

GOSFORD DISTRICT HOSPITAL:

A STORY OF RAPID DEVELOPEMENT

A new \$300,000 four-storey building at Gosford District Hospital to house 30 nurses and the Nurses' Training School has been completed and is now in use.

The new building will be officially opened on Saturday, April 22 by Mr. E. H. Humphries, M.L.A., Member for Gosford.

Hospital Chief Executive Officer, Mr. N. R. Boyce, said the public was invited to attend the official opening and inspect the new buildings.

The new Nurses' Training School is on the lower floor, and there are ten nurses' bedrooms on each of the remaining three floors, Mr. Boyce said.

The new home was planned so that it could be readily extended in the future to accommodate up to 100 nurses when the hospital is further developed.

Meanwhile, the renovation programme for the older section of the hospital is also completed, and it is expected to be fully occupied in the next few weeks.

This section includes the new Blood Bank, and Pathology and Physiotherapy units, which are now in operation.

The renovations in this area include the complete electrical re-wiring of the hospital to enable installation of overbed and night lighting and a radio system which gives patients a choice of three programmes.

All beds have a built-in cubicle screening system for privacy.

A steam-heated radiator system has been installed to ensure patient comfort in colder months.

All the older section of the hospital has been re-painted, and fly screens have been fitted throughout.

The childrens ward has been doubled in size, and will now accommodate 20 patients.

Local building contractors Beattie and Frost built the new nurses' home.

This is shown in figures released by Mr. Boyce, this week.

Mr. Boyce said that the daily average number of patients receiving treatment at the Hospital for the 6 months period was 94. This compared with an average of 74 up to June, 1966.

Mr. Boyce said that the Hospital was able to give this extra service because it had been doubled in size, from a 65 bed capacity to 135 beds. This changeover had been going on gradually over the past few months, and the Hospital would be in full operation as a 135 bed unit by the end of April.

"We are finding that a number of patients who had formerly had to go to Newcastle and Sydney to seek treatment, can now be accommodated at Gosford. This, together with increases in equipment and essential departments at the hospital, enables us to give a very good service to the sick and injured."

Mr. Boyce said that the hospital had recorded a total of 23,625 patient-bed-days during the year ended June, 1966.

"Already in the first six months of this year, there were 15,476 patient-bed-days, and the rate is increasing. It appears as though last year's figure will be increased by almost 50 per cent."

Mr. Boyce said that it took more money to run the hospital than previously, because of its greater capacity, but returns from patients' fees and Commonwealth subsidies were greater.

Total cost of running the Hospital for the year to June, 1966, was \$412,288 (compared with \$253,378 for the half-year to December 1966), salaries were \$247,010 (\$171,587), and fees charged were \$146,657 (\$106,151).

HOSPITAL KIOSK

Work has commenced on a kiosk at Gosford District Hospital.

The kiosk is being built by the voluntary labour of Gosford Rotary Club members, who are carrying out the work as a community service project.

Majority of the finance for the kiosk has been raised by the Gosford Hospital Auxiliary over the past three years, assisted by the other district Auxiliaries at Ettalong, Hardys Bay, Ourimbah and Kincumber.

It is anticipated that the kiosk will be operating in a couple of months.

The Chairman of the Gosford District Hospital Board (Mr. R. M. Vaughan) said that the building of the kiosk, which was a much needed amenity at the hospital, was a great credit to the Auxiliary Ladies and the Rotary Club.

"The board is deeply indebted to these organisations for their public spirit," Mr. Vaughan said.

It is planned that the kiosk will be operated by a full-time manageress, assisted by members of the Auxiliaries working on a roster system.

It will provide requisites for patients and staff, as well as teas, and other refreshments for visitors. Profits from the venture will go to the hospital funds, to provide further amenities at the Hospital.

HOSPITAL BLOOD BANK PROVES ITS WORTH

Already blood from the Blood Bank established recently at Gosford District Hospital has been instrumental in saving the lives of a number of seriously ill patients.

The bank is one of the newest additions to the Hospital's facilities, and is regarded as one of its most important developments.

In the first month of operation, 120 donors have given blood to the bank.

Hospital Chief Executive Officer, Mr. N. R. Boyce, said that this was a first-class start. If donors continued coming forward at this rate, success of the bank was assured.

The new bank means that blood is readily available locally in cases of emergency without the

delay caused in the past, when blood had to be specially brought from Sydney.

A mobile unit previously visited the Shire twice a year, but this was not always convenient for donors, and only a limited number of people could be dealt with at a time.

Mr. Boyce said that the intending donors, between the ages of 18 and 60 years were needed. About the only requirement was that they be in good health.

"In the first instance, donors are 'grouped'", Mr. Boyce said. For this a tiny sample of blood is taken from the donor and sent to Sydney Blood Bank. After it has been classified, and declared acceptable for use, the donor is then asked to attend the Hospital to give a blood donation. Appointments are made with donors to eliminate waiting time, or at least to reduce it to the minimum.

Donors do not give blood more frequently than once each three months.

The actual giving of blood is simple and painless, and takes less than 30 minutes.

Most employers allow staff to have time off work for blood giving, but the bank's hours of operation may be varied to suit donors.

It is hoped that with the donor recruiting campaign being carried out by district Apex Clubs, the bank will soon reach its target of 2,000 donors.

Cr. R. M. Vaughan, Chairman of the Gosford District Hospital's Board of Directors, said that the Board very much appreciated the efforts of Apexians, to acquaint people with the advantages of giving blood by enrolling as donors.

Intending donors are asked to contact the Sister in Charge of the Blood Bank, Sister Day, at the Gosford District Hospital by phoning 20471.

BIG INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR HOSPITAL SERVICES

There has been a big increase in demand for services at Gosford District Hospital in the past six months.