

Partners now and in the new hospital

Of course it's not only hospital staff who will be on the move in 2011. Our campus partners—Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI) and the University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics (UOM DoP)—will be too.

Just as they do now, our campus partners will occupy workspaces in the new hospital and access education spaces, including the tiered lecture theatre, a simulator room and meeting rooms.

Partnerships and linkages are the fifth of these six principles guiding all aspects of the design of the new hospital:

- 1 Child and family-centered care
- 2 Efficient and flexible operations
- 3 Safe design
- 4 Decisions supported by evidence
- 5 **Partnerships and linkages**
- 6 A learning environment

Already, staff from MCRI and UOM DoP have been involved in the user group process to help inform the design of the new hospital. Some staff even had to move or adjust their working conditions due to Early Construction Works in the Research Precinct Building, which will be retained and form part of the new hospital precinct.

You're asking?

Here are some answers to your questions about the new hospital

What will breastfeeding facilities be like?

Breastfeeding and baby change rooms will be distributed throughout the hospital in the public and patient areas. Each room will include a hand basin with soap and handtowel, baby change table, comfortable recliner chair, additional armchair and a coffee table. Rooms will be carpeted, have a privacy latch on the door and are intended for one family at a time.

Children's Health Partnership is currently evaluating tender responses from the retail industry. Once this process is completed it will make recommendations to the Board regarding the proposed operators. Successful tenders are likely to be announced early next year, so stay tuned!

Will there be a juice bar?

Myth: 50 year-old beds in the new hospital

3AW, Rumour file, November 2009

Busted: A review of existing furniture is currently underway. Existing furniture that has been recently purchased and is in good condition may be moved to the new hospital; however there aren't any 50 year-old wind-up beds in the hospital to be even considered as part of this review.

MYTH BUSTED!

New RCH Construction Timeline



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A Victorian Government Project



Kidsonthemove

A newsletter about the building of our new Royal Children's Hospital

The **Royal Children's**
Hospital Melbourne



'Topping off' festivities



The Hon John Brumby, Premier of Victoria touring the site with RCH Chairman Tony Beddison AO

Recently, RCH patients and staff could have mistaken construction workers for celebrating Christmas while at work. After all, it's not every day that you see a tree standing on the topmost level of a building structure and a crowd of people around it!

On site, construction workers were actually celebrating a significant milestone in the building of the new hospital—the last major concrete pour to complete the structure.

To mark the historic milestone, on 13 November, the Hon John Brumby, Premier of Victoria toured the site with RCH Chairman Tony Beddison AO and other guests. Mr Brumby said, "It's great to see the building taking shape with construction both on time and on budget."

Mr Brumby then joined construction workers in honouring a long-standing, world-wide tradition by placing a tree on the top of level six of the east building.

In keeping with the new hospital's setting, a native tree was used for the event and will eventually be replanted in the parkland that surrounds the new hospital.

Many of the approximately 1,000 trades people who are currently on site participated in the festivities. The workforce is now mostly made up of form workers, carpenters, steel workers and concreters.

"This project has been a great jobs boost for the local building industry and I know workers here are extremely proud to be contributing to this important project," Mr Brumby said.

While touring the site, there were plenty of other features and milestones to point out. Take a look at some of these in 'Picture this!' on page three.



Nurse unit managers tour the site.



The construction site in November 2009.

DID YOU KNOW?



'Topping off' (also known as 'topping out') ceremonies are based on an ancient Scandinavian tradition. Similar to a ship naming and launching ceremony, a 'topping off' was originally held to placate the gods and shield the building from harm. In the case of the RCH, this involved placing a tree on level six of the east building.



Builders' hats are on

Building a new hospital isn't usually in the typical job descriptions of a doctor, nurse or other hospital professional. Recently however, for more than 400 of our staff, it has been.

For the past four years, staff, whose normal work attire usually includes scrubs and a stethoscope, have been putting on their 'builders' hats' to help build our new hospital. They've been involved in the user group process, contributing their knowledge and experience to get the best design outcome.

Rather than studying the 'usual' x-ray or excel spreadsheet, staff have been trawling through the architectural plans of our new hospital. They have debated at length all aspects of the hospital design, to ensure the best outcome is achieved for patients, families and staff.

Staff have even picked up some of the building jargon, like 'cat and kitten door', 'pod' and 'zone'. Throughout this, however, life on the ward, in the lab or at the desk was never far from their minds. After all, it's their knowledge and experience of hospital life that has been crucial to the hospital's successful design, which is now complete.

Helping build a great new children's hospital for Victoria is a once in a lifetime opportunity for many staff. Their unique contribution was acknowledged at the 2009 RCH Annual Meeting and Staff Celebration held in November. Joint winners of the inaugural New RCH Award are Neighbourhood 4 user group and Lab Services user group.

