff, students and carers, the only viable short-term alternative is to provide a combination of on-site and off-site rooms."

The Area Health Service will continue to provide up to 31 beds for carers.

Seven 'emergency accommodation' beds will be available in the hospital itself, allocated according to need.

These include two dedicated rooms in the neonatal intensive care unit and five rooms on level 13 of the main building.

The hospital is also investigating the possibility of refurbishing some rooms adjacent to the old paediatric ward.



While the details are still to be confirmed, additional rooms are expected to be made available, at no extra cost to carers, at nearby motels.

"We recognise that the sort of accommodation Rotary Lodge has traditionally provided is a vital part of the acute services at RNS," Mrs Bonner said.

"Although off-site family accommodation is not ideal, it will still allow carers to be close to patients while we build the much-needed and long-awaited new hospital buildings."

Mrs Bonner confirmed that the hospital will continue its long-standing relationship with Rotary.

"We have met with officials from the club and are planning an event to acknowledge the decommissioning of the Rotary Lodge.

"Of course, we will continue to consult with staff and I would encourage any staff members who have a view on this issue to contact the project office or RNS Corporate Communications."