RANDWICK
PINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL
HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
FOR
SCHWAGER BROOSK AND ASSOCIATES
1995
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The narrative contained in this section presents the evidence which may be obtained from primary and secondary archival sources to describe the development of the Prince of Wales Hospital. The objective of this work is to describe the evolution of the built environment sufficient to support and inform the conclusions and recommendations of the conservation management study. It provides the basis for determining a statement of cultural significance.

The hospital has been the scene for important medical work and technological progress and has importance for social or cultural values as well as playing an important role in the development of the community, however, the focus of this research has been the processes and events associated with the development of the buildings and landscape contained within this campus. Those other factors are described sufficient to make clear their impact on the evolution of the built environment but the work is not intended to be a comprehensive history of this important institution.

The cultural landscape at the hospital has developed over one hundred and forty years and throughout that long period of continuous use the principal function of the establishment has changed on several occasions. To simplify this complex history of development several themes or periods have been identified; these represent principal times of change. They are:

Phase I: 1852 - 1915, The Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum
Phase II: 1915 - 1924, The 104 Australian General Military Hospital
Phase III: 1924 - 1939, The Repatriation Hospital
Phase IV: 1939 - 1954, Renewed Active Service
Phase V: 1954 - 1959, Sydney Hospital Annexe: The Hospitals Commission
Phase VI: 1959 - 1972, A Teaching Hospital
Phase VII: 1972 - 1997, Amalgamation

It is difficult and indeed unnecessary to achieve more that a kaleidoscopic view of the constantly changing and shifting hospital site throughout this long period. However, the research undertaken for this analysis uncovered a vast amount of very detailed information regarding changes, additions, extensions and cosmetic work to individual buildings or portions of the site. This evidence was too complex to put into the bulk of the text. A detailed chronology is appended to this report. This evidence would be particularly relevant in the event of individual conservation plans being required for any specific building.

Phase I: 1852 - 1915

The Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum

Destitute, abandoned and orphaned children had been an issue of concern from the earliest years of the colony. By the 1790s the Reverend Richard Johnson claimed that the problem was so great that it endangered the moral standing of the community (1). In New South Wales the earliest provisions for their support were government initiatives. Governor King opened a female orphanage in Sydney in 1801. This establishment
was transferred to Parramatta in 1813 and later, in 1819, a male orphanage was established at Liverpool. Several other institutions were formed in the years afterwards to cater for specific groups; for example, a Native School, a female School of Industry and a Roman Catholic Orphanage.

By the later 1840s and the 1850s the problems of pauperism in the slum areas of Sydney and the social evils associated with it were becoming matters of grave public concern. The severe economic recession of the 1840s and the upheavals caused by the gold rushes of the 1850s created social instability and increased the problems of juvenile delinquency. It resulted in an upsurge of middle class interest in the plight of street children. Concern for these children and the means of providing for them attracted a series of initiatives and procedures including, during the later 1850s, the establishment of Destitute or Ragged Schools in the more notorious slum areas. Numerous legislative initiatives were proposed between 1852 and 1866 to address these issues but each generally failed to come to full fruition. This was in no small part due to the establishment of the Destitute Children's Society which served as a viable and more easily managed non-government alternative; it could attract official support without conferring responsibility.

The concept of establishing a society of this nature first emerged in 1851. A public meeting was held in 1852 and from this a committee was formed with the objective of providing the means of establishing a destitute children's asylum. A public appeal was made for money (2). The Society attracted widespread official and private support. Government support was expressed particularly through an Act of Incorporation which permitted it to receive children committed by magistrates either with or without parental consent. This enabled the establishment to attract government funding. Vice Regal support was made obvious by the presence of the Governor on its opening day.

The first building used for the purpose, in 1853, was the former private residence of Ormond House at Paddington. From the beginning questions were raised with respect to securing a grant of land which would enable a home to be purpose-built for the children. In contrast to the ethos of the Ragged Schools which encouraged children to remain in their own homes the Society held that true reform and good would only come from the removal and isolation of the children from their own homes and neighbourhoods which were felt to be intrinsically corrupting environments.

The location of the house in Paddington did little to remove the children from the influences of the inner-city and its unhealthy environment. As well, Ormond House was both crowded and in a poor and deteriorating condition. Annual reports for the institution refer to the extensive repairs required to make the place habitable (3). By 1854 communication had been established with the Surveyor General for the purpose of selecting land on the Sydney Common as the site for a new asylum (4). The issue became critical in 1855 when a public enquiry into charitable institutions found much to condemn in the management and work of the Asylum.

By the later part of that year the Directors were able to report that sixty acres had been selected at Randwick. It was stated that work on the Asylum would commence immediately after the passing of the Act of Incorporation. By that stage, however, the land had already been fenced and a plan prepared for "a plain and substantial structure" that could house four hundred children (5). Designed by Edmund Blacket
the cost, exclusive of an Infirmary, was estimated to be over 16,000 pounds. The plans for the principal buildings survive as part of Blacket's private papers (6). The work was made possible by a bequest of 12,000 pounds made in the will of Dr Alexander Cuthill, the surgeon for the Asylum.

The grant for the new Asylum was issued on 20 December, 1855. It encompassed two separate but adjoining blocks. One was for an area of over thirty-one acres and the second for more than twenty-eight acres. It was intended that one, that of thirty-one acres, would support the Asylum buildings and the second, of twenty-eight acres, a model farm that would provide produce for the institution and, secondly, apprentice training for the children. The latter was commensurate with the philosophy of the middle class founders which required a complete restructuring of the children's background. The establishment of the Asylum was the logical manifestation of this theory of isolation and re-education. The Asylum at Randwick was physically separated from the familiar urban environment of the children. Essentially it was a self-contained colony that was self-supporting, the majority of all work being undertaken by the inmates; the children worked hard at the farm, the kitchen and the laundry. It provided its own care, education, religious instruction and vocational training. It even provided a means for employment; subscribers had the right to apprentice children as young as twelve as domestic or general servants or farm labourers.

By mid-1856 the Directors were able to state that they had lost no time in commencing work on the new Asylum. The plan had been adopted, tenders had been let and one had been accepted at a total cost of 9025 pounds. It was anticipated that the work would be completed by March 1857. The foundation stone was laid by Governor Denison and four trees were planted to commemorate the event (7). It was a time of community self-congratulation on the commencement of a well-meaning charitable work. The editorial of the Sydney Morning Herald of 9 May 1856 remarked that,

"He who snatches an individual from habits of vice, and places him in the path of civilisation and virtue does more for the practical elevation of mankind than the admirer of a thousand theoretical schemes of social economy".