Neighbourhood 4 user group



From left, Frank Oberklaid, Karen Hogan, Joanne Dean, Peter Birbesan, Susan Sawyer with Alex Campbell, Executive, New RCH Project

Neighborhood 4 brings together a diverse range of people and teams. It includes staff from Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service, Gatehouse Centre, Integrated Mental Health Program, Centre for Adolescent Health and Centre for Community Child Health. Staff in these departments are currently geographically and organisationally separate.

In the new hospital, however, they will share outpatient consulting facilities. That's why they have been working together to write the functional brief for their area, assisted in evaluation of bids and were involved in 18 months of intense user group design development.

Susan Medlin, Manager, New RCH Project Office said, "The Neighbourhood 4 user group have embraced the need for change and continuously challenged the way they operate. As a result they have achieved an excellent design outcome for their area in the new hospital.

Lab Services user group



Back, from left, Lidia De Rosa, Dianne Tucker, Nigel Kelly, Ronda Greaves, Brenda White. Front, from left, Wayne Devenish, Gena Gonis, Chuong Tran, Marilyn Clark

One of the biggest challenges for Lab Services is to bring together approximately 10 separate departments. Making this more difficult is the fact they're currently located at two sites—RCH and Royal Women's Hospital. Yet, staff have worked tirelessly to produce detailed specifications and photographs of over 300 pieces of equipment.

Susan Medlin said, "They have faced more obstacles than most other RCH groups involved in planning their department for the new hospital. Despite this, they've been able to achieve a lab design that is state of the art, flexible for the future, integrates all services and provides the best outcomes for children.

"The time commitment made by staff to achieve this is worthy of recognition. Even through extraordinary circumstances, they showed leadership, enormous patience and flexibility."

Congratulations.

Staff spring into 5S

With spring in the air and a spring in their step, staff at the RCH recently took up the 5S spring cleaning challenge.

5S is an approach to lean thinking and departments across the hospital are using 5S to minimise waste and increase efficiency and safety.

The 5S work will help us review and streamline processes across the organisation before and when we move to the new hospital towards the end of 2011.

The five S's are:

- **Sort**—the first step in getting things cleaned up and organised
- **Straighten**—organise, identify and arrange everything in a work area
- **Sweep and shine**—regular cleaning and maintenance
- **Standardise**—make it easy to maintain
- **Sustain**—maintaining what has been accomplished

One of the teams that took on the 5S challenge with gusto was the IT team. Not only did they fill and refill their recycling bins, but they made some physical changes to their area. Shelves were removed, partitions taken down and many old PC parts put to rest.



IT desks before and after 5S.



Picture this!

Each month an RCH photographer goes out on site to capture the progress of the construction of the new hospital. Photos are then published on the RCH intranet. Take a look at some of the latest developments on site.



Amanda Gossman on the construction site.

One thousand workers and a nurse!

Here at the RCH, we are used to having nurses in the workplace—after all, we are a hospital—we just didn't expect to find one on the construction site. But right among the 1,000 workers on site of the new hospital is Amanda Gossman!

What is your role?

I provide first aid for workers on site and educate and train other first aiders too. If a worker gets injured, my role also involves caring for them from when they first get injured on site right through to helping them get back to work.

I am responsible for documenting and reporting injuries to the Safety Committee each week and assist in identifying and assessing risk on site.

I also have the opportunity to provide the workers with health education—both physical and mental—and that is very rewarding.

How is working as a nurse at a construction site different to working at a hospital?

As a critical care nurse from South Africa and also having worked in several Melbourne hospitals, working on a construction site has been a new and exciting challenge for me.

As health professionals, much of our work is centred on curative measures and I wanted to be part of preventive care for a change. I have a specialist qualification in community health, and with my experience, I am well equipped to manage health issues in the construction industry.

I enjoy the fact that I can follow through my care of an injured person and see them return to work well again.

How does it feel to be part of the team building a great new hospital for children in Victoria?

I feel truly blessed to be part of such a dedicated, professional and respectful team of people who brave the elements and extremes to create such a beautiful masterpiece in this, our new Royal Children's Hospital.

I admire their tenacity and resilience working with a goal in sight, and that inspires me each day. Most of us on this project have children of our own and are part of broader communities. So, working on this project is something that makes us all feel immensely proud of what the final product of our teamwork will be.



Pedestrian bridges connecting the west and east buildings are being constructed above 'the street'—the public walkway based on the concept of a Victorian town's main street.



Left: The aquarium, which will be a wonderful visual highlight of 'the street' and Emergency, is concealed in protective wrapping. It needed to be placed on site so the surrounding building structure could be completed.



Right: Inside the inpatient building, sheeting has been fitted to walls, services are being installed and ground services prepared for the installation of flooring.



Glass-coloured panels have been attached to the façade of the inpatient unit, reflecting shapes and colours from nature.