

DISTRICT HOSPITAL

New theatre wing forecast by president

The next stage of development at Gosford District Hospital will be a new theatre wing.

Two additional major theatres, central sterile department, post operative recovery unit and associated amenities are envisaged.

Hospital Board chairman Mr. Bob Vaughan said this on Saturday at the official opening by Mr. E. H. Humphries, M.L.A. for Gosford, of a new nurses school training block.

He had just introduced the official guests who included Mr. Keith Gain, of the Hospitals Commission; Mr. Humphries; Mr. H. Jensen, M.L.A. for Wyong; Mr. W. Bridges-Maxwell, MHR for Robertson; Matron I. Inskip; Medical Superintendent Dr. I. Walters and Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Neville Boyce.

In welcoming the some 500 people present Mr. Vaughan said:

"We are grateful that you have been able to come along today to participate in yet another opening to this fine hospital."

It would not be unreal to expect more openings and what is happening today is only part of a well organised plan that started nearly four years ago which we expect to continue.

It is our responsibility to work with the Hospital Commission, to plan and co-ordinate to see that the necessary facilities are provided in Gosford, in Woy Woy, in Wyong and elsewhere to meet the needs of the community.

Two major developments within the past weeks shows the intention of the Government and the Hospitals Commission to proceed with the development of this hospital to the proposed 300 bed hospital as outlined by the Minister for Health Mr. A. H. Jago M.L.A. here last year. Jago M.L.A. when here last year.

LAND PURCHASE
An amount of \$25000 has been granted to enable purchase of the Army land adjacent to the hospital.

The Commonwealth Government has finally agreed to this transfer of property and your Board, with the Hospitals Commission, have commenced to implement this transfer.

The second and more immediate major project is the official advice from the Hospitals Commission to proceed with the sketch plans on the next stage of development.

This project will be the theatre wing.

It is envisaged that it will include two additional major theatres, central sterile department, post operative recovery unit, theatre staff rooms and ancillary rooms.

It will provide additional staff amenities to meet the growing need of the expanded staff and a bulk store to sterilise stores within the hospital.

FUTURE
Beyond this next stage it is foreseen that the future development of this hospital would include an additional ward block and the centralisation of all ancillary services.

One must realise that with the rapid development of the Central Coast area it is essential that the hospital keep pace with this growth.

The Minister for Health, who is represented today by our local member Mr. E. H. Humphries M.L.A. and the Hos-

pitals Commission know this and are fully alert to our needs and are doing everything possible to help.

Another project which the district can be justly proud is the provision of a kiosk at this hospital.

This has been organised at a local level.

The majority of funds were provided by the hospital auxiliaries and built voluntarily

by the Gosford Rotary Club.

To these bodies, the Board the patients, visitors and staff of this hospital are extremely indebted.

229 ON STAFF
Parallel to this development in bricks and mortar is the development of the human side.

The growth in staff to 229 makes the hospital one of

the largest employers in the district.

The recruitment of highly specialised staff has been a significant feature in the growth of this hospital during the past 12 months. It is essential to train a large number of nurses. This is why, ladies and gentlemen, that we have constructed a large training school.

This school will be able to cope with the training of twice the number of nursing staff already employed at this hospital.

EXTENSIONS
The 30 bed nurses home completed with the training school is planned to allow later extensions to accommodate 100 nurses when the hospital's capacity increases to 300 beds.

A renovations programme has been carried out on the older section of the hospital this year. It is only now that we are feeling the benefit of our 135 beds.

Ladies and gentlemen you are all invited to inspect not only the nurses training school block but the complete hospital to vie for yourself the hospital of which we are all so proud.

The development of the medical and ancillary services has been a feature of our growth to meet the de-

mands placed on us by the 74,000 residents in our area.

The hospital has been going through a change of character recently.

SPECIALISED CLINICS
The development of the medical services over the next few months will enable the hospital to implement specialised public out-patients clinics where this type of patient will be able to attend by referred by his own doctor.

It is anticipated that initial clinics will be in medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology and their related branches.

New medical services which have been introduced since renovations to the hospital have been completed during the last year include the appointment of three resident medical officers in addition to the medical superintendent and the establishment of a pathology department, blood bank, physiotherapy and pharmacy department.

This hospital has, over the years, been generously supported by the residents of the Central Coast through various avenues such as the loyal and industrious ladies' auxiliaries, the service clubs, district nursing committees and other clubs and committees too numerous to mention.

port that the administration of the hospital is able to succeed in their endeavours to have some day in the not too distant future a base hospital to meet the rapid development of both the Gosford and Wyong shires.

Today we are here to have a new nurses home and training school opened.

This may be a day which can be directed to the nursing staff.

But let us not forget that we owe a debt of gratitude to our matron and her

nursing staff, but to all staff within the hospital which make up the wheel of success in the management of this hospital.

The honorary medical officers who give unstinted service and finally to my fellow board members who give of their time for the betterment of the health services of this area.

Mr. Humphries, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen may I extend to you all a warm welcome on this another memorable day for Gosford District Hospital.

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