



Leagues Club furnishes new ward at hospital

The Central Coast Leagues Club has donated \$600 to the Gosford District Hospital to furnish a three bed ward in the new wing recently opened.

Picture shows Mr. Jack Atkins, jun'or, one of the Leagues Club committeemen, presenting the cheque to the Hospital Secretary, Mr. Neville Boyce, yesterday.

Mr. Atkins said the cheque brought the total donations from the club to the hospital over the last three years to \$1,100 dollars.

He said the money had been used to provide various items of equipment.

Mr. Atkins said the donation was part of this year's allocation by the club to local charities.

The balance of \$2,600 will be donated later in the year.

Mr. Atkins said he was surprised at the number of items of equipment and furnishings which were not provided by the Hospitals Commission and State Government in the new building.

"It is important to the community that our hospital be well equipped and well furnished and the League's Club has been pleased to help provide some of the extra items needed over the last three years", he said.

HELP APPRECIATED

Mr. Boyce said the hospital was grateful for all donations.

"There are many extra things we need and we have to rely on the generosity of local organisations and local people to get them," he said.

Mr. Boyce said that the new wing was as modern as any hospital but extra funds were always needed.

He instanced the new anaesthetic machine. He said the Commission would provide the type which cost \$600 whereas the one most suitable for local requirements was \$1200 and the balance of the money for the better one had to come from local donations.

CLUB'S DISSATISFACTION

The club president (Mr. Ray Maher) said the Leagues Club and, in fact, all Licensed Clubs in the district were very dissatisfied with the State Government's policy in relation to the spending of taxation collected from the clubs.

He said clubs were heavily levied for the specific purpose of providing hospitals and Homes for the Aged in the State, but the Government's policy of allocating the money did not meet with the approval of the 13,000 club members in this district.

"Last year the Leagues Club paid out little more than \$80,000 in taxation for hospitals, and clubs on the Central Coast, between them, would have paid out more than \$600,000", he said.

Over the last five years the total amount paid to the Government by district clubs in the vicinity of \$2½ million and yet only \$1 million had been spent on hospital improvements at Gosford.

Mr. Maher said that, even with the new extensions, the hospital was still hopelessly inadequate and yet district clubs had already provided the finance for a bigger and better hospital.

He added that, apart from the taxation from district clubs, it did not appear that Gosford was getting a fair share of the profits made from State Lotteries and other funds which were set aside for hospitals.

He felt the Government should spend all of the monies from clubs in the areas in which it was collected.

"I feel clubs are entitled to expect this, especially in areas which are under-hospitalised", he said.

Dealing with the Leagues Club spending this year, Mr. Maher said the club intended to bring greater benefits to its members and to increase its funds for the promotion of sport and donations to charities.

He said the club's entertainment would be increased, the allocations to sporting bodies would be a record high this year, more games nights would be granted to individual sporting bodies, and the club's donations to charity would be \$3,000, an increase of \$1,000 over last year.

(Pictured below is the three bed ward furnished by the club).