Westmead celebrates historical day in hospital redevelopment

Minister for Health and Medical Research Jillian Skinner kicks off commencement of Westmead Hospital's largest ever redevelopment. Full story page 3

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Another busy year has almost passed.
This is an extraordinary time in the history of western Sydney.
The planning and development of Parramatta will soon accelerate this city to Australia’s fifth largest city.
Combined infrastructure development by all tiers of government in western Sydney is unprecedented in per capita terms.

This is occurring in many domains, for example ground and air transport; commercial, retail and residential property; sport, recreation and leisure space; cultural and heritage conservation and celebration; and of course public and private healthcare.

I recognise the extraordinary work you have done during the year to serve the people of western Sydney and beyond as well as participate in very intensive capital planning and development projects. These projects have included stage 1 expansion of Blacktown Hospital and Mount Druitt Hospital; Westmead Health Precinct planning; Westmead Stage 1 redevelopment; Stage 2 Blacktown Hospital and Mount Druitt Hospital expansion; Westmead Millennium Institute; Parramatta North Urban renewal project and more.

The value of these projects is partly about good design of physical space, but it is mostly about how this space supports and facilitates human behaviour that brings about a better healthcare experience.

I would like to recognise the enormous role played by our various business partners in our day to day work and planning for our future during 2014. These include NSW Ministry of Health; NSW Health Infrastructure; NSW Treasury; our university partners of The University of Sydney, University of Western Sydney and University of Notre Dame; Wentwest Medicare Local; Western Sydney Aboriginal Medical Service; NSW Family and Community Services; and the Sydney Chamber of Commerce – western Sydney.

It is a pleasure and privilege for me to work for an organisation that serves so many people so well.

Look after yourselves during the festive season.

We have many opportunities to make use of 2015 – and we will.

Danny O’Connor
Chief Executive

First and most importantly, my very best wishes to you and those close to you for the holiday season! I hope you have time to enjoy and replenish.

I realise that this is not the holiday season for everyone and to those who will continue working while others enjoy a vacation, our grateful thanks.

Christmas is not a happy time for everyone: relationships may have broken this year, deaths occurred, illness struck or accidents and long-term loneliness surfaced again for some. To you we send our warm concern as your workmates and our understanding.

Our district has seen growth in service provision, the building of improved facilities at Blacktown Hospital and Mount Druitt Hospital, and the plans beginning to take shape for the amazing new Westmead Health Precinct.

In all of this and through all of this we have depended on your goodwill, your motivation to contribute to serving the needs of the sick and helping to improve the health of our community.

This year we have again enjoyed the wonderful support of the Minister for Health and Medical Research Jillian Skinner, the NSW Ministry of Health, Health Infrastructure, our Medicare Local and our several university partners. Our strong collaborations ensure WSLHD stays on a path of growth and innovation.

So now for 2015! We wish each other well - let’s make sure we do our bit to match our actions to what we write on the labels of the gifts we give! Now there’s a New Year resolution for you!

Professor Stephen Leeder
Board Chair
WSLHD welcomes new appointments at Westmead Hospital and BMDH

WSLHD is pleased to announce Andrew Newton as the new general manager of Westmead Hospital and Sue-Anne Redmond as general manager Blacktown Mount Druitt Health (BMDH).

Andrew and Sue-Anne have a wealth of experience in successfully managing the delivery of health-care throughout New South Wales, in operational management and capital development projects.

Please join us in welcoming Andrew and Sue-Anne to their new positions in our WSLHD family.

Executive Updates

Westmead Hospital starts $billion rebuild

By Claudio Russo

Health Minister Jillian Skinner gave the signal for an excavator to commence demolition of an old building at Westmead Hospital on Friday December 12 - the official start of one of the largest hospital redevelopments ever undertaken in NSW.

The building will make way for a state-of-the-art acute services - one of many new facilities that will form part of the massive redevelopment.