The Act of Incorporation was passed in 1857 and this enabled a government subsidy to be made; five thousand pounds was given to the establishment to assist with the completion of the buildings. Work in fact was completed by February 1857 when notice was given to vacate the old building (8). At the time a description of the new building listed some of the rooms, being a dining room and nursery (50 x 20 feet), an infants' dormitory (50 x 20 feet), an infants' schoolroom (28 x 20 feet), an office (18 x 14 feet), a store (18 x 14 feet), kitchen (18 x 14 feet), sitting room (18 x 14 feet), a day dormitory (28 x 20 feet), girls' schoolroom (50 x 38 feet), girls' dining room (50 x 30 feet) and a washing room (31 x 12 feet). In addition there were ten out-offices in the grounds all varying in size (9).

Full occupation was reached in March 1858 and at that time it was stated that "this edifice which consists of the north and east wings of the building is intended to be completed in after years" (10). The portion to be completed was the southern wing. In this year the Government provided a subsidy of 2500 pounds (11).

After the buildings were occupied the first matter to be attended to was the improvement of the land surrounding the establishment.
This work was made possible by the generous support of several well-known nursery-men.

"Through the liberality of Messrs Baptist, Shepherd and Guilfoyle, your Directors have been enabled to plant a considerable portion of their land with trees and shrubs which will prove as ornamental to the grounds as they will be useful on sheltering the more exposed parts of the property. Some of the land is already under cultivation...there is every reason to believe that a large supply of vegetables and other produce will be raised...." (12).

The land referred to was that portion of the two grants which surrounded the Asylum buildings. The other block to the south, which had been intended as the site for the model farm, was abandoned due to the poor quality of the land and the lack of reliable water. In 1863 it was described as being, at least in part, very rocky (13). It was to lay idle and unchanged until the early years of the twentieth century and was to become a point of contention when an examination was made of the stewardship of the public grant (14).

In place of the intended site of the farm the Directors were able to use twenty acres of a block at the corner of Barker and Botany Streets for this purpose. The land was part of a forty acre grant made to the Benevolent Asylum. Labour for the gardens was provided principally by the older boys. It became a major undertaking "as the ground under cultivation increases in extent and the farming and gardening opportunities are enlarged"; by 1859 sixteen acres were ready for cultivation and six were already supporting crops (15).

By the early 1860s the farm was sufficiently established and productive to enable the introduction of some experimental planting. In 1861 cotton plants were trialed and three thousand cuttings of white mulberry. The latter was intended to support silk manufacture or sericulture (16). Similar experiments were in process in other parts of the state at the same time and for the same purpose. None at this time, were to achieve any great success. By 1862, despite hardships caused by a severe drought, the farm produced ten tones of vegetables including cabbages, carrots, turnips, pumpkins, peas, beans and potatoes. Surplus was sold at markets. The Asylum also was self-sufficient in bread and dairy produce. By the following year the yield had increased to twenty-two tones of produce (17).

The use of land outside the original grant for the development of the farm supported statements made in later years that the majority of the site was waste land. Even the principal block was only fractionally used; part of the vacant site was fenced to form a cemetery. This was located between the Barker Street cottages and the principal buildings of the main block and the receiving house. A quarry was located close to Avoca Street and south of the hospital.

The support enjoyed by the establishment and its important role was further highlighted in 1859 with the publication of the report prepared by the Sir Henry Parkes Select Committee on the Conditions of the Working Classes. It described the situation of homeless youth and child prostitution and underscored the need for institutions of its kind. Along with the Asylum several other establishments were formed to cater for the same needs including the naval training ship the Vernon and an industrial school for girls at Cockatoo Island.

By 1860 247 children were housed at the Asylum (18) and the capacity of the buildings was stretched to the limits. Until 1861, from 1859,
the newly elected Randwick Council used as chambers a rented room in the asylum (19). The completion of construction on the southern wing of the main building enabled the establishment to provide places for eight hundred children, doubling its initial capacity (20). The new wing was used to house the girls. It was made possible in part by a two thousand pound subsidy provided by the government in 1860 specifically for building purposes (21). More subsidies followed in succeeding years, for example, 750 pounds in 1863 (22) and two thousand pounds in 1864 (23). This money along with that raised by public donations, what money could be raised from the parents of children housed at the Asylum as well as the profit derived from investments supported several new initiatives including the establishment of a separate infants' department.

The 1860s were important years for the Asylum in terms of the expansion of its facilities. In 1867 a new building was constructed as a residence for the Superintendent. Designed by J. Horbury Hunt it was located at the corner of Avoca and High Streets. Hunt was invited in the same year to prepare a design for a hospital for the Asylum after the first plan by Edmund Blacket had been rejected by the Directors. The need had been brought about or realised by the death from whooping cough and measles of over sixty children in the establishment. The cemetery, established only a short time before, became the resting place for these young victims.

Money for the building was raised, in part, by public donation but principally through a generous and substantial gift by a visiting Irish singer, the "Swan of Erin", Catherine Hayes. Costing over six thousand pounds at completion in 1870 the design had finally been prepared by Thomas Rowe after Hunt had been fired following a disagreement over payment of fees. The newly opened hospital was named the Catherine Hayes Hospital in honour of its principal benefactress. The building received much favourable public comment. A report of its opening presented in the Sydney Morning Herald described,

"on the eastern side of it, next to the road, is a thriving belt of fir trees. The hospital... is a fabric not merely commodious in its internal arrangements but of a decidedly attractive exterior and contrasts agreeably enough with the huge sombre monastic looking pile in its vicinity. The high pitched slate roofs, the long narrow windows glazed with plate glass and the carefully finished stone walls, the elaborate doorways and other characteristic features of the hospital are all unexpectedly pleasing...." (24).

By this time the formerly isolated location was becoming part a growing suburb and land on the boundaries of the Asylum had been appropriated for several private properties, for example, a nursery was located to the south-west. A prominent landmark in the area, memorialised by S.T. Gill in an engraving of the principal Avoca Street frontage showing the main buildings fronted by a low paling fence behind which were a number of shrubs (25), the importance of the organisation was recognised in 1865 when the Asylum was made one of the highlights of the tour for the visiting Duke of Edinburgh. In honour of the event two Norfolk Island pines were planted in the quadrangle (26). Later Royal visitors, the Princes Edward and George, would plant a pine in the quadrangle in 1881 to commemorate their visit (27).

