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Desperate times call for artistic measures

The fight to save Rozelle Hospital is drawing to a close, with the relocation to Concord to be completed in eight days. But those rallying to retain health services on site, including artist Susan Dorothea White (above), still want to be heard. See page 7. Photo: SIMON CHILLINGWORTH

Asbestos scare

Isaac Wilson

A LARGE asbestos dumping ground has been uncovered at Rozelle Bay.

Construction Mining Forestry Energy Union official Tony Papa identified asbestos in the rubble dredged by excavation crews working on the dry boat storage facility at Rozelle.

He said enormous stockpiles con-

taining friable asbestos had been pulled out of the harbour under the Anzac Bridge.

The rubble contained broken asbestos pipes and sheeting, with exposed asbestos fibres, Mr Papa said.

A spokesperson for excavation company Lucas Stuart said it was following standard practices and awaiting test results in accordance

with WorkCover procedures.

A WorkCover spokesman said the area had been roped off and wetted down in line with the proper handling of asbestos.

A spokesperson for NSW Maritime said it was aware of the asbestos claim but there was very little potential for atmospheric contamination in this case.

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

- Asbestos is a carcinogenic, silicate mineral used in buildings, boats and vehicles in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.
- If inhaled, these fibres can sit in the lungs for up to 50 years.

WINTER FASHION

NOW SHOWING AT WESTFIELD BURWOOD

Westfield
Burwood

Rush to save hospital

Isaac Wilson

WITH the April 30 deadline for the closure of Rozelle Hospital fast approaching, Callan Park lobbyists are continuing their campaign to retain some mental health services on site.

While they lobby outside, inside Rozelle Hospital mental health patients spend their final weeks in misery and filth after the interior decor was gutted, according to the partner of a patient.

Peter, whose partner is being treated for an eating disorder, said it was distressing that the hospital had removed its artwork and outdoor furniture.

"It's been very disturbing for the patients," he said. "They don't even have a picture left on the wall to look at, it's very depressing."

In addition to removing the hospital items, cleaning and maintenance of the facility had been wound down in preparation for the move, he said.

"It's been left to go to rack and ruin, Peter said. "The place is totally unkempt, it's dirty, dusty and grimy — it looks like [Dracula actor] Bela

THE PROTESTS CONTINUE

■ Friends of Callan Park continues to protest against the hospital's pending closure — there will be a demonstration at the Cecily Street entrance on Sunday at 11am.

Lugosi's castle. If there was a restaurant being run like this, it would be investigated."

While the skeleton staff was trying its best, there were not enough people to maintain the facility, Peter said.

"It's a really depressing place to visit, but it's worse when you have to leave the person you care about in a place of despair."

A Sydney South West Area Health Service spokesman said it began moving items to the new Concord complex two weeks ago.

"Moving a facility is a complex task," he said. "The hospital has carefully planned the move to ensure it goes as smoothly as possible, to minimise disruption to patient care."



Local artist Susan Dorothea White protests about the closure of Rozelle Hospital outside Gleebooks last week, where NSW Planning Minister Frank Sartor was due to attend a launch. Photo: SIMON CHILLINGWORTH

Quicknews

SUSTAINABLE SYDNEY

URBAN designers, planners and architects have kicked off the Sustainable Sydney 2030 exhibition featuring a 3D animation of the city centre. The initiative is part of a long term-plan to help guide the city's development. An accompanying exhibition is on at Customs House, Circular Quay, until May 30. For details visit www.sydney2030.com.au

ALL NATIONS SOCCER

MARRICKVILLE will host an All Nations Indoor Soccer Tournament to celebrate Refugee Week 2008. The one-day tournament is at the Debbie and Abbey Borgia Community Recreation Centre on June 11. Primary and secondary schools are invited to register teams. To get involved call 9335 2191.

CITY'S GREEN ENERGY PLAN

THE City of Sydney is working to install Green Transformers in urban renewal projects and existing buildings. Green transformers use gas rather than coal to generate electricity. They also cool and heat buildings, increasing energy efficiency.

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