“This is an historic day for western Sydney,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Westmead Hospital is an iconic but ageing hospital that must be transformed to meet the needs of this rapidly-growing region.

“In June, I stood on this site with the Treasurer to announce Stage 1 of the redevelopment - a project worth in excess of $400 million. Today I am delighted to return to see the excavator get to work.”

Mrs Skinner said the redevelopment of the Westmead campus will cost more than $1 billion when complete.

More than 1000 clinicians, other staff and community members have been consulted on the Westmead Hospital redevelopment.

The concept plan will be finalised in mid-2015 and the project team will continue to consult with hospital and precinct stakeholders.

Stage 1 of the Westmead Hospital Redevelopment will deliver:

• An acute services building with emergency department
• Up to 14 operating theatres
• Additional intensive care beds and more inpatient beds
• Extra ambulatory care services
• State-of-the-art pathology services
• Comprehensive care centres with co-located complex and critical care services including trauma and surgery
• Additional car parking

For more information visit: www.westmeadproject.health.nsw.gov.au

Excavator gets to work on one of Westmead Hospital’s old administration buildings

By Claudio Russo

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Andrew Newton, general manager Westmead Hospital

Sue-Anne Redmond, general manager Blacktown Mount Druitt Health
A splendid year of advance in research and education is closing!

We have seen the new Westmead Millennium Institute building open, research growth at Blacktown, Mount Druitt and Auburn and there continues to be great collaborative efforts across nursing and allied health professional research development.

The strategic plan for the development of education in WSLHD is also finished.

I pay tribute to all staff working in the WSLHD Research & Education Network for their efforts.

Steady and often exciting progress – a good way to end the year!

Welcome to the world of translational research!

Research workers in three Sydney local health districts, opened their doors to provide an exhibition of the depth of research, the highlights and major achievements, and to demonstrate how this research has improved patient care and enhanced opportunities for prevention.

This exercise was a response to a call from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to health organisations for recognition as Advanced Health and Translational Research Centres or AHTRCs.

To achieve recognition, centres had to be renowned for the complexity of their clinical care, to demonstrate outstanding research capability and to show how this translated into innovations in disease prevention and management.

We were astonished by the massive contribution research is making to clinical care.

For example, we knew our scientists and clinicians had been at the forefront of melanoma research since the 1960s. But we didn’t grasp the extent to which we had been involved not only in identifying gene mutations associated with the disease but also driving change at the clinical and regulatory level.

This scientific work led to identification of new drugs that specifically targeted different types of melanoma cancer cells and the obtaining of regulatory approval to have these marketed.

On the public health side, we successfully advocated for legislation to ban solariums which had been unequivocally linked with melanoma – one of the first jurisdictions in the world to achieve this.

The exercise has encouraged us to consider the future with fresh optimism: if we have achieved this much, then imagine what we might do in the future!
Celebrating Christmas in style

By Claudio Russo

From pony rides to ward decorations and special guest appearances, WSLHD’s 2014 Christmas festivities had it all.

The closing of such a busy year gave staff the opportunity to enjoy a variety of events held across the district including the WSLHD Christmas party, Westmead’s amazing Christmas Carnival, and staff barbecues at Auburn, Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals.
With Christmas fast approaching, WSLHD Finance staff Julie Clarke and Lauren Mace (pictured right) have turned their office into a Christmas wonderland complete with presents, tinsel, wreaths, lots of displays and even a Santa.

Julie coordinated a collection for the Smith Family, gathering gifts for children of families who are struggling and aimed to beat last year’s total of 80 presents. This year she received almost 200 donations.

Julie said she is blown away by the generosity of our staff and the quality of the gifts donated.

If you would like more information or want to check out their Christmas palace, call Julie or Lauren on 9845 9916.

A time for giving
New drug treatment facility opens in western Sydney

By Claudio Russo

Minister for Mental Health and Assistant Minister for Health Jai Rowell opened the new $1.5 million Mount Druitt Private Opioid Treatment Clinic.