The growth of the Asylum, however, was one of the principal issues criticised by a Royal Commission appointed in 1873 to enquire into the establishment. Its massive size, lack of attention to individuals and the absence of a family setting were all singled out for particular
censure (28). Still operating essentially on early nineteenth century principles of child care and benevolent management the welfare system and its philosophical basis had and was in the process of great change beyond the walls of the Asylum. The barrack style of accommodation and "work house" ethic was in the process of being supplanted by a policy of child welfare that encouraged placement of children with individual families. Government policy to this end was enacted in 1876 but was not applied to the Randwick Asylum for several years afterwards. The media began to attack the kind of care provided for the children in the Asylum. Two sisters, proponents of the alternative theory of child care, visited the place in the early 1870s and described the conditions there in terms of this changing ethic:

"The children of whom there are between seven and eight hundred, are employed, much as those in our large pauper schools at home would be. They did not impress favourably, either with regard to neatness of appearance or intelligence of countenance...The staff of teachers is small in comparison with the pupils. Two hundred and thirty-nine girls are entirely instructed by three mistresses. ...The dormitories, though very large were still crowded with beds placed not only in rows around the walls, but also down the middle..."(29).

They concluded that "no system can counteract the evils inseparable from an institution where, as at Randwick, several hundreds are massed together" (30).

The turning point for child welfare occurred in 1873-74 with the publication of the reports of the Public Charities Commission. These advocated a system that led to the closure of the large barrack-style orphanages. Foster care and cottage style institutions were to replace them; many of the recommendations made in these reports are still in practice.

At the same time as criticism was being levelled at the Asylum for its methods and care the Directors found themselves in severe financial trouble. This situation largely was brought about by the costs which had been involved in extending the buildings. The crisis only was averted by Government intervention. A special grant of 3476 pounds was made to extinguish the overdraft and several other subsidies were paid and continued to be so until 1885 (31).

Finally in 1876, when 589 children were housed at Randwick, the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry were enacted and these led to a major change in the organisation of the Asylum particularly with reference to its farming activities. The dairy herds were reduced, sericulture was abandoned and sewage was used for growing vegetables and green feed for the animals (32). In the following year public schools were established in the Asylum thereby bringing it in line with the contemporary state education system (33). A variety of repairs and additions were made to the site in the same period including the construction of weather sheds in playgrounds that were substantially increased in size.

At the end of this decade, in 1879, the Asylum was again forced to expand its capacity to meet another medical crisis. An outbreak of ophthalmia demonstrated the need for an isolation ward. The Government again contributed a substantial percentage towards the cost of what was termed the Receiving House. The new building was designed to isolate and care for children suffering from contagious and infectious diseases providing a place for their special treatment. Before the new building was available the ophthalmia epidemic forced a temporary solution. To this end a convalescent home was established at Richmond and additional accommodation was provided in the Catherine Hayes hospital. This entailed,
mainly, the enlargement of the kitchen, the establishment of a treatment ward and play-shed, the construction of urinals and the introduction of hot water systems (34).

Part of the problem with respect to the health of the children within the Asylum stemmed from the sanitary conditions within the establishment, a legacy of the mid-nineteenth century building programme and the limited availability of fresh water. During the 1880s, when these same issues were constantly being brought to the attention of the citizens of Sydney by special reports and editorials in the daily newspapers, inspections were made of the Asylum to report on these aspects.

The Inspector of Nuisances prepared a report of this nature in 1881. His report provides some detail with respect to the use and appearance of the establishment at that time, principally the main block. This building had, in addition to other services, fever and ophthalmic wards. The Inspector described the boys' school as a large and commodious room with a lofty ceiling and plenty of ventilation. The dining rooms also were said to have high ceilings, plenty of fresh air and were clean; at least one was being painted in a "cheerful" colour at the time of the inspection. Sculleries were located next to the dining rooms. Dormitories were on the floor above and water closets were located close by. The kitchen, laundry and wash house were said to be in good order however the lavatories, which were in the basement of one wing, were found to be too confined and not well ventilated. The receiving pits for the sewage were located at some distance from the school in the paddocks. Generally the school was found to have a good record as did the farm, the piggeries (which were some distance from the farm) and the Receiving House. The latter was praised for its design, plan and fittings (35), however, it went out of use in this year (36).

In the same year the NSW Government passed an Act which, ultimately, would lead to the closure of the Asylum. The State Children's Relief Act established a government system in place of the private welfare which the Randwick establishment had provided for so long. It was intended to replace the old barrack system with foster care.

Despite this fundamental change in Government policy the Randwick Asylum continued to operate as before and pressed ahead with substantial programmes of work. In 1882 over six hundred children were housed there and some of the facilities were not adequate to meet the needs of that many. To this end the laundry was enlarged, a drying room was built and general improvements were made to the sanitary arrangements (37). The work continued into 1884 with a new lantern roof erected over the kitchen, cleaning and whitewashing of the lavatories, the boys' dormitory was partitioned to the ceiling, the isolation ward at the hospital was painted and most of the buildings were cleaned, coloured and whitewashed; many received general repairs (38).

The large number of children housed at the Asylum was in direct contrast to official government policy. Those children subsidised by the Government permitted it some right to comment and criticise the system at Randwick. There ensued an almost constant state of conflict during the later years of the Asylum's existence. In 1883 the Inspector of Public Charities report stated that,

"The Colonial Secretary recently intimated a desire to withdraw as required...certain of the State children from the Randwick Asylum for the purpose of boarding them out under the auspices of the State
Children's Relief Board, as is done from the Orphan Schools and the Benevolent Asylum.

"The Randwick Society does not, however, appear disposed to accede to the wishes of the Government in this matter, and, to remove difficulty possible in the future, I might suggest that no State child go henceforth to Randwick, except on the distinct understanding that he remains there only during the pleasure of the Colonial Secretary" (39).

It was a climate of almost constant attack on the work and methods of the Asylum and even the care provided by it. In 1882, for example, the medical record of the establishment was criticised when it was noted that its annual report showed more than half the children to have been admitted to the hospital suffering opthalmia and a variety of skin diseases. This situation was blamed on the system which confined large numbers of children in one place (40).

The principal concern, however, was directed towards the limited water supply. This had particularly suffered during recent times due to drought "notwithstanding the excellent provisions made for its conservation during the rainy seasons" (41). Presumably there were storage tanks. Water also was brought to the Asylum by means of water carts from such places as Moore Park.

In an attempt to find a long-term solution to the problem, the Directors entered into a contract with Messrs. Shepherd and Collins, the terms of the work to be a bore taken to a depth of one thousand feet. The drill broke at 394 feet. Another contract was made with the reassuringly named Diamond Drill Company. Water was found at some considerable depth and a recommendation was made to extend the bore to another one hundred feet. The work continued to a depth of at least 700 feet and possibly 800 feet. Unfortunately the water was so brackish that it couldn't be used (42).

1885 was a critical year in the development and use of the Asylum. In that year approximately six hundred children placed in the Asylum and subsidised by the Government were withdrawn and placed in foster care in compliance with official welfare policy (43). This action was taken after the children at the Protestant and Roman Catholic orphanages at Parramatta had been removed and placed with their parents or in foster care.

