

Plan has merit ...

The suggestion by well-known worker for the elderly, Mrs Ailsa Aldous, that at least a portion of Woy Woy Hospital be turned over into nursing home accommodation has a great deal of merit.

Mrs Aldous, knows from personal experience in her work for the Meals on Wheels Service, and as co-ordinator of the Woy Woy Community Aged Service Centre, just how desperately we need nursing home accommodation on the peninsula.

There are only four nursing homes on the whole of the Central Coast (and none at Woy Woy) and the waiting list at each of them is long.

Local people who need nursing home accommodation are being sent to Sydney and even further afield, because there is nowhere they can go in their own area.

This means separation from friends and, cruellest of all, from marriage partners of 50 and 60 years. The loneliness and the worry caused by such separations often results in the breakdown of the well partner.

If such an idea did come to reality and if a portion of Woy Woy Hospital was given over to nursing beds, those fine people who worked so hard to get a hospital for Woy Woy should not feel they had lost anything.

Medical and hospital needs change over the years and surely there is no question that our greatest hospital need on the peninsula right now is nursing home beds.

It would certainly be no less a hospital because elderly people were being allowed to live out the few remaining months, or years, of their lives there, in comfort, among family and friends, instead of being shipped off to a place among strangers.

Down South with Joan Campbell



The allocation of some beds at Woy Woy hospital for the aged needing intensive care should not be considered as a permanent arrangement but as a solution to a growing problem on a temporary basis, until such times as a nursing home is built at Woy Woy.

The establishment of a nursing home adjoining Woy Woy Hospital and rehabilitation centre should, of course, be the ultimate aim.

Festival aims to raise \$7000

Toukley's charity festival week which gets underway tomorrow night, is expected to raise \$7000 for Wyong District Hospital Committee's fund for equipping the hospital under construction at Kanwal.

Committee chairman, Mr Tony Foott explained that a fashion parade and fashion auction in Toukley RSL Club auditorium tomorrow night will launch the week of activities. About 25 exhibitors have so far nominated to display wares at a trade fair to be held this weekend at Heador Street Oval adjacent Toukley Pool.

Other highlights of the week will be a Polynesian night at Toukley car park, featuring a hangi feast with Maori entertainment on Monday; day of the child displays on Wednesday by Toukley Neighbourhood Centre with a live disco at night.

There'll be a country and western night in the car park on Thursday featuring an exhibition by Tumbi Umbi Square Dance Club.

The Friday night will be one for theatre lovers with Gosford Musical Society staging the comedy, A Funny Thing Happened On the Way To The Forum in Toukley RSL Club.

Toukley Aquatic Club will host an aquatic festival on the Saturday.