The new clinic marks the completion of long term plans to relocate services from the former New Beginning Clinic at St Marys to Mount Druitt Hospital to assist those working towards recovery from addiction.

Mr Rowell said the new facility paves the way for further expansion of drug health services on Mount Druitt Hospital campus that will provide enhanced capacity for public patients with substance use and complex health issues.

“This relocation represents expanded access for the community of Mount Druitt and beyond,” Mr Rowell said.

“It will provide people in the area with substance use disorders the ability to access treatment integrated with a range of other healthcare services.”

Director WSLHD Drug Health Dr Nghi Phung said the relocation of the clinic to Mount Druitt Hospital has been of significant benefit to the community.

“The clinic is embedded within existing WSLHD Drug Health services which are aimed at providing comprehensive treatment for the community, in a supportive and health-oriented environment,” said Dr Phung.

“With the opening of the new clinic, staff and patients have already received very positive feedback from both the staff and the people who have attended the new clinic and we hope this continues into the future,” she said.

ITS Updates

i.PM Update

WSLHD recently went live with an upgrade to i.PM APAC 8.0, which has resolved a number of existing bugs.

i.PM is a patient management system for recording patient details, admission and discharge information.

Staff will notice an improved experience with i.PM and in the New Year a working party will be established to look at new functionality.

Paper-Lite now live at Blacktown Hospital

Paper-Lite is live at Blacktown Hospital in all departments with a majority of forms now in the electronic medical record system.

Forms can be accessed on devices including tablets, smartphones and computers on wheels (COWs), at the patient’s bedside.

Paper-Lite allows medical, nursing and allied health clinicians to access patient information from the existing Cerner Electronic Medical Record at the point of care, as well as document assessments and progress notes.

Electronic orders can be created and consultation notes viewed. Existing paper medical records and forms that cannot be made electronic will be scanned and incorporated into the system.

This more environmentally friendly solution is in the process of being rolled out at Westmead Hospital.

By Claudio Russo

Minister for Mental Health Jai Rowell with Member for Mulgoa Tanya Davies MP, WSLHD’s executive medical director Dr Kim Hill and WSLHD deputy board chair Prof Peter Zelas

The new system is easy to use and environmentally friendly
Blacktown Hospital reaches memorable milestone

By Sia Anthopoulos

Blacktown Hospital’s new clinical services building has reached its highest structural level and NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Health Jillian Skinner were on hand to celebrate.

Mr Baird said it was great news for the people of Blacktown.

“Last year I stood at this site with Jillian to see the earth being prepared for construction,” Mr Baird said.

“And in just over a year the construction workers have reached the top of this building.”

The Minister and Premier joined staff from Blacktown Hospital, BMDH Project, WSLHD and construction company Laing O’Rourke to witness the final concrete pour for the roof and add their names to the roof slab.

The building will open in early 2016 with purpose-built facilities for aged care and rehabilitation, cardiac, cancer and respiratory care.

Community has their say at Westmead Hospital pop-up

“We asked them to tell us what’s important to them, and what sort of things could make a difference to their experience at Westmead,” she said.

The team interviewed members of the public, volunteers and staff and posted the comments on sticky notes to create a comment quilt – a colourful wall of ideas about how to improve the hospital for consumers.

The most common request was for more parking.

“We knew that parking would be the number one issue, but once people heard that a new car park was planned for the early works, they were very supportive of the development and quickly turned their attention to other things,” Deanne said.

The pop-up also included a one-word challenge where visitors and staff were asked to choose a word that summed up their hopes for Westmead Hospital.

More community, consumer and staff consultation sessions are planned for 2015 as part of the planning for the new acute service building.

Early works including demolition for an administration building and site investigations are already underway.
Our winning innovators

It was a tribute to teamsmanship when Minister for Mental Health Jai Rowell acknowledged two WSLHD groups who graduated from the Agency for Clinical Innovation’s Centre for Healthcare Redesign.

