THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY PARTNERS WITH THE NSW GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A SECOND CAMPUS

Premier’s announcement cements Westmead’s international health, education and research reputation.
**Moment in Time Helps Capture Westmead’s 40th Birthday Celebrations**

Westmead Hospital proudly celebrated its 40th birthday in November with families, friends, patients and staff.

Among the guests at the official function to mark four decades of leading health care in western Sydney were the first baby ever born in the facility, Bianca English.

Bianca joined NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard and newborn baby Callum Falconer at the official "prints in plaster" ceremony to provide a lasting tribute to the milestone occasion.

Westmead Hospital’s clinical immunology director and a Westmead ‘original’ Professor Graeme Stewart reminded birthday guests of the proud past. “We believed clinical care is best delivered with teaching, training and research,” Professor Stewart said.

“That was the mantra of our founding professors of medicine and surgery, the late Professor Peter Castaldi AO and Professor Miles Little.”

Seven Hills MP Mark Taylor and Parramatta MP Dr Geoff Lee were among the other political dignitaries to join the event.

Hundreds of visitors poured through Westmead Hospital to pay their own thanks and view the historic displays, including the “Living Library” video and photographic memorabilia. Health information stalls, tai chi demonstrations and a sausage sizzle ensured a steady flow of interest during the celebrations.

Residents and staff were equally eager to see future developments across the precinct, visiting the Westmead Redevelopment information hub and viewing the new hospital building through 3D virtual reality glasses.

Westmead Redevelopment senior project director Tim Mason said the large number of visitors from across Sydney underlined the interest in the precinct’s changing landscape. “Westmead Redevelopment is now setting the scene over the next 40 years,” he said.

“The construction focus is moving from concreting to internal fit-outs as we plan for completion and commissioning in 2020.”

To coincide with celebrations, the redevelopment team also re-opened the prototype rooms. The rooms allow staff to get a feel for their work environments when the new hospital building opens.
STUDENTS DEVELOP INNOVATIVE MEDTECH SOLUTIONS

Teams of biomedical engineering and combined degree students have addressed real-world health issues including cardiovascular health, stroke, dentistry and organ transplants – many of the same issues being tackled by institutes such as the Westmead Applied Research Centre.

Highlights of the University of Sydney’s annual MedTech Innovation competition in the Westmead Education and Conference Centre included a wearable electroencephalogram (EEG) for orthopaedic quantification of pain and a transdermal drug device to improve compliance with medication regimes.

A judging panel of industry partners and University academics from around the Westmead Precinct provided feedback to presenters and chose the winning solutions.

First place was awarded to students who developed a “Smart Dental Drill Module” in close collaboration with the University’s Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Psychology. The student team was supported by the University of Sydney Dental School, which provided access to clinic dental drill systems for project testing.

The quality of competition underlined the benefits of clinical and industry input.

The University of Sydney has partnered with the NSW Government to establish a second campus as part of a leading international health, education and research precinct in western Sydney.

Premier Gladys Berejiklian said bringing the top-tier University to the heart of western Sydney would attract more than 25,000 students and further drive its vision for a world-leading health and education precinct.

The NSW Government announced in early November it would be working with the University of Sydney after a three-month market sounding process.

“The University of Sydney has the academic and reputational excellence to anchor this world-class education precinct, which will inspire and work hand-in-glove with co-located health facilities and ground-breaking medical research,” Ms Berejiklian said.

“This will not just be a world-leading medical, education and innovation precinct, but it will create a wonderful, dynamic and vibrant place – a place that also preserves and showcases our heritage,” Dr Spence said.

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A new partnership between Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) in Westmead and Logolido Therapeutics in Boston, is set to fast-track gene therapy treatments for children with life-threatening genetic liver disease and boost Australia's growing biotech industry.

The deal, announced in early November, will see the partners develop new viral vectors, which transport a healthy copy of a gene into a patient's cells to either replace or edit the faulty gene. It could dramatically change the lives of children with life-threatening genetic liver disease and boost Australia's growing biotech industry.

This latest announcement follows news earlier this year that the NSW State Government, through the Office of Health and Medical Research, will provide funding to establish start-up facilities to manufacture gene transfer vectors in western Sydney. The project is also run jointly by Professor Alexander and Dr Leszek Lisowski at CMRI and the SCHN.

The Graovas are now focused on providing the best future they can for Charlize and her big sister, Amelia, who wants to be a medical researcher – but they also want to help future generations.

"There are so many questions where we don't have answers," Julie said. "We'll never stop wanting to help as many people as we can."

One of Australia’s most significant structures of the next few decades celebrated a major landmark towards completion on Friday.

"While spruce and pines currently fill the pre-Christmas landscape, the Westmead Innovation Centre marked its milestone with a traditional tree of its own. And unlike most festive trees, this 15-metre specimen was chained to position."

"The topping-out ceremony on the centre’s seventh and final storey, attended by dignitaries and guests from Westmead’s precinct partners, will prove a brief but important moment in our region’s scientific journey."

The Innovation Centre aims to tip into the precinct’s existing expertise across healthcare, research and education in a unique space for multi-disciplinary problem-solving.