With numbers reduced from 850 to 230, the Directors asked the Government for "protection" from the State Children's Relief Board. It was granted but, with that removal, government funding ceased and all costs had to be met by public subscription, donations and whatever money could be afforded by individual parents. In an establishment designed to function on the basis of accommodating many children, the reduction of their numbers imbalanced the economic structure and led to a decline in standards, care and the facilities at the site. Reduced numbers left a large area unoccupied, paralysed the educational and general arrangements and required the complete reorganisation of the whole institution within the parameters of a greatly reduced budget.

For the remainder of the century there were very few detailed reports made regarding the state of the Asylum. Annual reports were confined to stating that the buildings were in a good state of repair or, at worst, requiring minimum repairs to maintain them (44). It was, however, an establishment that was in decline losing the energy and support that had buoyed it for the preceding decades. The number of children continued to grow less. The last burial was made in the cemetery in
1891. A survey plan of this period shows the site to have been largely vacant; the principal buildings were those of the main block, hospital, Receiving House and cottages as well as the cemetery and several smaller buildings around each of the main group (45).

Despite this greatly reduced and under-funded establishment the farm continued to thrive producing quantities that would have been well in abundance of anything required by the Asylum even at its peak period of enrolment. In 1900, for example, over 21,427 pounds of vegetables were produced and nearly 17,000 quarts of milk (46). By the following year these figures had risen to nearly 37,000 pounds of vegetables and nearly 18,000 quarts of milk. The produce included 6947 pounds of cabbages, 4227 pounds of pumpkins, 2395 pounds of beans, 1920 pounds of cauliflowers, 1740 pounds of herbs and sundries, 5096 pounds of carrots, 4117 pounds of potatoes, 263 pounds of tomatoes, 610 pounds of cauliflowers, 4015 pounds of marrows, 2920 pounds of turnips, 1007 pounds of peas, 1918 pounds of parsnips, 42 pounds of radishes, 356 pounds of beets and rhubarb. As well nine tons of fodder was produced to feed the farm animals (47).

Shortly after the old garden land was resumed and sold by the Minister for Lands. The remaining dairy herd was pastured in the upper and lower paddocks. After many caught TB and were destroyed a contract was let for milk (48). Further reducing the self-sufficiency and isolation of the Asylum a contract was let in 1901 to connect the Asylum to the government sewer line (49).

During the later years of the nineteenth century, after the removal of the majority of the children, consideration began to be given to an alternate use for the site. Mostly these favoured alternative institutional uses. In 1887 a recommendation was made that the site should be converted for use as a hospital for chronic cases from the Government Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute to ease the overcrowding those establishments were enduring at that time. It was also suggested that the hospital and Receiving House could be devoted to nursing mothers. A work house also was suggested as a viable use. Resident objections to most probably caused the rejection of these schemes (50).

By the early years of the new century, however, the principal interest in the Asylum was with respect to the large amount of prime real estate it then occupied and the relatively little use made of the large property. In the years since its establishment in the 1850s Randwick had gone from being a far-distant, little occupied and largely undeveloped area on the outskirts of the city to a thriving suburb. The Asylum occupied very valuable real-estate in a prime location.

"Reference might be made to the rapid development of the surrounding district and demand made for eligible building sites. The whole of the property of the Randwick Asylum is now surrounded by dwellings and the land...is in one of the finest positions of the borough " (51).

Regrets were expressed officially that all the children hadn't been removed from the Asylum in 1885 (52).

As early as 1902 Parliament was giving consideration to the under-utilisation of the land. The Premier was in favour of selling forty acres on the basis of a ninety-nine year lease but the difficulties of granting a title with respect to the original conditions of its establishment stopped further consideration of this plan of action. Other schemes met with little success; "as a consequence the estate continued to remain as it had since 1852" (53). A report prepared in this year
recommended the children to be fostered or returned to their parents, the main building to be converted to a convalescent home for adults and the hospital and Receiving House to be used as a home for nursing mothers (54).

In 1903, partly in response to the criticism of their stewardship but mostly to raise income for the furtherance of their work, the Directors convened a special meeting of a Sub-Committee. Its brief was to consider the subdivision of the unoccupied lands and the conditions under which those lands should be leased for fifty years. The portion under consideration encompassed the original twenty-eight acre block that had been intended for the model farm.

It was resolved to commission a surveyor to prepare plans for "liberal allotments" to be sold for dwelling houses either publicly to the highest bidder or privately. The dwellings constructed on them were to be to the value of between three and eight hundred pounds according to their position on the land. They were to have frontages of between forty and sixty feet and a depth of between 130 and 200 feet. The intention was to provide for "really good substantial dwellings" (55). Due to the public nature of the land, to proceed with this scheme, the Directors had to acquire approval from the Governor which also needed counter signing by the Colonial Secretary.

Permission to do so was obtained in June 1903 and part of the land was sub-divided; the blocks were offered at public auction in November on the basis of ninety-nine year leases. The area was described as "The Randwick Estate...The Coming Centre of Randwick" (56). Only one block was disposed of at this time and this sale was cancelled at a later date (57). It had been the intention of those planning the subdivision to build over the site of the cemetery. Subsequently lands were sold along Avoca Street.

More and more questions were raised with respect to the empty space in the buildings. Even the Directors of the Asylum as early as 1903 wrote to the Colonial Secretary to inform him that "they were desirous of the co-operation of the Government in respect to the utilisation of the unoccupied portions of the buildings for some useful purpose" (58). Those portions which they nominated for new occupation included practically the whole of the southern wing, the Catherine Hayes Hospital, the Receiving House and a portion of the northern wing (59).

At the same time local residents and the public press were raising objections to the lease of the southern portion of the site to a Chinese market gardener named Ah Young and a possible extension of that lease (60). The lease for five years over a large portion of the twenty-eight acre block was approved and the gardeners did take over the land in October 1904 (61). By early 1905 it had been fenced, ploughed and was in the process of being prepared for a garden (62). At that time the remainder of the twenty-eight acre block, except a part fronting Botany Street, was let to Thomas Payten at ten pounds per annum. He used it for agistment purposes (63). On the principal block, apart from the principal buildings, three of the four cottages were used by asylum staff but the fourth was let for thirteen shillings and sixpence a week (64).

Early in 1904 the Crown Solicitor expressed doubt about the validity of any leases which might be made by the Directors owing to the nature of the public grant. He suggested that an Act be passed to enable valid leases to be made on those lands not actually required by the Society. A Bill was prepared but, at that time, was not passed by
Parliament (65). The Chief Surveyor recommended that all the buildings be resumed, the inmates moved and the buildings handed to the State Children's Relief Board. At this time, in 1905, the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act was passed which, in line with the growing trend towards humanitarian treatment, required probation at home.