The teams included Clementia Yap and Jan Farrell from SAMS (Stop, Assess & Move Smarter) Manual Handling, and Vanda Leonardo, Susanne Reynolds and Judy Tong from Corridors (Redbank Mental Health).

SAMS focused on enhancing patient and staff safety, achieving cost savings and operational improvements in manual handling at Blacktown Hospital and Mount Druitt Hospital.

Corridors focused on improving the care pathway experience of adolescents and their families presenting with a mental health issue to Westmead Hospital Emergency Department during and after business hours.

Congratulations Blacktown Auxiliary: 55 years of service!

By Nikki Woloszuk

Hard working members of the United Hospitals Auxiliary (UHA), Blacktown Hospital Branch, celebrated their 55-year anniversary.

They marked the major milestone during a lunch at Blacktown Bowling Club.

The first meeting was held at Blacktown Council Chambers in the 1960s with the aim of raising funds for hospital equipment.

Vera Barnes said this year the Blacktown Hospital Branch has been able to fund equipment for B42 Surgical Ward and B35 Rehabilitation/Stroke Unit.

WSLHD chief executive Danny O’Connor said the group was to be congratulated.

“I thank each member for their dedication and invaluable contribution over the past 55 years,” he said.

From little things big things grow

By Sia Anthopoulos

An inspirational story about a young boy who established a can collecting recycling business has seen Auburn Hospital staff support his third world charity efforts.

Alex Roberts, who is now in his first year of university, recycled cans to raise funds for an orphanage in Nah Tran, Vietnam.

Auburn Hospital staff were so moved by his efforts they began collecting cans for the project, now known as Cans for Kids.

The program now supports World Vision children and their communities and continues to go from strength to strength.

Staff who would like to get involved in Cans for Kids should email Alex at billmrroberts@bigpond.com

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Proud members of Blacktown’s Auxiliary branch

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Woodturners make work lighter

Generous donation makes lifting easy thanks to the Western Sydney Woodturners Incorporation

By Sia Anthopoulos

Patients and staff at the Children’s Ward at Mount Druitt Hospital are benefitting from a new patient lifter thanks to a generous donation from local craftsmen and women.

The user-friendly controls allow staff to safely move bed-bound patients to a chair or bath with minimal discomfort, and strain on nursing staff.

Mount Druitt Hospital's Children’s Ward nursing unit manager Mildred Villason (pictured) was delighted with the equipment purchased from funds raised by the Western Sydney Woodturners Incorporation.

bstreetsmart triumphs at 2014 Australian Road Safety Awards

By Claudio Russo

bstreetsmart has taken out the School Programs category in the Australian Road Safety Awards 2014.

The purpose of bstreetsmart is to reduce the fatality and injury rates of young people by promoting safe behaviour as drivers, riders and passengers.

Chief executive of the NSW Agency of Clinical Innovation, Dr Nigel Lyons, acknowledged the tireless work of Westmead’s trauma nurses Stephanie Wilson and Julie Seggie, and recognised their strong commitment to road safety education and young people.

Congratulations on this fantastic achievement!

The following points are aimed at improving your smartphone photography skills so you can capture interesting shots wherever you are with whatever you have in your pocket.

• Take your time and treat your smartphone like a proper camera. It may just be a smartphone but with technology so advanced, your phone can capture good images
• Hold your smartphone with two hands, this will give you a steadier shot and reduce shaky hands and photos from becoming out of focus
• Hold you phone landscape rather than vertical. Vertical photos rarely work with group shots or with portraits. Smartphones are usually equipped with very wide lenses so you need to take photos that will work best with the device
• The most common use for your smartphone camera will be group shots with your team or at an event you want to capture. Instead of taking one shot of 15 people, take three smaller group shots of five people in each photo. You will be able to move in closer and make the people in the photo larger getting a better result
• Never take photos with a window/main light in front of you

And don’t forget to tell the people in your photograph to smile!

