

KATHRYN STANDS IN FOR PREMIER



Kathryn Greiner and Gosford Hospital director of nursing Bobbi Carter-Brown at the opening.

THE Premier's wife Kathryn Greiner blamed her husband for the rain before acting as his proxy at the opening of stage three of Gosford Hospital on Monday.

"We may as well blame the Premier — he's been blamed for everything else," she said.

Mrs Greiner stood in for her husband who spent Monday in Cabinet discussions about the Government's handling of the Terry Metherell fiasco.

She charmed the crowd of more than 600 guests and revealed that the \$47 million stage three development had come in \$3.5 million under budget.

Money saved will be used to upgrade sections of the old hospital, Central

Coast Area Health Service chief executive officer Neville Boyce said.

This includes moving the children's ward into the old maternity ward and medical wards into the existing children's ward site.

The new section of the hospital will significantly reduce booking lists for health services when the new Gosford Coast Mrs Greiner said.

She said the Central Coast would receive an extra \$32 million a year for health services when the new Gosford section and 100-bed extensions at Wyong are opened and fully operational.

"This is in addition to the \$95.8 million which the Central Coast Area

Health Service received this financial year."

The new Gosford section includes two 32-bed surgical wards, a 32-bed maternity ward, birthing and nursery units, a critical care unit and medical imaging department with general X-ray, ultrasound, mammography, CT scanning and angiography.

"The new obstetric unit is a dramatic improvement on the current cramped facilities," Mrs Greiner said.

"Nine birthing rooms and a natural birthing unit will replace four outdated delivery rooms."

Stage two of Wyong Hospital will be opened in July.

Health chief retires

CENTRAL Coast Area Health Service chief executive officer Neville Boyce will retire in July.

Mr Boyce announced his retirement at the opening of stage three of Gosford Hospital on Monday.

In an emotional address Mr Boyce said Central Coast Area Health Service was the most efficient in the State because of the commitment of staff and the community.

"We are the envy of other services because while my colleagues can count their support and staff in the hundreds I can literally say there are thousands of people supporting our work in this area," he said.

Mr Boyce became chief executive officer of Gosford Hospital on July 1 1963.

The hospital had 65 beds at that time.

When stage two of Wyong Hospital is opened in July the Central Coast will have 800 hospital beds.

"You could say it's kind of grown around me," he said.

Health service board deputy chairman Barry Margin paid tribute to Mr Boyce's service to the community.



Neville Boyce

Arrested at Wyoming

THE dog squad was called in to search for two intruders after a Wyoming woman allegedly found them in her Renwick St home.

The woman called police at 6.30pm on Friday to say she had disturbed someone in her house. Constable Bailey of the dog squad discovered one man at 7.55pm in bush and a second at 9.25pm. Both were charged with numerous break and enter offences.

Bail was refused pending their appearance at Gosford Court on Monday.

Mystery school blaze

THE Fire Investigation Squad investigated a "suspicious" blaze that destroyed Mount White Public School on Monday night.

The school closed at Christmas 1988 due to lack of students. But the Education Department was considering re-opening it as a field studies centre where students could camp and learn about Aboriginal culture.

Brisbane Water Cluster director Terry Maguire said insurance could cover reconstruction but a decision on the school's future would be made in due course.

Chaos on wet coast roads

THE burst of rain caused chaos on Central Coast roads again yesterday and Monday.

A series of pile-ups on the Cobbs Rd overpass at Wyong involved eight vehicles.

On the freeway there were at least three prangs near the notorious Mount White turn-off.

Police attended a dozen accidents in and around Gosford.

Meanwhile Operation Tortoise wound up on Sunday with more than 3000 motorists booked over the school holidays, including the Easter and Anzac weekends.

Of 2730 motorists on the Central Coast reported for traffic offences 2141 were speeding.

The speed camera snared an additional 561 speedsters.

While the number of speedsters

detected was cause for concern Gosford highway patrol Snr Sgt Ron Smith said it was pleasing to see that motorists were not driving so close together over the holidays.

And those caught speeding were mostly lower range offenders.

"It appears the message from the RTA and the media is finally getting through and motorists are becoming more responsible for their driving

habits," he said. Nevertheless, the freeway retained its title as the greatest speed stretch.

Yesterday's wet weather produced three accidents by mid-morning.

Sgt Smith said drink-driving figures were down.

By 11.30pm on Anzac Day "you could have fired a cannon up the street and only hit a police car".

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