It also represents a focal point for collaboration with industry and commercial partners to build on Westmead’s global reputation as a leading research and innovation precinct.

"The custom can be traced back to ancient Scandinavian times where a tree or branch was placed on the uppermost highest structure to warn away evil tree spirits."

Westmead Redevelopment senior project director Tim Mason said the event marked an important step in the construction timeline.

"The topping out of the Innovation Centre is an exciting milestone because it means we are one step closer to building a dedicated space for the collaboration of education, training and research in the Westmead precinct,“ Mr Mason said.

"The centre is integral to the precinct’s vision of becoming an innovation district and we look forward to completing the remainder of the building for its opening in 2020."

The Westmead Research Hub took its technology on the road in November to the annual three-day AusBiotech conference at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

The hub’s inaugural participation at AusBiotech coincided with the team’s push to promote our Research Commercialisation Pipeline in a bid to build commercial partnerships and patents for many of the novel technologies developed at Westmead. The conference also provided the team an opportunity to update the rest of Australia about its redevelopment works furthering Westmead’s reputation as a leader in innovation and technology.

"To learn more about the research commercialisation process or watch the 101 series given earlier this year, visit westmead.org.au/commercialisation.

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Pictured left: James Linton from the Westmead Research Hub welcomes visitors to the exhibition trade display at AusBiotech.

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The centre will house new flexible exhibition, conference, meeting, education, training, social and work spaces.

Its high-tech lobby will offer a warm, light-filled entry to the centre - designed to host a digital projection gallery as part of the redevelopment's arts and culture strategy.

Topping-out thanks go to all our precinct partners: The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, The University of Sydney, Western Sydney University, Western Sydney Local Health District, Westmead Institute for Medical Research, Westmead Private Hospital, Multiple Constructions, PwC Australia and Health Infrastructure.
TREATMENT

LIFE-CHANGING

LEN THANKFUL FOR TUMORS. Unlike the current leading thermal ablation minimally-invasive procedure for the removal of solid Irreversible Electroporation (IRE), a promising new method of treatment.

Westmead Hospital) had to find an alternative surgeon at Westmead Private Hospital and surgeon Professor Howard Lau (urological radiotherapy and surgery for bowel cancer, his unsuitable for the two standard treatment diagnosed with prostate cancer.

After 60 years as a firefighter, 77-year-old Len orchard in Dural, but earlier this year he was orchard. 77-year-old Len Best thanks Professor Howard Lau.

PROSTATE CANCER

Prostate cancer affects one in six men, but can be cured if detected and treated while still confined to the prostate gland. The tests for prostate cancer are the prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test and digital rectal examination (DRE). These tests do not give a clear answer about the prostate gland, allowing local ablation such as IRE to only treat the index lesion, hence avoiding the potential side effects of whole gland treatment such as surgery or radiotherapy.

IRE is undertaken using a NANOKnife System. Benefits include:

• No open incisions
• Less damage to healthy tissue
• Minimal post-operative pain
• Fewer side effects, such as incontinence and sexual dysfunction
• Short hospital stay
• Quick post-operative recovery
• Ability to repeat the procedure if new tumours develop

Mr Best will undergo frequent monitoring, with repeat blood tests, MRI and biopsies to monitor his condition. If the need arises the treatment can be repeated.

Westmead Private is the only facility in western his condition. If the need arises the treatment can

Benefits include:

• Quick post-operative recovery
• Minimal post-operative pain
• Less damage to healthy tissue
• No open incisions
• No incision
• No scar

The new building - now named the Central Acute Services Building - is expected to open in 2020 and

LIGHT RAIL MEETS SYDNEY METRO WEST

PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL AND SYDNEY METRO WEST HAVE CONTINUED TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH WESTMEAD PRECINCT PARTNERS, INCLUDING ON-SITE UPDATES FOR STAFF, RESIDENTS AND PATIENTS.

Patients, consumers, families and staff received a sneak peak into the future of the Westmead Precinct when a team from Sydney Metro West paid a visit to The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

Staff with the long-term infrastructure project were on hand to answer questions from the public about the transport undertaking, announced in November 2016 and set to connect the Parramatta and Sydney central business districts and “doubling rail capacity between these two areas”.

The bold new project – which includes a new underground metro train station at Westmead – is just one part of a massive investment in health, transport, education and other services at the Westmead Precinct.

Parramatta Light Rail and Sydney Metro West have continued to work collaboratively with Westmead Precinct Partners, including on-site updates for staff, residents and patients.

KEY FEATURES OF THE WESTMEAD REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT INCLUDE:

• The Westmead Innovation Precinct, a seven-storey research hub designed to encourage ideas and collaboration.
• The Central Acute Services Building, a 14-storey hospital building offering an expansion of services – including two new emergency departments – of both The Children’s Hospital at Westmead and Westmead Hospital.
• The new hospital building is expected to open in 2020 and includes a significant investment from The University of Sydney.

The Parramatta Light Rail team “joined the party” in November as members spoke to staff and visitors at a pop-up stall in the main entrance of Westmead Hospital.

All part of the 40th birthday celebrations, the light rail team joined the Westmead Redevelopment information stand to answer questions about scheduling, stops and planning.