Despite these issues work continued at the school to improve or maintain its facilities. In 1904, for example, improvements were made to the Main Building, the Catherine Hayes Hospital, the cottages in Barker Street and the "the large house at the rear of the main buildings" (66). About this time the Receiving House, empty since 1881, was renovated at a cost of two hundred pounds (67). In a surprising turn-around, after extensive negotiations between the Government and the Directors of the Asylum regarding a viable use for the property, the Directors stated unequivocally that no other use other than for child care would be acceptable to them (68).

Despite this, in 1905, a suggestion was made to convert the Asylum for use as an Industrial School and Truant School. An inspection of the site at the time provides a useful catalogue of the main features and its condition. Several plans were attached which show both the grounds and the principal buildings.

The northern wing, which was proposed for use as the Girls' Industrial School, was described as two storeys in height, containing eight large rooms as well as an administrative block of nineteen rooms. It had two large halls with two staircases. It was described as needing renovation, particularly the wooden flooring. The kitchen and laundry were well placed and ample but the drainage, hot water and cooking services all needed attention as did the painting. Toilets were few but could be extended. The southern wing comprised three storeys and a basement with three large and three smaller rooms with a hall and staircase. It could be completely cut off from the northern and central blocks and was proposed to serve as the Boys' Industrial School. It was found to need renovation as well as the construction of a kitchen and bathroom (69).

The hospital was described as having four large and four small wards, matron's and doctor's quarters and toilets. A kitchen with a dining room was placed in a small building at the back. In a separate enclosure behind all the buildings was the Receiving House which comprised two storeys with three large rooms and two smaller, toilets on both floors, and a hall and staircase. At the back was a detached kitchen and laundry. It was considered that either this or the hospital, with some additions, would make an excellent truant school (70).

The Barker Street cottages were described as being four in two semi-detached blocks with a single cottage behind in its own fenced piece of ground. The Principal's residence was described as being of two storeys, of eight or nine rooms and in good serviceable condition (71).

The recreation ground was fenced with galvanised iron, the front wall was dwarf with an iron railing and "all the rest of the grounds are enclosed with fences of various character and in various stages of decay and will need renewing in the near future" (72).

It was noted that the other block was suitable for agriculture and grazing and "there is a quarry on one part containing good building stone and could be easily and economically worked". This was located south of the hospital close to Avoca Street. It was estimated that
the work needed to convert the buildings for the purpose would be approximately 950 pounds (73).

Despite these several plans and proposals and the subdivision and sale of some lands the larger problem of the use and future of the school remained a vexing one. It was raised again in 1907. In that year the Lands Department was instructed to consider the problem. It was concluded that;

"Owing to the extension of urban settlement it has become highly desirable that these lands be made available for residential purposes. Their being held at present is detrimental to the progress of the locality and must seriously prejudice the municipal administration by the effect on rateable values. When, however, they are so held by an Institution which has to a great extent outlived its usefulness it becomes almost imperative that action should be taken..." (74).

By 1911 the Asylum was over half empty and another plan was made to convert the buildings so they could serve as a teachers' training college. The scheme was abandoned amidst growing agitation for the closure of the institution. The Receiving House, however, about this time was leased to the Children's State Relief Department for the care of young women and their babies (75).

Considering its increasingly insecure future it is perhaps surprising that in 1913 a good deal of attention was paid to the renovation of the buildings. New guttering was placed around the main block, the Catherine Hayes Hospital and the Superintendent's residence. Roofs were examined and repaired where necessary. Electric light was installed and the buildings were painted inside and out. The Barker Street cottages were renovated at the same time as the main buildings (76).

At the conclusion of this work, at the outbreak of war in 1914, the buildings were in as good a repair as they had ever been. With an urgent need for emergency medical facilities and an institution that for many years had been both half empty and subject to speculation regarding alternate uses it was immediately considered as the site for a military hospital.

The Directors, however, were unwilling to hand over the entire establishment for military use. As a means of establishing a compromise in August 1914 the Directors sent a telegram to the Minister for Defence offering, free of charge, the southern portion of the main building for military use. They stated that five hundred men could be accommodated in the building and that the hospital could be used for that purpose for wounded servicemen. Forty acres of cleared and levelled land was available for military and transport operations and every facility was available for cooking and laundry work.

"The whole of the surroundings - the buildings and grounds - are such as would not only contribute to efficient military training but, in the case of necessity, to the comfort of the sick and wounded and to the speedy and satisfactory recovery of the convalescent " (77).

In the same month military command made a request to use the Catherine Hayes building as an isolation hospital for the 1st Infantry Brigade Battalions. Later this request was rescinded when an arrangement was made for this purpose with the Coast Hospital (78). By October the Directors were offering accommodation for four to five hundred men as well as the four thousand that were then camping in the paddocks
(79). In December an inspection was made to determine whether the buildings could accommodate 150-200 officers who were engaged in training men for the front (80).

While children remained in care in the Asylum until the following year and its official closure would not be until 1916 effectively, by the end of 1914, the long period of use as an Asylum had come to an end as events pushed the evolution of the establishment towards comprehensive military service. In 1915 an estimate was made of the costs that had been involved in constructing and maintaining the buildings during its life as an Asylum. These were as follows:

Erection of the main buildings: 25101 pounds-13 shillings-6 pence;
Erection of Catherine Hayes Hospital: 6103 pounds-3 shillings-3 pence;
Erection of Receiving House: 3038 pounds-8 shillings-9 pence;
Workmen's cottages: 2191 pounds-13 shillings-11 pence;
Alterations and improvements to the buildings: 36023 pounds-17 shillings-3 pence;
Prizes for plans to the main buildings: 97 pounds-10 shillings;
Legal expenses re. main buildings: 37 pounds;
Architect's commission re. main building: 676 pounds;
Clerk of Works salary for Main building: 345 pounds-6 shillings-8 pence;
Erection of Superintendent's residence: 1474 pounds-13 shillings-9 pence;
Sinking an artesian well: 1045 pounds-3 shillings-8 pence;
Erecting a dwarf wall and palisading in front of the main buildings: 1089 pounds-7 shillings;
Fire Insurance: 1238 pounds-5 shillings-9 pence;
Interest re. bank overdraft: 100 pounds-18 shillings-2 pence;
Fire extinguishers: 219 pounds;
Furnishings: 5406 pounds-10 shillings-10 pence;
Pencing and farm contingencies: 1516 pounds-11 shillings-6 pence;
Sundries: 13679 pounds-11 shillings-11 pence (81).

After the closure of the Asylum its last Superintendent wrote an account of its beginnings and development. In part an attack on the government which had forced its closure it remains the principal source of evidence and pictorial material for the establishment (82). Even after its closure its principal manager could not see that the nineteenth century establishment had outlived its time. He was to say;

"If the Directors could have been convinced that the Randwick Asylum had outlived its usefulness and that some better means for the education
and general uplifting of the neglected poor children of our city existed they would have closed the gates cheerfully, thankful that there was one city in the world that was able to do without such institutions. But is it so? Are we quite sure that we shall not need such institutions as that which this history marks the end of: Let us hope it may be so" (83).

