

# NO NURSES TO STAFF NEW WARDS

**GOSFORD District Hospital cannot open three of its new medical wards because of a lack of nursing staff to run them.**

A serious shortage of registered nurses in the district has prevented the continuing growth of the hospital and nursing authorities are anxious to correct the problem.

Director of Nursing at the hospital, Miss Marie Lowndes, blames the adverse publicity surrounding job opportunities for nurses, which has been circulating in the last two years.

"Negative publicity occurred in the press which created a panic situation where people were hesitant to begin nursing training," she said on Monday.

She emphasised that there is currently no unemployment situation among nurses.

Miss Lowndes said that she would be able to give commencement dates to 60 registered nurses within the next few weeks.

"Only as sufficient nursing staff is recruited, will Gosford District Hospital operate at its full capacity, and the people of the Central Coast receive the kind

of patient care which they have come to expect from us," she said.

Under the renovation and extension program at the hospital, three new medical wards are available for use.

Three wards are situated in the old part of the hospital and were vacated with the opening of the extensions in March.

They are planned to house male and female medical

## Staff shortage a big problem for hospital

patients with a unit for obstetric patients.

A reason for the chronic shortage of nurses in the area is the problem of accommodation.

With a staff of approximately 600 nurses, the hospital can only provide accommodation for 150 in the nurses' home at the back of the hospital.

The hospital has found the need to create an Interior Accommodation Advisory Service to help nurses find lodgings in the area.

The lack of available accommodation stops a large number of nurses from the Sydney area, from considering Gosford Hospital.

The Hospital Board of Directors is currently negotiating with the Health Commission in the hope of building a larger nurses' home, but it is the policy of the Commission not to build any new homes in the near future.

Miss Lowndes would like to allay the fears of any school leavers who might be considering nursing as a career.

With three intakes per year of 36 students, there is ample opportunity for those who are willing to work.

The Nursing School attached to the hospital is regarded as one of the best in the State with only a 20 per cent wastage rate.

This is well below the State average, which can sometimes be as high as 50 per cent in some hospitals.

The hospital is able to absorb its graduates, which is a unique situation.

It is the policy of the hospital to encourage its trained nurses to specialise in various fields.

Intensive and coronary care nurses, operating theatre nurses and nurse educators are in high demand in the medical field.

With the nursing profession making up 70 per cent of the hospital medical team, the demand for nurses and the opportunities available are large.

Despite the oppressive employment situation at the moment, nursing is a very secure profession to contemplate, Miss Lowndes said.

The Gosford nursing administration staffs all existing hospitals in the Central Coast area.

This includes Gosford District, Woy Woy, Long Jetty, Wyoming and Wyong Hospitals.

The hospital will be pleased to discuss training and advise anyone interested in a career in nursing.

Inquiries can be directed to the personnel office of the nursing administration section of the hospital.



MISS LOWNDES

## SPEAR-POINTS

**THE water restrictions have encouraged many businesses, and organisations to sink spear-point pumps to provide water for outdoor use.**

Gosford Hospital met with minor success, Woy Woy Hospital had no trouble getting unlimited supply and the Ambulance Station in Gosford also struck a bonanza.

I know other bodies with large lawn and garden areas have been investigating the underground water supply. If successful it should help decrease their town water consumption, now and in the future.

It does seem a waste that fresh town water, which has been through a series of filtration treatments, is then used for outdoor purposes when a good underground supply would meet the need.

I recall that some years ago people in the Woy Woy area obtained all their household water via spearpoint pumps. They claimed it was superior to Gosford's town water until the health inspector of the time proved they were "drinking their own bathwater".

But the Woy Woy people still have the laugh on the majority of city dwellers, as there's plenty of bore water to keep their lawns and gardens lush.

A notice at Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Club has created some amusement. In a novel way the club advises it is using water from an underground supply. The notice in part says "the club wishes to announce the arrival of a new baby BORE", etc.

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