



Project News

No. 9, 16 May 2008

R&E Building takes shape at RNS

RNS Redevelopment

Internal fitout of the new Research & Education (R&E) Building is well advanced with the new library, labs and lecture theatres now almost complete.

The rapid progress has escalated relocation and decanting planning, with more than 300 staff members now working towards a late-2008 occupation of the \$95 million building.

Commissioning planning includes site inspections for key department staff.

"We are currently taking small groups of 10 people onto the site to familiarise them with their new space," said Acting Project Director – Planning, Deb Stewart.

"Staff members have been very excited about the opportunity to see their new workplaces," she said.

On the housekeeping side, staff are also facing a massive spring cleaning task - over the next few months, they will need to identify all items for relocation, disposal or re-use through an asset-stripping program.

"People are looking forward to coming together and creating a stronger identity for their departments," Deb said.

The project team is also working on decanting those departments which will not be relocating into the new R&E Building, but which need to make way for the new hospital redevelopment.

"Even if you are not directly affected, there may be some inconvenience as we manage the challenges of such a major project on a busy inner city site," said Deb.

"It will be a very challenging but exciting time for everyone as the campus landscape begins to change."

The campus community will be kept informed via regular emails and notices; updates are also posted on the main cafeteria noticeboard and web sites.



Above, from left: Tracey Adamson, Deb Stewart, Frank Bazik, Julie Hartley-Jones, Matthew Daly and Professor Carol Pollock inspect the new R&E Building site.



Above: The façade emerges from its scaffolding.

R&E Fast Fact: The top floor of the R&E Building is level with the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge!

In this issue... New \$3.6 million community health centre for Chatswood, project progress and more R&E pics...

Around the projects

- The Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) hydrotherapy pool will close in the second half of 2008 to allow the major redevelopment to begin in early 2009.

The closure will not affect clinical hydrotherapy services for outpatients, which will transfer to Greenwich Hospital as part of an agreement with Hope Healthcare. Greenwich Hospital is about five minutes drive from RNSH, close to public transport and with free parking.

Community users are being assisted to find alternative venues and clinicians are being consulted about arrangements for inpatients.

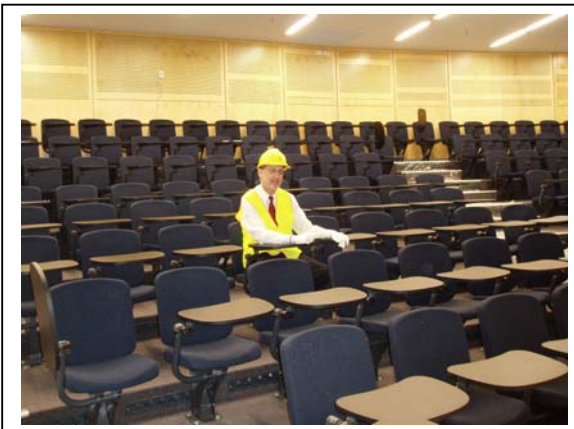
In the meantime, an expert panel will shortly begin reviewing the need for hydrotherapy in the hospital redevelopment.

For more information, visit the staff intranet or www.nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au.

- Sturt House demolition is now complete.

- Good progress is being made on the evaluation of redevelopment bids for the new acute care hospital and community health buildings. The project is on schedule for an announcement of a preferred project company in mid-2008, followed by the next stage of user consultation. Groups are now being established to represent the views of doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, corporate services and other departmental staff for user consultation. They will be asked to review the schematic designs, confirm that rooms are in the correct location and ensure that the layout supports the functional relationships within each department. Two rounds of user consultation with the successful project company are proposed for mid-2008.
- New labour service agreement "frequently asked questions" are currently being prepared in response to issues raised last month at support service staff meetings. For more information, non-clinical support services staff should contact their manager, check the intranet or go to the HR Office one-stop-shop.
- The R&E Building site crane has now been removed – this traditional industry milestone signals the end of construction on the exterior of the building.

More R&E pics



R&E Building progress pics, clockwise from top left: Professor Michael Field in the new auditorium; Michael Field and Professor Rob Baxter inspect progress on the new library; Rob Baxter pictured in the cancer research lab on level 4.

Want more pics? See the latest images on the intranet or visit www.nscchahs.health.nsw.gov.au

New \$3.6 million community health centre for Chatswood

A new \$3.6 million community health centre will be constructed at Chatswood.

NSW Minister for Health Reba Meagher said that the new facility will provide local consumers with a 'one stop shop' for a range of community health services including adult community mental health, child and family health services, some types of prenatal care and other health services.

"The new facility will enable us to provide a greater range of local community health and community mental health services at Chatswood," Ms Meagher said.

Chatswood Community Health services currently include:

- Adult Community Mental Health
- Child and Family Health
- Frail Aged Day Centre.

As well as the current services, the new facility will have the capacity for a range of other services including:

- Aged care services
- Counselling services
- Sexual health services
- Midwives clinic for low-risk antenatal care
- Diabetes groups
- Health promotion sessions.



The facility will also be designed to accommodate primary health care services - such as general practice - in the future, with the potential to provide an even more integrated service for local consumers.

Ms Meagher said she expected that the announcement would now end local speculation about the future of community health services in Chatswood.

"These types of services are most effective when they are delivered in the community and we have always maintained that we intend to retain services at Chatswood for this reason," Ms Meagher said.

Ms Meagher said that the plan is to put the patient at the centre of the service and deliver services in the most appropriate way.

This may be by delivering services directly into the patient's home, through mobile or school services, or from one of three North Shore locations – Chatswood, Cremorne or the new community health building planned for Royal North Shore Hospital.

The new facility at Chatswood is expected to be completed before 2012.