

# PENINSULA GROUP WANTS ACTION

Woy Woy Peninsula Community Group wants urgent action on the part of the Federal Government to overcome the Central Coast's "appalling situation" with regard to nursing home accommodation.

The group has decided to write to the Federal Member for Robertson, Mr Barry Cohen, on the issue.

In its letter, the group will refer to recent information from the Minister for Social Security, Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, who said careful consideration was being given to the need for particular forms of aged accommodation in all areas.

"We have asked Mr Cohen to ask the Minister if she is prepared to immediately recom-

## Nursing Home accommodation

### "appalling"

mend to her Government the re-introduction of the cost sharing scheme with State Governments for the establishment of nursing homes," Community Group secretary, Mrs Joan Fenton, said.

Mrs Fenton said the State Minister for Health, Mr Kevin Stewart, had said if current restrictions on nursing home funding were changed it would give the State Government additional flexibility to provide the required type of accommodation to meet the needs of the community.

The group made its decision to urge immediate action to alleviate the acute nursing home bed shortage following the supply of statistics by the Minister.

### Several proposals

Mr Stewart said there were 293 nursing home beds on the Central Coast, which represents 15.5 beds per 1000 of the population aged 65 and over.

There had been a number of proposals submitted by private individuals and companies to provide additional nursing homes on the Central Coast, the majority of which had been supported by the Health Commission, the Minister said.

However, if all those additional beds, approved in principle, proceed to completion, there would still be only 36.3 beds per 1000 population over the age of 65.

The recommended number of nursing beds, per 1000 people over the age of 65, is 50.

"This is an appalling situation," Mrs Fenton said.

## Clinic backed

The Eureka Base Citizens' Radio Club is the latest group to back the Australian College for the Development of Human Potential in its efforts to establish a clinic for brain injured children on the Central Coast.

In addition to doing an Australia wide broadcast on the college and its aims, Eureka has also undertaken to print and distribute leaflets describing the work of the college and appealing for donations.

Donations can be paid into any Commonwealth Bank in Australia from where they are transferred to the ACDHP account at the Ettalong branch whose manager, Mr Bill Manson, is a member of the College Board of Directors.

Other board members are Dr David Gibson (Woy Woy), Mr Ollie Bourke (Ettalong), Mrs Geraldine Bow (Newcastle), Mr Lester Budden (Quirindi), Dr Ted Freeman (Umina), Mrs Glenda Harrison (Springfield), Dr Doug Harbison (Tamworth), Mr Fred Prince (Liverpool), Mr Clyde Fairweather (Ettalong).

Trustees are Mr Keith O'Connell MLA for Peats, Gosford Shire president Cr Don Leggett, and Mr Bill Manson.

Mr David Leach of Gosford is the college honorary solicitor.

## DRUGS AND THE LAW

Drugs and the Law will be the subject of an address tonight at the Central Coast Drug Referral Centre, Showground Road, Gosford.

The lecture will be given by the Public Solicitor at Gosford, Mr Bob Quickenden.

All interested members of the public are invited to attend these regular lectures which are held every Wednesday night at the Drug Referral Centre.

Gosford District Hospital has received \$625, donated by the Rotaract Club of Woy Woy.

The money will finance the purchase of an Apnoea alarm mattress for the maternity ward.

The mattress is used to monitor breathing of new-born babies, sounding an alarm the moment a baby should stop breathing.

Chief Executive Officer of the Hospital, Mr Neville Boyce, expressed his thanks to the club and said the mattress is a very worthwhile piece of equipment.

"The mattress will prove invaluable in detecting breathing abnormalities in new-born babies. I can not thank the club and its members enough," he said.

In August last year, the Woy Woy Rotaract Club aided the hospital financially, making it possible to purchase an Ivac infusion pump, which is used to regulate fluids administered intravenously to dehydrated or shocked patients.

Mr Boyce added that the continued work of the Rotaract club has served

## Rotaract helps hospital

the hospital and the community well by improving hospital facilities.

Woy Woy Rotaract Club president, Mr Don Tee, said the majority of the money raised for the Alarm Mattress came through a "Scooter-thon."

"With the help of the public, our Scooter-thon was a great success, enabling us to finance the purchase of this equipment," Mr Tee said.

The presentation took place on Sunday at a small ceremony held in the hospital dining room.