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DISTRICT HOSPITAL OFFICIALLY OPENED

Speakers Stress Need For Immediate Extensions £40,000 Building Already Proved Inadequate

Gosford District Hospital was officially opened last Saturday afternoon by the Hon. C. A. Kelly, Minister for Health, in the presence of at least 1500 people representative of all parts of the district, and including many old residents who returned for the specific occasion.

During the ceremony the hospital balcony was lined with nurses, members of the Gosford and Wyong V.A.D., and a group of representatives of St. John Nursing Division, Woy Woy, all exceedingly smart and colorful in blue and white uniforms.

The above group later acted as guides to the large crowd which inspected the interior of the hospital.

In opening the actual ceremony, the Chairman of the Board (Mr. P. J. Finnan, M.L.A. for Hawkesbury) told the gathering that the building had cost £39,994 to erect.

Of this the directors had raised £19,000 by a Government guaranteed loan. To this had been added £6,250 raised by the people of the district in more than thirty years' campaigning, whilst the Hospitals Commission had assisted to the extent of £17,774.

The Commission had also offered to provide half the cost of furnishing and equipment, but he was happy to say that thanks to the generosity of the people, it had not been found necessary to ask for a single penny for that purpose.

This was mainly due, said Mr. Finnan, to the work of eight people, who would receive honorary life membership certificates during the

afternoon.

Something of a precedent had been established in the raising of all money necessary for the purchasing and equipping. In fact, there was some to spare. The cost to date had been about £5000 and £7000 had been collected.

X-RAY TO COST £1200

In addition, said Mr. Finnan, £1200 had been earmarked for an elaborate X-ray which was to be installed when the hospital was extended. This amount of money had been raised by Mr. H. Mattocks.

Appealing for funds for general purposes, Mr. Finnan said that wages expenses of the hospital now totalled approximately £100 a week.

Mr. Finnan expressed the appreciation of the assistance already given by the Minister for Health, but nevertheless desired to impress upon his mind that the general section of the hospital was full, while a number of patients other than maternity cases were upstairs in that section of the hospital.

The time was opportune, said Mr. Finnan, for Mr. Kelly to accept the view that extensions to the hospital

were already urgently necessary.

100 BED OBJECTIVE

The plans provided for an ultimate 100 beds and the present building had been constructed in such a way that a new wing could be added and a third floor built.

"We are telling the Minister that we are ready to go ahead with a programme of immediate extension", Mr. Finnan concluded.

Ald. J. C. Speers, Mayor of Gosford, extended a welcome to the Minister.

The figures quoted by Mr. Finnan, he said, showed a remarkable achievement for a district of this size. He was sure that the Minister would be impressed with the suggestion that immediate extensions were necessary.

Referring to the noble profession of nursing, the Mayor said that not enough was being done for them.

SUPERANNUATION FOR NURSES

It was his opinion that their status should be improved, and with this in mind, he would suggest to the Minister that he explore the possibilities of a superannuation scheme to operate throughout all hospitals.

Ald. Speers concluded by congratulating the chairman on the excellent work performed by him, particularly in convincing the Government of the need for the institution in Gosford.

The President of the Erina Shire Council, Cr. A. E. Lillierapp, and the President of the Woy Woy Shire Council, Cr. S. A. Hall, also extended welcomes to the Minister.

Cr. Lillierapp said that no matter what one might possess in the way of money or influence, there was no contentment without health.

Health in his opinion was the most important factor in the progress of the State.

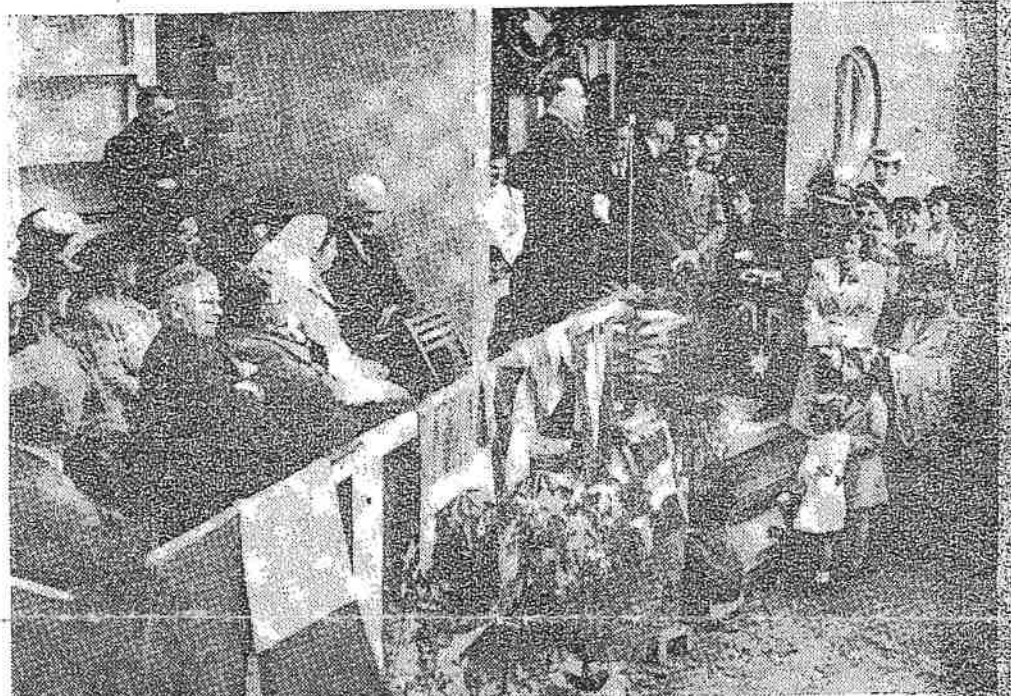
Cr. Lillierapp also impressed upon the Minister the need for extensions to the present accommodation, and introduced a sombre note when he declared that with the coming of peace and lifting of restrictions, there would be an increase in road accidents and casualties.

