

# for 22nd century

## 12-STORY CORNERSTONE OF THE SAN'S \$200 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT OPENS

Tracey Findlay

A NEW era has dawned at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, which is celebrating the opening of the main cornerstone of its \$200 million redevelopment.

The new L W Clark Tower has opened for business, with Monday seeing the arrival of the first baby born at the facility.

The 12-storey building is home to maternity, women's health and children's units, an integrated cancer centre and healing garden.

It provides capacity for up to an extra 200 hospital beds and an additional 12 operating theatres.

The "new San" took almost 10 years of planning and just over three years to construct.

It will cater for the more than 50 per cent increase in patient demand for hospital services expected by 2026 due to an increasing and ageing population.

Hospital chief executive Leon Clark, after whom the building was named, said the new San was designed to be a healthcare

### THE SAN GROWS

**1903:** Sydney Sanitarium opens at Wahroonga

**1952:** Nurses' residence built

**1970s:** Cardiac services first offered

**1973:** Renamed Sydney Adventist Hospital

**1996:** Emergency unit opens

**2013:** Clinical Education Centre opens

facility for the 22nd century.

"We believe it honours the pioneering spirit of the people who first opened a small 'sanitarium' over 111 years ago, as a place to care for people and promote healthy lifestyles," Dr Clark said.

"We hope we have matched their vision - providing a state-of-the-art hospital with even better facilities for staff to provide all the care our community needs.

"A highlight for us all, particularly for me as a former obstetrician, is the new maternity unit. Babies have been delivered here at the San since 1903 and there's no greater reward

for us than helping our community grow."

Peri-operative and critical care director Stephen Johnston said the new environment would showcase the future of surgery.

"We have the technology to streamline surgical processes, allowing surgeons and theatre staff more time to focus on the patient," Dr Johnston said.

"The introduction of new technology to support operating theatres expansion means we can maximise surgical capacity and meet the challenges and the opportunities ahead.

"It really is the future of surgery for our doctors, our staff and our patients."

The redevelopment cements the San's status as the largest private hospital in NSW, with a total of 550 inpatient beds and another 300-plus day beds, and up to 24 operating theatres.

It now treats close to 250,000 upper north shore residents each year.

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Director of maternity Michelle Mackenzie with Kristine Richards and Mandy Kelly inside the unit, which has 56 private rooms, a 10-room birthing unit, birthing pools and nurseries.

Picture: ELENOR TEDENBORG

### WAHROONGA

## Georgia on mind as San rejoices

TINY Georgia Hogan may be blissfully unaware of what all the fuss is about but she has taken centre stage in Sydney Adventist Hospital's history.

Georgia was the first baby born at the "new San", arriving just after 6pm on Monday.

Her mum, Mel, was the first to try out one of the hospital's plush new birthing suites, including one of the birthing pools.

"For me the new room is really pretty but the main thing is the caring staff," the Beecroft mum said.

"I couldn't speak more highly of them."

The new maternity unit includes 56 architecturally designed private rooms with ensembles, partner accommodation, a 10-room birthing unit, two birthing pools, and well-baby and special care nurseries. Nursing staff played a key role in the design of the unit.

It is on the top two storeys of the L W Clark Tower, providing patients and staff with stunning views to the city.

Director of maternity Michelle McKenzie said the staff were enjoying their new working environment.

"It's beautiful and the view is to die for," she said.

"I went and saw all the patients who came up last night (from the old unit).

"They said: 'Thanks so much, we are so proud of what you have done.' They are just so impressed."

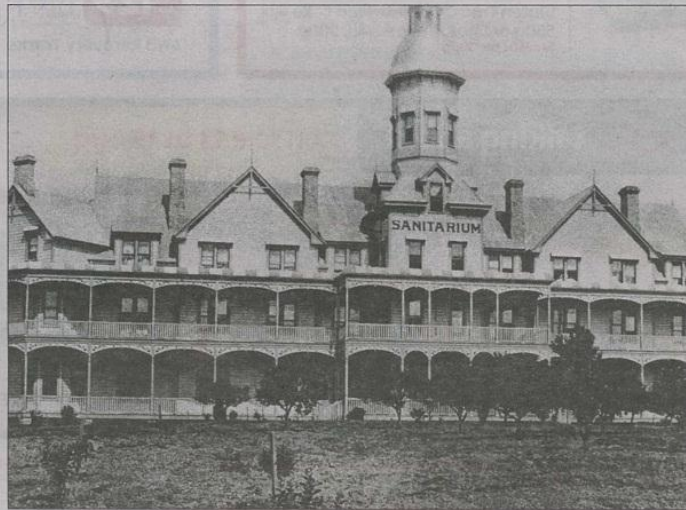
One floor of the new unit has been named after Mt Colah resident Wendy Wooler, who worked at the San for 39 years before retiring from her role as director of maternity in 2010.

Much loved by staff and patients, thousands of local babies were delivered during her time at the hospital.

"The unit is absolutely fantastic," she said.

"It is better than I could have imagined."

Up to 3000 babies are expected to be delivered each year at the new unit.



The Sydney Sanitarium, circa 1903, on the site of today's Sydney Adventist Hospital in Wahroonga. Left: Maternity nurses with babies (about 1908) and a physical culture class at the Sydney Sanitarium (about 1912).

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