This month we welcome you to our regular column to help you get the most out of your phone camera. Carlos Furtado is our senior corporate communications specialist, audio visual.

With Christmas and New Year just around the corner, Carlos’s know-how couldn’t be more timely!

Each month he will share the tips of the trade so you can snap photos as good as the professionals at your next farewell morning tea or staff award presentation. And you can earn yourself a byline when we publish your photo!

Left to right: Kevin Nicol, chair of the board, Australian Road Safety Foundation with Chapin Eyres, administration officer, Stephanie Wilson, trauma coordinator and Julie Seggie, trauma coordinator and program manager, Westmead Hospital

The Top 5!

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And don’t forget to tell the people in your photograph to smile!
Westmead on the move!

By Jenny Harrison

WSLHD Research & Education Network director Professor Stephen Leeder and WSLHD chief executive Danny O’Connor were the first to pack their bags to make way for the Westmead Hospital Redevelopment.

The WSLHD executive, Research & Education Network and finance staff have relocated to enable demolition works to commence.

The swift move of 60 people involved 500 packing crates, and 23 removalists taking more than 38 man hours over four days.

Coordinated by Westmead Hospital’s Redevelopment team, Kirstin Shepherd and Marlene Moraza, it was a team effort with invaluable assistance from the executive’s governance officer Sara Currie, Deepak Maharaj from the Research and Education Network, IT, corporate services, maintenance, and capital works.

The new locations are:

- Health Services Planning & Development Unit relocated to Asset Services office, Level 1
- Research & Education Network (REN) offices, Ethics & Governance relocated to the former WMI Building, Level 2
- Finance Unit & Central Procurement relocated to Health Services Planning and Development offices, Level 6
- Corporate Communications relocated to former Research Offices, Level 1
- WSLHD Executive offices relocated to former REN offices, Level 1

Further information and updates visit www.westmeadproject.health.nsw.gov.au

Angels looking over western Sydney families

Castlebrook Memorial Park provides a free cremation service for families who have been admitted to Westmead, Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals following a pregnancy loss at less than 20 weeks gestation.

Castlebrook has a dedicated angel garden where they scatter the ashes.

For the past three years, Castlebrook has organised and hosted a memorial service for these families on October 15 - the international infant and pregnancy loss remembrance day.

This event has also been supported by White Ladies Funerals, Bears of Hope and Westmead and Blacktown Social Work Departments.

WSHD would like to thank Castlebrook for their kind generosity and ongoing support for western Sydney families.

Auburn thanks staff with BBQ

Auburn Hospital staff were treated to a BBQ as a thank you for their hard work.

Rod Gilroy, director of operations Auburn and Westmead hospitals and Gordon Timmins manager corporate services, impressed many with their culinary skills.

Special thanks to Suna and the food services team, as well as director of nursing Kate Murphy and HR coordinator Tracy Varga.

How’z that?

As part of the 2014 International Day of People with a Disability, WSLHD staff competed in a game of blind cricket against the blind cricket NSW team.

Our team wore glasses that simulated impairments such as tunnel, blurred, restricted or spotted vision.

While the blind cricket NSW team defeated WSLHD 112 runs to 45, there was some great sportsmanship and determination shown.

Out & About

Out & About

The Pulse December Christmas Edition 2014

12
WSLHD hosted workshops for mothers from multicultural backgrounds at Auburn Hospital as part of Postnatal Depression Awareness Week.

More than 65 women attended the workshops which featured music therapy, baby massage and more.

Do you, or do you know someone who needs support? Call 8759 3000 or visit www.beyondblue.org.au

Happy mum, happy family

Raising funds for Blacktown Hospital’s Cancer Care Centre

Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospital’s staff enjoying the day at Stonecutters Ridge

Children’s charity, KidsWest, helped raise funds to purchase comfortable medical treatment chairs for Blacktown Hospital’s Cancer Care Centre.