In hindsight it has been recognised that Randwick epitomised the weaknesses of the Asylum system. The lack of provision for individual attention within the vast organisation and numbers was a serious deficiency decried by social theorists. The cares and needs of each child were lost in the impersonal dormitories, the meagre staffing, massive feeding and care arrangements. It was, however, for many years the most important alternative to the life of the streets that would have been the fate of many children.

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Phase II: 1915 - 1924

The 104 Australian General Military Hospital

The resumption of the former Asylum for hospital purposes was one small part of the much larger medical organisation that supported overseas military service during the period of the war, from 1914 to 1918, and in the years after wards as men were returned home from active service. Care for wounded soldiers commenced at a regimental aid post or field clearing station. The more serious cases were taken to a field hospital then evacuated to a base or depot hospital and, if necessary, to an auxiliary hospital for special treatment and convalescence. Those well enough were returned to service. If unfit for service a soldier could be invalided to a specialty hospital, for example, for blindness or tuberculosis. Ultimately this led to repatriation to Australia for further medical treatment and ultimately discharge from military service.

Large numbers of wounded soldiers began to arrive in Australia particularly after the Gallipoli campaign. In 1915 a military order established military general hospitals in each state. Until these hospitals could be provided state hospitals and convalescent homes were used for the purpose. Randwick Asylum helped, initially, to provide for a need in this emergency period. By the end of 1917 a system of military and auxiliary hospitals was working efficiently throughout Australia.

The ultimate demise of the Asylum was clear from as early as 1914 despite attempts by the Directors to maintain some control over their establishment. By October 1914 there were over 4000 men camped in the paddocks (1) and the future use of the site became inevitable.

The last children and staff members left the Asylum in October 1915 but from the beginning of that year great activity had been undertaken to assess and convert the old Asylum for its new purpose. An inspection was held in May to assess its potential capacity (2). It was the first of several that would tour the site in the following months. Fighting a vanguard action to retain some interest in their establishment,
in the same month, the Directors offered free of charge three hundred places in the Catherine Hayes Hospital (3). By May 1915 the offer of the hospital and the southern wing (except one bathroom) and the land between the two buildings had been accepted and work was going on to convert those portions to their new use as the 104th Australian General Military Hospital; a lift was being installed in the southern wing (4). Other land close to these buildings was requested for use as needed (5).

At first it appears that there was some effort to accommodate both the Asylum and military needs. The Directors were offered up to 5000 pounds by the Army to enable them to build alternate buildings to house those children that remained in the establishment. Mostly, however, they were to be accommodated in existing buildings; one temporary school building was to be added to the site (6).

By June, however, the Directors were informed that the military command had made a request to take over the entire site, a request which was strenuously protested by them (7). It was to be a losing battle. The Minister had decided by this time that a Bill would be passed to enable the entire institution to be taken over as a permanent hospital for disabled and invalided soldiers and sailors. It was intended to place the children in foster care in accordance with long term government policy (8). Press statements were issued from Parliament stating that the former hospital would be converted to become a permanent home in the manner of the French Church des Invalides or the British Chelsea Hospital. Much was made of the fact that the Government had provided both land for the Asylum and spent what was estimated to be 50,000-60,000 pounds upon the buildings in addition to other subsidies from time to time (9).

The Directors issued their own press release which claimed that the Government had over-estimated the moneys it had spent on the Asylum. As well they pleaded a case for the remaining children noting that they had already offered accommodation for six hundred wounded soldiers and this would still enable the children to be accommodated in their home (10). Questions were raised in Parliament with respect to the issue (11). Finally, later in July 1915, a Bill was enacted being the Military and Naval Hospital Home Act, which allowed for the site to be completed resumed for military purposes. The Bill was vigorously and acrimoniously debated in parliament. The Labour Party was split over the issue (12).

In August a Parliamentary enquiry was initiated to examine the question of the use and management of the site. One of the issues raised by it was that the Directors had not fulfilled the original charter of establishment specifically with respect to the development of a model farm on the southern block granted to them. Evidence given by the Superintendent made clear that it had never been a viable option.

"The fact remained that it could not be carried out with the slightest possible degree of success... the Trustees were permitted to utilise for farm and vegetable garden purposes about twenty acres of land at the corner of Botany and Barker Streets such forming a part of forty acres granted to the Trustees of the Benevolent Asylum. This was brought about by the absence of water. From a flat surface to a sandy portion at the foot of a sand hill the formation of a garden was transferred and even such was carried on for about thirty years with considerable difficulty notwithstanding the digging of a large well in close proximity thereto" (13).
A report was prepared by the Select Committee on the Military and Naval Hospital Home Bill. Despite the Directors' objections, in August 1915, the Minister used the powers of the Defence Act to requisition the establishment for the duration of the war and twelve months after its cessation. The Society was dissolved and the Government resumed all its assets and property. When the children and staff left in October the place almost immediately was occupied by wounded soldiers returned from active service. The Catherine Hayes Hospital initially was used as nurses' quarters (14).

By November three hundred patients were installed in the new military hospital. With the arrival of more steamers in the following weeks the numbers were expected to rise sharply. 450 beds were available and additional wards for the accommodation of another 270 were in the course of construction. A staff of 210 had been engaged. As well as the patients in the hospital it also provided care for a large number of out-door or day patients (15). By January 1917, over seven hundred patients were accommodated at the hospital and by March the number had risen to 1250 men (16).

While the existing buildings provided a substantial basis for establishing the hospital it was inevitable that the demands and needs of increasing numbers of patients would require the construction of new and expanded services, new facilities and the expansion of those that already existed within the premises. The beginnings of this expansive period commenced with quite a small beginning. A savings and postage facility was established in 1917 (17); orthopaedic and curative workshops were built in the same year (18) as well as facilities for training disabled men (19).

By the end of the war the Institution encompassed several buildings that were considered ample in 1915 to satisfy all the needs of a post-war recuperative unit. It had a dispensary, x-ray department, operating theatre and laundry and up to 350 beds. But owing to increasing demands for post-war recuperative needs more additions became absolutely essential.

The most substantial additions made to the site for the use of the military hospital in the immediate post-war years were the construction of ten general wards. These were located over the area of the former cemetery in what had been the disused southern portion of the main 31 acre block. The specification prepared in June 1918 called for the superstructure of the wards to be built on brick piers over the graded site (20). In August of the same year a specification was prepared for a similar building to be used as a tubercular ward (21).

