1966 — "Historic Milestone"

Hospital's board chairman retires

The expansion of Gosford Hospital to twice its former size, and improvements costing $1,120,000, will make 1966 one of the milestones in the history of the hospital, according to the Chairman of the Board (Mr. R. G. Mathews).

Mr. Mathews made this statement at the board's annual meeting on Monday night.

During the meeting he also announced his retirement as chairman due to business commitments.

Mr. Mathews said that the financial position at the hospital had increased, with a surplus of $406 at the close of the year.

Staff appointments during the past year had also increased by 33 to 164, but by the end of this year the total staff should rise to 206.

**Highlights of year**

- Two of the highlights of the past year for the hospital had been the formal opening of the new extensions by the Minister for Health (Mr. A. H. Jago) and the appointment of Dr. I. Walters as Medical Superintendent.
- Mr. Mathews said that as the initial appointee to this important post, Dr. Walters was responsible for the control and supervision of all medical activities within the hospital.
- Renovations and extensions currently in progress — additional rooms at the nurses' home, a nurses' training school and the modernisation of the old section of the hospital — should be finished by February, 1967.
- The hospital will then be operating at 130-bed capacity, Mr. Mathews said.

In his financial report, Mr. Mathews pointed out that the daily average of occupied beds had increased from 61 to 62.5 and to 64.8 with a total of 3641 in-patients treated during 1965-66.

The income and expenditure account and balance sheet for the year ending June 30 showed a total income of $412,694 and a total expenditure of $412,288, leaving a $406 surplus.

Since the employment of a full-time collection officer, recovery of fees had been maintained at a satisfactory rate and the overall financial position was sound, he said.

**Cont. Page 2**
In congratulating the board of directors on their planning throughout the year, Mr. Mathews said that they could look back on the year with pride. "I am pleased once again to acknowledge the complete harmony with the board, and the most cordial and co-operative relationships which exist with the staff and the honorary medical panel."

"It has been a great personal pleasure to lead this happy team throughout the present period of expansion."

Speaking of the District Nursing Service, Mr. Mathews said that the practical benefits of caring for old people in their own home was receiving growing recognition.

During the past year, two additional district nurses had been appointed, bringing the total to eight. During the year, 30,380 house visits were made—a great increase on previous figures.

The Hospital Auxiliaries had also had a successful year, raising a total of $3446.

- Gosford Auxiliary had raised $1400;
- Ettalong $1060;
- Ourimbah $400;
- Hardys Bay $300 and Kin- cumber $286.

**Review of the future**

Several projects were expected to be completed in the near future, including the transfer of the maternity ward to the newly-renovated ground floor and the establishment of a Physiotherapy and Pathology Department.

A further 12 trainee nurses would start training in October this year, and four resident medical officers would begin duties in January, 1967.