

IS YOUR BLOOD WORTH BOTTLING?

W/W HERALD

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Is your blood worth bottling? Woy Woy Apexians hope it is. On Sunday, March 12, they will ask people between the ages of 18 and 60 living in the Woy Woy district to attend one of two local doctors' surgeries to have a sample of their blood taken for grouping purposes.

Their names and addresses, together with their blood type, will then be listed at the Gosford District Hospital Blood Bank for call in cases of emergency.

An actual donation of blood on March 12 will not be required and calls made in the future on this emergency list would be infrequent.

Intending donors may register now for March 12 and appointment books are at the following local pharmacies:

Woy Woy: Bruce Judd and C. Marshall.

Ettalong: West End Pharmacy and J. O'Sullivan.

Umina: P. Paterson and J. McLennan.

People registering at Woy Woy and Ettalong may attend Dr. E. J. Simpson's Surgery, 62 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy between the hours of 9 am and 1 pm on March 12.

Those registering at the Umina pharmacies should attend Dr. F. O'Brien's Surgery in Ocean Beach Road, Umina between 2 pm and 4 pm on March 12.

Anyone desiring to have a blood sample taken

but unable to register beforehand should attend either surgery at a time convenient to themselves.

The surgeries will be staffed by doctors, nurses and Woy Woy Apexians.

Apart from the fact that a list of willing blood donors registered with Gosford District Hospital could mean the difference between life and death of a patient, donors themselves would benefit from knowing their own blood type in the case of an emergency involving their own need for a transfusion.

A Sunday was chosen for the taking of the blood samples as it was felt this would probably be the most convenient day for the majority of people.

This is the first time an organised appeal for registered blood donors has ever been made in the Woy Woy district.

PAINLESS

Sister Shirley Day, the sister in charge of the Gosford Hospital Blood Bank, has pointed out that the giving of a blood sample is a completely painless procedure and takes only a few minutes.

Sister Day said that the Gosford Hospital had approximately 550 donors who supported the

bi-annual mobile clinic which visited this area in the past. This, she said, was a wonderful start for the Blood Bank but the numbers were not sufficient to keep an ever ready supply of the various blood groups on hand.

A greater number of donors available to be called upon in emergencies would mean each individual having to donate less frequently unless it was his or her express desire to attend the maximum of four times a year.

Gosford Hospital now has a supply of blood in its new Blood Bank as a precaution against the need of patients undergoing surgery or having obstetric complications. Before the Bank was established there was a three to four hour delay while a specimen of the patient's blood was sent to Sydney to be tested and the correct blood transported back to Gosford from the Sydney Blood Bank.

This situation frequently occurred in the case of unexpected haemorrhage and in accident cases on the roads, surf and mills, etc.

If there are sufficient donors available for call within our own district delays which could mean the death of a patient need not occur again.

AGE LIMITATIONS

People wishing to register as donors on March 12 must be over eight stone in weight and between the ages of 18 and 60 (donors under 21 are required to sign a statement that their parents are aware of their intention to volunteer as blood donors).

They should also be prepared to sign a questionnaire regarding past illnesses (if any) as this is for the protection of both the donor's health and that of the recipient.

If at a later date a person whose name is listed is called upon to donate blood he or she can be assured that this, nowadays, is also a painless procedure which takes not more than from 10 to 20 minutes. The amount taken varies from 14 to 17 ozs. and is done by means of a Derwajet introducer, not a needle.

Appointments may also be now made for giving blood directly with the Blood Bank at Gosford Hospital.

This Department is open five days a week, including one evening until 9 pm and one Saturday a month.

Although blood has a short life as "whole blood" the would-be donor is assured that his gift is never wasted. If, after a period of seven days, the blood has not been used locally it is sent to the Sydney Blood Bank to be processed into the many health giving bi-products of blood which include: Albumen for serum which is used when whole blood is not available and which may be stored indefinitely; a globulin, used in the treatment of pregnant women exposed to German measles and hepatitis, mumps, poliomyelitis, etc.; fibrinogen, used to assist in the control of bleeding when blood will not clot properly; and Antihaemophilic globulin, used to control bleeding which is the result of haemophilic disease (bleeders).

Woy Woy Apex Club is hoping that its unusual and worthwhile appeal for March 12 will be fully supported by every eligible person in the Woy Woy district. It will cost you no more than a speck of blood but it could mean you will save a life in the future.