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Wednesday, May 11, 1966



## DISTRICT HOSPITAL'S \$300,000 "FACE-LIFT"

Prior to officially opening the extensions to Gosford District Hospital on Saturday, the Minister for Health, Mr. A. H. Jago, MLA, announced that the patients at present in the hospital would be transferred to the new section to allow the original hospital to be modernised.

The New South Wales Minister for Health, Mr. A. H. Jago, officially opened the new \$842,000 extensions to the Gosford District Hospital last Saturday afternoon.

More than 500 official visitors and guests attended the opening ceremony which marks a major step in the expansion of hospital facilities on the Central Coast.

The block provided accommodation for 62 extra beds and other facilities.

ABOVE RIGHT: A guard of honour was provided by the nurses at the hospital who were paraded on the pathway before the new hospital wing.

Mr. Jago complimented the girls on their appearance before mounting the official dais.

The extensions carried out by Max Cooper & Sons, of Sydney, were contracted to cost \$842,000, but this figure is expected to reach \$1 million with extras and furnishings.

Mr. Jago said the proposed modernisation of the original hospital, together with the building of a nurses' training school, additional accommodation for the nursing staff and other facilities urgently required, would cost a further \$300,000.

He said the extensions which he was opening later in the afternoon had been initiated by the previous Minister for Health, Mr. Sheahan.

The work that was now proposed was necessary as a follow up and could be called part of the "package deal".

Mr. Jago pointed out that hospitals were so important in the community that they were beyond any political barrier.

It was important that members of the Hospital Boards should only have one requirement — that they have a high standing in the local community.

He said he was pleased they received and held the high esteem of the Gosford community.

Mr. Jago said he had heard of the support received by the Board from service clubs and other organisations, which was so vital to the hospital's future.

### 300 beds

Commenting on Mr. Mathews' statement that the aim at Gosford was

to see Gosford District Hospital with 300 beds, which would make it a more functional unit.

## MINISTER'S STATEMENT AT OPENING EXTENSIONS

He hoped this could be provided by 1973 — or not long after that time.

Certainly by 1976 — 10 years hence, the people of the district would see the hospital fully developed as a sound unit.

### 500 people

The Minister delivered his address to about 500 people who were seated in the hospital's car park, where they were able to enjoy the ceremony in perfect sunshine.

It was an excellent attendance, as the opening clashed with the big basketball procession and several other important local functions.

Visitors included members of the various hospital auxiliaries throughout the district, representatives of service clubs and civic leaders, together with the medical profession and hospital authorities.

Seated on the official dais were: Board chairman, Mr. R. G. Mathews; Dr. Selle, Chairman, Hospitals Commission NSW; Mr. E. H. Humphries, MLA (Gosford); Mr. H. E. Jensen, MLA (Wyong); Mr. G. W. R. Max

and Shire President, Cr. R. M. Vaughan, who is also deputy chairman of the Hospital Board.

Mr. Mathews was master of Ceremonies and also delivered an excellent address of welcome on behalf of the board, which is published fully in this issue.

The official opening was performed after the speeches, and an inspection of the hospital by all visitors, was well organised.

In his address, Mr. Jago pointed out that the current extensions would provide 65 extra beds with a variety of other services — well equipped casualty wards, outpatients' section, an exceptionally large laundry, far in excess of current needs, together with modern boiler room, modern kitchen, and other essentials.

Mr. Jago said Gosford was fortunate in that it had every opportunity of developing into a first class hospital in a compact way.

Not all hospitals had been able to develop that way.

Gosford would now have a 130-bed hospital, thanked the architect for the skilled way he had designed the additions to fit in with the original building.

The building had also reflected great credit on the building contractor, Max Cooper and Sons.

### Limited funds

Mr. Jago pointed out the difficulties associated with capital expenditure on hospitals, as only \$14 million was available annually for this work.

This had to satisfy the needs of 260 hospitals in NSW.

He said this field of activity had been denied

funds for some years, possibly because money had to be used for school buildings.

Cont. on page 3

# HOSPITAL'S "FACE-LIFT"

Cont. from page 1

Mr. Jago said all hospitals played a big part, from the big teaching hospitals to the small ones in the country.

It was important that the best possible use was made of the small amount of money available.

Because Gosford District Hospital was a focal point for regional development, anything that was done, was for the benefit of all people in the district.

He agreed with a comment made by Mr. Mathews — Gosford should have no more, or no less, than other similar areas.

Gosford would ultimately become the main centre for all major health services.

## Care for aged

Provision would be made to take care of the aged in the best possible place — whether it was in Woy Woy or anywhere else.

He quoted Newcastle as an example, stating that Dr. Gibson from the Royal Newcastle Hospital provided a medical service for 650 elderly people outside the hospital.

Mr. Jago said if people had to be treated in hospital, it should be for the shortest possible time.

The emphasis should be on treating people in their own homes, where medical, nursing and other services would be available.

## Woy Woy views

He said he was conscious of the views of the people of Woy Woy, but it was virtually impossible to establish hospitals in close proximity to one another.

It was important to establish a variety of services related to one another, which would be convenient to all requiring the services.

Mr. Jago paid a great compliment to Matron Inskip and her deputy, Sister M. Lowndes, on the high standard they had set which was reflected in the quality of the nursing staff.

He said it was also good to hear that the honorary medical staff was also held in such high regard by the Board.

State Member, Mr. E. H. Humphries, in introducing the Minister had pointed out that he held a very important portfolio.

Health services had become specialised, but the Minister also needed to be a "financial genius" as well.

Mr. Jensen, in his brief remarks, said there was no more important work than catering for the sick

and injured — whether they were rich or poor.

It was essential that those with the skill to alleviate their suffering should be provided with the best possible facilities.

Mr. Maxwell drew attention to the important role played by the hospital auxiliaries and the representatives of the churches who visited the patients in hospital.

He said he was delighted to hear the Minister speak of the help to be given in the treatment of the aged sick, a subject which concerned so many people in the district.

He paid a compliment to the district nurses, who provided a service which was the largest outside the metropolitan area, visiting over 100 patients daily.

## Ambulance

In declaring the building open, Mr. Jago said he was pleased to see members of the Ambulance Services in attendance.

He paid a tribute to the work they had done over the years, transporting patients who could not be accommodated at Gosford District Hospital, to Newcastle and Sydney.

He said the ambulance service had an affiliation with the hospital whether patients came as casualties or ordinary patients.

The inspection of the hospital followed. Details of the four-storey extensions, were fully outlined in the "Star" on April 27.