1918 and 1919 were the the two principal years of building activity in the post-war years for the new hospital. Following the earlier works of 1918 specifications were prepared for extensions to the existing mess room in September (22) and the conversion of the Red Cross Room into a vegetable and meat store (23) in December. In the same month alterations and additions were made to the boiler house and new coal bunkers were formed and, as well, provision was made for drainage and lighting (24). By the end of 1918 an additional twenty-one wards had been added to the site. Their construction required considerable excavation and even detonation of bedrock to enable level surfaces to be made for the building programme.

At the beginning of 1919 recreation rooms were built (25) and in February of the same year a guard room (26). In June an examination room was constructed in association with the tubercular block (27). Facilities
that were designed to address special needs of the long-term patients were constructed in this period. A massage room, gymnasium, two dental surgeries were added to the place. In 1920 soldiers other than those suffering disabilities were admitted to the hospital (28).

The majority of the works of this period were located in the south-western portion of the site in the area of the cottages and the cemetery, since built over by the ward huts. Plans of 1918 show this to be the site of the morgue, attendants accommodation, the TB ward, kitchen, boiler house and the majority of the wards with a road giving access from Barker Street to the centre of the site and through to High Street (29). Behind the principal building were the kitchen, laundry, boiler house and gym as well as several wards fronting High Street. Surrounding the hospital were the x-ray room, theatres, stores and linen rooms. The halls for recreation, dining and the Sergeant's dormitory were located in a group between and behind the main building and the hospital. A road gave access to them from Avoca Street. Behind them were several other buildings. This plan also shows that, by this date, the extreme south-eastern corner of the site was then occupied by the Avoca Golf Club and Tennis Courts.

In its remaining years as a military hospital, until 1924, there were few other changes made to the site.

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Phase III: 1924 - 1939

The Repatriation Hospital

The Australian Soldiers Repatriation Bill was introduced and passed in Parliament during 1917. The Repatriation Administration was established early in 1918 to service this Act. It was intended to order a vast and complex network that included soldier settlement schemes, pensions and retraining amongst other issues. One of the principals established by the Act was that totally or permanently incapacitated servicemen would be provided for in hospitals (1). In effect most military hospitals remained under the control of the Department of Defence until 1921 although some remained a time longer until taken control of by the Repatriation Department. Randwick was one of those.

During this phase quite substantial changes were made to the hospital to accommodate this new period of service, more in fact than had been made during its use as an active military hospital. The earliest works, in 1925 and 1926, encompassed improvements to the kitchen, alterations to the guard room for its new use as an X-ray department and the conversion of two weatherboard buildings for use as a secretary's residence (2). As well, minor repairs were made to a variety of buildings.

In 1927, due to the large number of cases of infectious diseases being referred to the Coast Hospital, an arrangement was made whereby two wards at the southern end of the Prince of Wales Hospital (a name which appears to have been first used in this period) were made available for use by that hospital. These wards formerly had been used by military patients. Numbers of convalescent and chronic cases were transferred to the Prince of Wales Hospital under this arrangement. Control of the wards rested with the Coast Hospital and during the next two years
more wards at Randwick were reconditioned and opened for this purpose. Two were used for terminal patients who were transferred from Lidcombe and Waterfall. This establishment formed the nucleus of what became known as the Randwick Auxiliary Hospital. Eventually it was only used for tubercular patients (3). By 1929 four wards were in use by the Coast Hospital at Randwick; this encompassed nearly nine hundred beds. Six hundred were used for general medical and surgical cases and the rest for infectious diseases cases (4).

During the later 1920s and early 1930s works at the hospital were generally intended to improve and modernise services and facilities. For example, in April 1928, two steam boilers were converted from coal fuel to oil (5) and in May of the same year extensions, repairs and renewals were made to the steam and water services (6). In the same month a specification was prepared for a smoke stack. An old stack, which at this point was partly dismantled, was removed from the site and the new stack replaced it (7). In June a refrigerating plant with an insulated cool room was delivered and erected on the site (8). In 1934 a new boiler was brought to the site.

As well as improvements made to the general services work at the site during the 1930s addressed better sanitation. General repairs were made to lavatories and bathrooms in 1933 and during 1934 washroom cubicles were added to several of the hut wards (9). Similar work occurred again in 1935 during June and July and in 1936. In 1936 it was estimated that the cost of recent alterations and additions amounted to 6300 pounds (10) although a report by the Department of Works valued the entire facility at only 7000 pounds (11).

The second half of the 1930s, the last years as Randwick's first period of use as a repatriation hospital, saw a large programme of works undertaken to modernise the old hospital. Apart from modern sanitary services it included the construction of facilities such as a film store for x-ray materials in 1935 (12), the addition of porches to the huts in the same year (13), remodelling of the kitchen (14) and major and general repairs to almost all the principal buildings including painting and roof works especially during 1937 and 1938 (15). The landscape also was subject to a major overhaul including repairs to roads and paths, top-dressing, the construction of stone retaining walls and terraced garden beds (16). The most significant change, however, was the gradual and comprehensive introduction of electric light and power throughout the entire hospital beginning in 1936 (17).

In 1935-36 an important administrative change was made when the Coast Hospital was reorganised with a separate board to administer it; the name was then changed to the Prince Henry Hospital. The Randwick Auxiliary Hospital remained as a completely separate institution under the control of the Department of Public Health.

In 1938 a proposal was made to exchange some State-owned land for Commonwealth land, principally land in the hospital for land in the near-by Randwick Rifle Range. To support the possible exchange a valuation was prepared by the State. Despite the very large and lengthy programme of works that had been undertaken at the site for the majority of the preceding ten years it was concluded by the Commonwealth Valuer that,

"In my opinion the buildings as standing are of practically no value beyond the purpose for which they are used and due to obsolescence the accommodation afforded is very poor and of low capital value. The buildings were erected about eighty years ago and if sold in their
present state and taken over by private persons in all probability would be condemned on account of not complying with building regulations. They are also lacking from a purchase point of view any possibility of conversion and outside their present use are only of demolition value chiefly on account of the walls being of face-picked dimensions stone which would have a market value" (18).

The main hospital administration block was valued at 14,000 pounds, the nurses' quarters called "Hillside" was valued at 1000 pounds, the x-ray building at two hundred pounds and the medical superintendent's residence at one thousand pounds (19).

"Another aspect to the considered with respect to the purchase value by the Commonwealth is that in a period of another thirty years (providing there is not another war) there would be no inmates left and no further need for a military hospital." (21).

Within a year there was an urgent need for a military hospital.

