

# HOSPITAL'S \$7250 GIFT FROM LIONS

**A Swiss manufactured Roch Transcutaneous Oxygen Monitor worth \$7250 has been donated to Gosford District Hospital by Green Point-Avooca Lions Club.**

Members of the Lions Club and members of the community who had been instrumental in fund raising for the expensive apparatus visited the hospital on Friday afternoon for the official handing over of the cheque and to view the machine.

The cheque was presented to Mr Les Hannell, chairman of the hospital board by president of the Lions Club, Mr Bob Overdon.

Immediate past president, Mr Bruce Cripps also spoke of his club's involvement in the project.

Mr Hannell said the monitor will be used in the hospital's maternity ward.

The function of the machine is to provide precise control of oxygen therapy for premature babies.

## **Blindness**

If sufficient oxygen is administered to the new born, brain damage could result, but if too much is given, blindness is an equally serious result.

Keeping the oxygen at a correct level is a difficult process requiring frequent blood samples from the tiny premature body which desperately needs all of the small amount of blood it has.

The oxygen monitor which has already been used on three occasions since its arrival at the hospital removes this danger and operates from special sensors attached to the baby's skin surface. These sensors pick up readings and accurately record on a graph, the oxygen level in the blood flowing beneath the skin.

Mr Hannell said, "Oxygen therapy in premature babies needs to be extremely accurate."

Mr Hannell gave praise to the Lions Club of Green Point-Avooca for enabling the hospital to have its first monitor of this kind.

"In these times of rising costs and containment of hospital budgets by governments, it is not always possible for the hospital to purchase all of its equipment needs, he said.

## **Praise**

Assistance from voluntary groups and service clubs is highly appreciated by the hospital board, staff and patients, concluded Mr Hannell.

Dr Geoff Kewley also praised the work of Lions with the outstanding successful film preview promotion of California Suite which involved the

support of every Lions Club on the Central Coast.

All proceeds of this evening at the Village Twin, Gosford were immediately channelled into the project.

Mr Overdon thanked the public for its active support in raising funds for the magnificent donation.

In particular the Central Coast Express and 2GO gave immense support to the club, he said.

More than 2000 babies are expected to be born at the hospital in 1979 and the oxygen monitor will fulfil a vitally important role.

## **Prominent**

This highly technical piece of equipment places the Gosford District Hospital in a prominent position as one of the best equipped hospitals in NSW. This only excludes the large scale Sydney hospitals and a few training hospitals in the State with compulsory stocks of important equipment which is often shelved or superceded.

The Roch is the third piece of equipment to be donated to the maternity ward in recent weeks.

In support of the International Year of the Child, the Bellbird Committee of Terrigal and the Woy Woy Rotaract Club donated an oxygen blender and an IVAC infusion pump.