Other Parramatta Light Rail news includes:

Early works at Camellia begin

Improvements works underway at the Parramatta Light Rail depot in Camellia, signalling the start of construction for the project. Specialist teams

have been on the ground, ensuring the lands are made fit for purpose before the future rail yard takes place.

Light rail contracts coming up

Soon, light rail builders and operators from a world-leading shortlist will be appointed to deliver Parramatta Light Rail Stage 1. The two major contracts are: “Infrastructure works” (major construction including urban design) and “Supply, operate and maintain” (supply vehicles, design and construct station and maintenance facility, systems, and operations and maintenance). The shortlisted bidders have submitted their formal proposals, with both contracts to be awarded later this year.

It’s ‘Facebook Official’!

Now’s the time to like Parramatta Light Rail on Facebook and keep up to date with the project’s updates, pictures and videos.

Follow Parramatta Light Rail on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ParramattaLightRail
CLAIRE PROUDLY RELIVES PAST & PAYS TRIBUTE TO PROGRESS

Retired children’s nurse Claire Simpson has many precious memories of her time as a student nurse and the ensuing years working at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children (RAHC).

The Abbotsford resident, who graduated from nurses’ college in 1975 and finished her nursing career at the children’s hospital in 1987, made lifelong friends while caring for sick children.

“It was a fantastic time,” she recalls during a visit to the Westmead Redevelopment site where she took a tour of prototype rooms, replicas of clinical spaces as they will appear in the new hospital building.

“I made lifelong friends, and while we studied and worked hard, we laughed a lot. We held regular reunions after all those years and they’re always great fun.”

While never getting a chance to work at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead – which has been in its present location since the then RAHC relocated from Camperdown in November, 1996 – Claire has a long association with the Westmead Precinct. Her son Thomas, now 30, was born in Westmead Hospital and she visited The Children’s Hospital at Westmead … “I’d love to be working in this era.”

As part of the $1 billion project, the new hospital building – nestled between the Westmead Hospital and The Children’s Hospital at Westmead – will house new and separate adults’ and children’s emergency departments and patient care services.

An eager visitor to the prototype rooms, Claire loved the new developments in work flow and model of care from when she was nursing.

“I’d love to be working in this era,” she said. “Things were very cramped and drab at Camperdown, but The Children’s Hospital at Westmead has great facilities, and I look forward to seeing the new hospital building completed too.

“I found the automatic dispensing cabinets which will be used in the new building fascinating. Back at Camperdown, the senior nurse carried the drug keys. “And the portable screens they have these days … it would really help in doing their jobs.”

Claire, who recently reunited with her cohort in one of their wonderful catch-ups, said her friends were eager to learn more about the Westmead Redevelopment.

“They all still have a keen interest in the sector … you never lose your passion for caring. We all loved what we did,” she said.

Claire visits The Children’s Hospital at Westmead … “I’d love to be working in this era.”

ARTISTIC CHOICE PLACED IN CAPABLE HANDS

Art continues to be at the forefront of the $1 billion Westmead Redevelopment project. In the past few months, an eight-person peer assessment panel was announced to help inform decisions around the commissioning of artists for a number of key installations in and around the new hospital building and Innovation Centre.

The Children’s Hospital at Westmead’s art curator Ivy Baddock is among the talented group of Sydney-based arts professionals charged with helping recommend artists for more than a dozen stunning pieces as part of the Arts and Culture Strategy.

Ivy and her predecessor – Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network board member and noted art historian Joanna Capon OAM – form part of the panel which is full of arts and administrative knowledge, drawing heavily from western Sydney.

Other panel members include:

• Marli Cintra, the executive director of the Health and Arts Research Centre, which has been contracted by the redevelopment team to firstly come up with, and then implement, the Westmead Redevelopment project’s Arts and Culture Strategy.

• Indigenous arts administrator Matt Poll

• Pammartta Artists’ Studios co-ordinator Sophia Kouyoumdjian

• Western Sydney arts and culture veteran John Kilian

• Arts-sciences specialist Kate Dyer

• Arts and festival freelance and former professional ballet dancer Michael Campbell

“I’m thrilled to be part of this exciting project and I can’t wait to see the concept designs for these artworks,” Ivy said.

“I expect the quality of the work to be high and that will mean some tough decisions, but in the end it will ensure we will have the very best therapeutic artworks installed in the redevelopment.”

Ivy and her fellow panel members will provide recommendations to the Westmead Redevelopment Arts and Culture Advisory Committee as to which artists should be commissioned to complete the art projects, of which there are 14 in total. These installations – ranging from a depiction of a river to a cultural gathering place inspired by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander customs to a depiction of the “Tree of Life” – form the cornerstone of the strategy.

In November, the committee also took away some valuable lessons in public art spaces with a visit to the soon-to-be-opened Forensic Medicine and Coroners’ Court Complex in Lidcombe.

The Precinct Post is an initiative of the NSW Government’s Westmead Redevelopment.

Enquiries about the Precinct Post should be directed to the Westmead Redevelopment project office on 1800 990 296 or WSLHD-WestmeadProject@health.nsw.gov.au