

Daphne calls it quits



Mrs Daphne Tucker, a member of Gosford District Hospital staff for the past 17 years, retired last week with a lot of happy memories and a host of friends to remind her of one of the happiest and rewarding periods of her life.

Mrs Tucker joined the hospital staff somewhat by chance. She went there originally to do some casual weekend work when a member of the staff broke a kneecap, and then accepted

what was to be a temporary appointment for six months.

"I like it so much, I stayed on," she said.

When Mrs Tucker first began work at the hospital, doing diets and meals for the patients, the hospital only had 36 beds.

Later, when C and D wards, which included heart patients,

were added, she went over to that department, still working on meal service.

Later she moved into the X-ray department, doing general cleaning work.

In order to get onto day shift, Mrs Tucker eventually transferred to the linen service department where she remained until her retirement.

"I found I had a heart problem after returning from a holiday to Hong Kong and the doctor advised me to give up work and have a rest.

"But I am going to miss the job terribly, particularly the people you meet in a hospital," she said.

17 years on job

PICTURE: Mrs Daphne Tucker (front) puts a last sheet through the machine in the linen service department of Gosford District Hospital just before her retirement after 17 years service. Watching are (from left) Laurie McMuller (linen service manager), Jean Arneman (forewoman) and David Briggs (deputy chief executive officer).

Mrs Tucker said she had been spending her time over the past few days "pottering around the garden" at her Holgate property.

Eventually, when health allows, she hopes to start a nursery.

Mrs Tucker, and her husband, Arthur, have four children, all married, and nine grandchildren.

Arthur Tucker was born at Holgate and Daphne has lived there for 30 years.

Arthur's father, who came to the area when he was 10 years old, was a member of a pioneer family on the Central Coast.

The high respect in which Mrs Tucker is held by hospital staff, and patients, was evident on the Thursday before she left when she was guest of honour at a special afternoon tea put on in the nurses' dining room by the hospital catering service staff.

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