Health service growth owes much to many

THIS is my last column as Central Coast Area Health Service chief executive officer.

But the weekly information material will be continued under the Here’s Health banner.

I wish to thank the Express for its community service in allowing the weekly items on health service to be printed.

The feedback from the various articles has been very encouraging to all sections and staff of the area health service.

I have tried to provide a cross-section of information for all age groups.

In the early days the majority of the community saw the hospital as representing the whole area health service.

I hope now with the wide range of information on available health services, the community has an understanding of our area, covering the shire of Wyong and the city of Gosford.

It has been a most rewarding 29 years because of the community support and the many fine people who have worked in our service – support staff, doctors and nurses.

It has been most satisfying to be part of the growth of our services from 65 beds to almost 800 beds along with the seven community health centres.

Area Health Service dietitian Barbara Humphrey (right) was at West Gosford Shopping Centre last week advising shoppers on healthy diets. Mrs Margaret Smith of Wyoming was one of many interested shoppers.

I would particularly like to thank the board of directors who on a voluntary basis give of their time and skills and all the hospital auxiliaries who year in and year out raise thousands of dollars for the health service.

Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who support the health services as carers, bus drivers, pink ladies and others.

The residents of the Central Coast should be proud of the standard of health care provided by our hospitals and health care facilities.