Even now excess patients had to be sent to Hornsby or Newcastle.

Cr. Lillierapp also congratulated Mr. Finnan on his work.

(Continued on page 5)

OFFICIAL OPENING OF GOSFORD DISTRICT HOSPITAL



The Hon. C. A. Kelly, Minister for Health (centre) addressing the large gathering from the entrance porch of the hospital last Saturday afternoon.

Mainly Personal

The name of Sgt. R. H. ("Bob") Parry appears in recent casualty list as a recovered prisoner of war.

Flight-Lieutenant G. W. MacDonnell (R.A.F.), of Gosford, is reported missing, believed killed, in air operations overseas.

Mr. A. Lackersteen of Somersby, has kindly donated the sum of £6/18/-, being one month's rent of the premises occupied by the United Services Canteen in Mann Street, Gosford.

Gosford High School speech day and distribution of prizes takes place in the Valencia Theatre, tomorrow (Wednesday), May 30, commencing at 1.15 p.m. The Director General of Education, Mr. J. G. McKenzie, will deliver an address.

Next Sunday (June 3) the Mangrove Mountain Sub-branch of the R.S.L. will hold a dance in the Kullura Memorial Hall to raise funds towards the erection of a new recreation hut and reading room at the Randwick Military Hospital.

Mr. E. J. Martin has disposed of his property in Caroline Street, Gosford, and with his wife is now living at Bondi. They are awaiting the return from Europe of their son, W/O J. A. Martin, R.A.A.F., who was shot down and taken prisoner by the Germans.

Gosford District Hospital Auxiliary needs for the hospital fifty 14 inch hemmed squares of flanne or calamine, coloured green, if possible, but not essential. If fifty persons would each donate one square an urgent need at the hospital would be supplied. Donations left at The Gosford Times office will be duly forwarded.

VE-Day was not an occasion for rejoicing for everyone. On the day the actual news was broadcast in Australia that the Germans had unconditionally surrendered, Mrs. Jim Frost of Kinumber received advice that her grandson, Sgt. Tony Frost, R.A.F., who had been reported missing, was buried at Kiel, Germany.

Mr. J. R. Cameron (Chief Superintendent) will lecture on the method of resuscitation at a meeting of the Central Coast Branch of the Surf Life Saving Association at the School of Arts, Gosford, Wednesday, June 20, at 8 p.m.

Mangrove Mountain Sub-branch of the R.S.L. & A.I.L.A. has cables of welcome to four men who have been recovered from man prisoner of war camps and are now in England. They are: Collins, Alan Burns, R.S.L. and Jim McCutcheon.

The ladies' committee of the Gosford Sailing Club held a card evening on May 25. Arthur Haslam's residence, which are working hard to raise funds to purchase a new boat for the commencement of the sailing season.

The Gosford Baby Clinic report for the past month reveals the Sister made 10 visits to 10 of new-born babies; of these 11 cases at the centre; 10 babies; gave test meals to 10 expectant mothers. Daily attendance at the centre was 51 total for the month.

Gosford Hospital Auxiliary stall will be held on Saturday, 2, instead of on the usual first Tuesday in the month. Mesdames, work, Wheeler and Staples will charge, during Mrs. H. May's absence on holidays. Donations of goods sale may be left at The Gosford Times office during the week.

At last Friday's meeting of Gosford Co-operative Citrus Fruit House Ltd., many complimentary references were made to the services rendered by the Society's secretary, Miss E. Tilse, genius for figures and practical ledge of the business has done to bring about the present position.

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