The auction took place at Stonecutters Ridge Golf Club on Sunday November 16, with staff from across Blacktown Hospital in attendance.

KidsWest executive director Trevor Oldfield kicked off proceedings with auctioneer and Member for Toongabbie Nathan Rees getting the crowd to dig deep for the good cause.

Golfing celebrities and world-class players Ewan Porter and Daniel Fox were on hand to get the auction started.

WSLHD farewells Shaun Drummond

By Claudio Russo

Staff had the opportunity to farewell WSLHD executive director Operations, Shaun Drummond, before he takes on a role in Brisbane to be closer to his family.

The popular and vibrant leader was peppered with kind parting words and gifts, with staff from across the district attending the event.

Mr Drummond has laid the foundations for the Westmead Hospital redevelopment, the nation’s biggest hospital rebuilding program. His influence and contributions to the crucial early stages will carry his hallmark as we progress with this major project.

On behalf WSLHD we wish Mr Drummond and his family all the very best for their future.
Thanks a Bunch

Auburn’s awesome Surgical Ward staff

Just a brief note of thanks and to acknowledge the great team on the third floor Surgical Ward Auburn Hospital, led by Riki Richards, who were so professional and kind to my daughter during her recent stay at your hospital.

My daughter has had a really bad trot in the past 11 months with four major surgeries. The staff attending to her have made her stay bearable and comfortable. Under Riki’s leadership they have not only treated my daughter well medically, but we have found them to be compassionate, thoughtful and caring.

- Mrs S Mc

Mount Druitt showing the love

I had a scheduled colonoscopy at Mount Druitt Hospital.

Even though the procedure is relatively minor and the results were good, I wanted to let you know how impressed I was with the staff at the hospital from the time I arrived at 6.45am, to the time I was released midafternoon on the same day.

I found ALL of the staff were efficient, compassionate, helpful and very informative of what was happening during my visit. Even a little thing like the nurse informing me that she know I was ready to be picked up was very nice.

Special mention to Judy who was just lovely.

- Anthony from Baulkham Hills

Technology and safety go hand-in-hand at Westmead

On Thursday November 19 2014 I had a PICC line inserted in my left arm.

This letter is to say thanks for the professional care and thoughtfulness of all the nurses involved.

The only pain I felt was the needle for the local anaesthetic and the fact the actual insertion was painless, in so complex a procedure, I find incredible!

I received, motivated me to write this letter of thanks!

- Phillip from Merrylands West

Save the Date

WSLHD Executive Roadshows

Starting in February 2015, our executive team will be visiting each facility as part of an Executive Roadshow. This is an opportunity for you to share your ideas for improvement and progress, and participate in the collective vision of our district moving forward. All are welcome. Be part of the conversation.

- Westmead Hospital: 17.2.15, 2 - 3pm
- Cumberland Hospital/Mental Health Network: 19.2.15, 3 - 4pm
- Auburn Hospital: 24.2.15, 2 - 3pm
- Mount Druitt Hospital: 17.3.15, 10 - 11am
- Blacktown Hospital: 18.3.15, 10 - 11am

Intern orientation week

Intern orientation week commences January next year at Westmead Hospital.

Westmead Hospital
January 19 - 23 2015

Hospital Week

Westmead Hospital will play host to some of the industry’s most well-known and respected health professionals during 2015’s Hospital Week.

Westmead staff, keynote speakers and representatives from health companies will take part in a host of activities over the three day event.

Westmead Hospital
August 19 - 21 2015

Do you have a news story, event or staff achievement that you would like to share?

If you’ve got news worth sharing in The Pulse, we want to hear from you!
Email your news to claudio.russo@health.nsw.gov.au

Note: Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and Chief Executive. Items may be edited for length, style and quality.

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