**HOSPITAL HISTORY**

In 1890, Samuel Lees, the local member for Penrith, called a meeting to discuss the need for a hospital.

Temporary premises were rented in High Street and in 1890, the first patient was a man whose legs had been crushed in a railway accident.

In 1892, Mr. P. G. King offered 3 acres of land in Lemongrove to the hospital committee for 100 pounds. This offer was accepted and the new Cottage Hospital was opened in 1895 by Mr. Lees.

At this time the staff consisted of the Matron, 2 trained Nurses, 2 probationers and a yardman. Working conditions were greatly different to to-day's standards.

The probationers rose at 5.00am to light the fuel stove and cook the gruel for breakfast which was served at 8.00am . Before then, the tables, shelves and floors had to be washed. After breakfast, the dishes were washed: also the staff's uniforms had to be washed and starched.

At noon lunch was prepared and served then further washing and scrubbing until 4.00pm when dinner was prepared and served. Also, during the day, the probationers took a laundry basket of medicine bottles and ointment jars to Judge's Pharmacy in High Street to be refilled and returned to the Hospital. The Hospital, at this time, had no operating theatre: only a surgery room and surgical instruments were washed in the kitchen sink.

In 1926 the name was changed to the "Nepean District Hospital."

It soon became obvious that the Hospital could not meet community needs for much longer.

Plans evolved for a completely new hospital. World War two delayed progress and in 1945 a new maternity unit was opened at the hospital.

In 1956, the new Nepean District Hospital was opened at it's present site on the Great Western Highway at Kingswood: and so it has grown to the teaching hospital it is today.

NOTE for your information, Bill. Presently, the former "Penrith Hospital" at Lemongrove, is called "Governor Phillip Hospital" and with it's modern-day additions and refurbishments, serves as a geriatric unit.

Just in case you are not aware: Cncllr. Howard McCallum enthusiastically supports our resolution that "Campbell Monument" stays in Blaxland."