



Smoking ceremony 'cleanses' building site

A traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony has been performed on the Research & Education Building construction site at RNS.

"The smoking ceremony is a powerful symbol of healing which emphasises the resilience of the Aboriginal nation and its connection to this land," said Royal North Shore Hospital General Manager Mrs Mary Bonner.

"It's also an important reminder to all people that this has been a significant place of healing for over 120 years and will continue to be important for generations to come."

The traditional Aboriginal ceremony was performed by Budjedi elder Uncle Max on behalf of the local Guringai nation.

Northern Sydney was the land of the Guringai people and home of the Cammeraygal clan who inhabited the lower North Shore and Cammeray area.

Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service Director of Aboriginal Health, LaVerne Bellear, said the smoking ceremony was a spiritual milestone for the project.



Above: Aboriginal Elder Uncle Max (centre) pictured on the site with (back row, from left) Professor Michael Field, Area Chief Executive Dr Stephen Christley, Aboriginal Health Education Officer Sharni Jones, RNS General Manager Mary Bonner and Area Director of Aboriginal Health Laverne Bellear. Front row: performers Arthur Tamwoy, Djahn Doolan and Wayne Langlo. More pics on our website.

"In urban areas, the landscape has been altered so much that it is easy to forget the traditional connection between Aboriginal communities and the land," Ms Bellear said.

"The ceremony is an important way of reconnecting Aboriginal people with the land, and educating the non-Aboriginal community about traditional beliefs.

"We hope today's ceremony will cleanse the past and open all of us up to new opportunities for learning and healing in the future."

The ceremony was followed by traditional Aboriginal celebration of singing and dancing.

The Projects

- **Planning Minister Frank Sartor has approved the Concept Plan for \$1 billion worth of development on the Royal North Shore Hospital site, including a \$702 million redevelopment of the hospital.**

“The redevelopment will provide new state-of-the-art hospital facilities, including new hospital buildings, a community precinct and research and education facilities,” Minister Sartor said.

“It will centralise existing outdated buildings which are scattered around the large site into more efficient centres to provide better health services.

“It will include some privately funded commercial and residential development close to public transport, to support the new hospital facilities and encourage sustainable transport use,” he said.

- The fundraising team is planning a farewell to Vindin House for graduate nurses in September 2007. Graduate nurses interested in attending the function should contact Kathryn Johnston on 9926 6408.

- Enabling works to Building 34 have been completed with local hot water systems now in place for this facility. The work is part of a long-term plan to transfer hot water dependency from the main boiler house to local systems, allowing for the staged demolition of buildings in the future. The boiler house is due to be demolished in late 2008. Hot water works for buildings 10 and 28 will commence shortly.
- The audit of RNS assets and equipment has been completed and information from the audit is now being analysed. More than 40,000 items were recorded and tagged as part of the project.
- More than 50 hospital departments have been consulted by project planners as part of the room data sheet review. The information will form part of the PPP documentation.

Staff will have further opportunity to comment on the room configurations later in the project, when the PPP contractor is appointed and updated designs and plans become available.

Comprehensive cancer service

There have recently been a number of enquiries about the future of cancer services at RNS.

As part of the \$702 million redevelopment of Royal North Shore Hospital a Cancer Care Centre will provide a comprehensive range of services including day oncology/haematology and radiation oncology to patients diagnosed with all varieties of cancer including breast cancer. We will continue to provide a patient-centred service with appropriate co-locations and integration of services, whether this is in the current hospital or in the future new hospital building. For more information, please visit our website.

PPP News

The PPP team has completed the documentation for the request for detailed proposals (RDP). A pre-release of general site information, including geotechnical and site surveys, was provided to the three consortia bidding for the tender in March this year to assist with their bid preparation.

The RDP was issued on 31 May 2007. The three consortia will then have about 22 weeks to prepare their tenders.

Tender evaluation is due to start in late November, with the evaluation panel expected to include hospital and government representatives. The project is on track to award the PPP tender in early 2008.

Improved accommodation for nurses at Greenwich

Nursing staff accommodation will be provided at the nearby Greenwich Village (pictured, right) from mid-2007.

The new arrangements will allow for the demolition of Sturt House later in the year.

“We have advised staff in Sturt House that we have negotiated budget accommodation at Greenwich Village,” said accommodation coordinator Simone Barton.

“About 70 people are currently in residence at Sturt House and most of them have short-term accommodation agreements with the Area Health Service.

“By the time we need to vacate, we expect that only a handful of people will still be on site because we will be booking all new staff into Greenwich Village from June 2007.”



Above: Sturt House will be demolished later this year.



RNS Redevelopment Project Director – Planning, Andrew Bott, worked on the negotiations with Greenwich Village and believes that most people will welcome the change.

“Greenwich Village has a range of facilities which are not available here at RNS, including a pool, landscaped gardens and BBQ area, computer facilities and a tennis court,” Andrew said.

“There is simply no alternative on-site accommodation at this time and we feel that Greenwich Village is the best short-term solution.”

Managers and unions have been consulted about the new plans.

“We wanted to ensure that there was smooth transition to the new accommodation, and minimal impact on staff recruitment,” Andrew said.

Andrew also confirmed that affordable accommodation for staff, carers and students will be provided on the site as part of the final redevelopment.

To see the facilities at Greenwich Village, visit www.greenwichvillageaccommodation.com.au

Chatswood & Cremorne Planning News

Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service will invest in new temporary accommodation for mental health teams and the Westview service at Chatswood.

It is also proposed to erect a new temporary building on the site to accommodate community mental health staff teams, currently based at Chatswood.

Existing properties at 13 Albert Avenue and 24 Olga Street Chatswood will be refurbished (pending council approval) to provide a safer and more comfortable environment for mental health staff and clients. A decision by Willoughby Council on the development application is expected shortly.

New facilities for Westview and new treatment and consultation rooms will maintain a welcoming, homelike atmosphere for the provision of community mental health services, with improved amenity and easy access between buildings.

Frequently asked questions

This issue, we introduce a new section called that answers your most commonly asked questions about the redevelopment program.

More information on all of these issues is available on the intranet (for staff) and on our web site at www.nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au/rnsredevelopment.

Do you have a question you would like answered? Please email Lilly at LDolenec@nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Will mental health services continue to be delivered at Cremorne and Chatswood?

Yes, and it's all about offering patients and carers choices about their health care.

Access for consumers and carers to mental health services remains a priority for Northern Sydney Central Coast Mental Health.

Services will be delivered via a 'hub and spoke' model of care – staff members will be based in the community health precinct at RNS, but services will continue to be delivered to locally, at sites such as Chatswood and Cremorne, and in the home wherever possible.

This model gives patients and carers maximum choice and flexibility in selecting the most appropriate location for health care.

A full range of services will be available at the St Leonards Community Health facility.