Phase IV: 1939 - 1954

Renewed Active Service

At the outbreak of the Second World War the hospital at Randwick was brought back into service in May 1939 as an active military hospital serving both the Army and Navy. A massive programme of works was initiated to modernise and extend the hospital in order to make it ready to cope with this new emergency. From January to December of 1939 works carried out included repairs to existing fences and the construction of new (1), repairs and renewal of wards, the pathology block, the laundry and the kitchen as well as the introduction of new plant (2). Requests were made in November for additions to be built to support the use of the establishment as a 1200 bed base hospital. In December the Treasury approved 26690 pounds for an additional seven wards (3).

By 1940 it was reported that the hospital accommodation for military forces was approaching saturation point. At that time all the soldiers requiring care from Liverpool, Ingleburn, Wallgrove, the Sydney fortress and garrison and others were sent to the Prince of Wales Hospital. For this reason a recommendation was made to increase the bed capacity by two hundred at all military hospitals; this estimate was later revised to six hundred (4).

Consideration was given to extending the Randwick hospital but there were difficulties with the lease arrangements of the land. The age and decrepitude of the wards were considered and rebuilding was thought to be a reasonable option but a site closer to Centennial Park was desired in this case. Yaralla at Concord also was offered to the Government and accepted at this time. In this environment of uncertainty the previous financial allowance of 26600 pounds was cancelled (5). By July it was reported that the hospital was operating at absolute capacity and an additional 200-300 beds were needed to maintain services.

Throughout this period of discussion the programme of new works and renewal continued at the hospital. It encompassed internal and external repairs and painting and improvements to the drainage (6). By 1943 accommodation within the hospital was again at a critical point. The nurses occupied leased premises while a specification was prepared
for the construction of a new building for them (7).

Throughout the remaining years of the war the hospital was subject to a constant programme of similar repairs, renewals, upgrading and cosmetic work. All buildings were subject to this work and nearly all had additions made to them. In 1944 a specification was prepared for the erection and completion of new military wards, a covered way, visitors' rest room and additional accommodation for staff as well as incidental works and services (8). The wards appear to have been built north of the earlier ward group on the southern side of the site, taking over the space between them and the principal buildings. Similar programmes of renewal were initiated for the landscape in the same period (9).

After the armistice the Prince of Wales Hospital, as it did after World War One, served as a repatriation hospital and many of the works carried out in those years were intended to accommodate that service. In particular many works were carried out to improve hot water systems and food preparation areas as well as routine service and repairs and the renewal of the landscape including fences, paths and signs.

Control of the hospital in this period was vested in the Commonwealth Repatriation Department. As with most hospitals in the immediate post-war years both the Prince of Wales and the Auxiliary Hospital were starved for funds and staff (10). It became necessary for this reason to close some wards in the Auxiliary Hospital (11).

The pace of work increased in 1948 with the adoption of the Commonwealth States Tuberculosis Agreement. This agreement allowed for the Commonwealth to provide funds for all new capital expenditure required for the investigation and treatment of the disease and also for maintenance costs. The new Nurses Home at the Auxiliary Hospital was completed under this agreement (12).

During the early 1950s a number of patients were transferred to the Concord Repatriation Hospital. In 1953 the remaining repatriation patients were placed in that hospital. It was reported that,

"The Repatriation Authority have vacated the Randwick Military Hospital which has been taken over by the hospital commission and the name Randwick Military Hospital is no longer appropriate" (13).

As part of the re-organisation a detailed inventory was prepared of all buildings, plant and fittings. It is included as an appendix to this report.

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Phase V: 1954 - 1959

Sydney Hospital Annexe: The Hospitals Commission

By the 1950s NSW had two parallel hospital systems. District hospitals, general hospitals and special hospitals for children and women were all administered by their own Board of Directors. These hospitals raised money by public appeal and by charging for their services. All were subject to the overall direction of the Hospitals Commission which allocated annual subsidies and which approved finances and major
capital expenditure. The second system was directly controlled by the Department of Health. It comprised mental hospitals and members of the public for whom the state assumed particular responsibility, for example, the aged and enfeebled and those suffering incapacitating diseases such as tuberculosis.

At the end of its service as a repatriation hospital the Prince of Wales Hospital became an annexe of Sydney Hospital with the administration of the establishment, now a public hospital, being carried out by the Board of Sydney Hospital on behalf of the Hospitals Commission. The newly structured hospital now catered principally for long term and convalescent patients (1).

In fact the hospital had two distinct and separate parts. The former Military Hospital, now known as the Randwick Hospital, operated as the annexe of Sydney Hospital. The second part had been functioning as the Randwick Auxiliary Hospital for many years. This establishment continued to care for patients suffering from tuberculosis. It was administered by the Board of Health. Following the Tuberculosis Agreement of 1948 the Chest Hospital had expanded taking over for awhile the sixty-bed T block of the Prince of Wales Hospital which had been evacuated by the repatriation department. By 1954 the Auxiliary Hospital had reached a capacity of three hundred beds with a staff of over 250 (2). In 1956 a special thoracic surgical unit was opened in this hospital (3). In 1958 the name of this unit was changed from the Randwick Auxiliary Hospital to the Chest Hospital (4). With the closure of the Waterfall Sanitarium the Randwick Hospital became the largest hospital of its type in the state.

In the Prince of Wales Hospital, as well, some important additions were made during the later 1950s including, in 1956, the opening of a Special Unit for the investigation and treatment of cancer and allied diseases. The building constructed for this purpose was designed as a square with the public room on the north, wards on the other three sides and an operating theatre in the north-west corner (5). At the same time a major programme of reconditioning was undertaken on the ground floor of the north wing to a cost of nearly 28,000 pounds (6).

The association of the the Prince of Wales Hospital with Sydney Hospital allowed for some rationalisation of services that were to have an impact on the two. By this time there was an increasing debate in the mass media regarding the economies of the public health system. Most hospitals were greatly in debt and there was, it was argued, a need to economise. The reasons for this economic crisis were considered to be several including both an extravagance within the hospital system and a large unpaid debt.

Despite this debate the hospital continued to expand; in 1957 approval was given to several works including improvements to several wards (7) 30,000 pounds was allocated to create a new kitchen in the old building (8).

In 1959 the State Government took the decision to establish a second medical school at the University of NSW. The Prince of Wales Hospital was to be developed as a teaching hospital to support that school. It was to operate in close association with the Prince Henry Hospital. At the same time a decision was also made, later rescinded, to move Sydney Hospital to Randwick on the site of the old golf course.
Phase VI: 1959 - 1972

A Teaching Hospital

The decision to separate the Prince of Wales Hospital from Sydney Hospital and to establish a separate Board for its administration caused another media debate concerning the need to reorganise Sydney Hospital. The separation of the two would mean the loss of some units, such as casualty, from the one institution. Despite the controversy a Board of ten was appointed for the Randwick hospital in August 1961 (1).

Following the decision to develop the Prince of Wales Hospital as a teaching hospital, consideration was given to its relationship to the adjoining Chest Hospital. In 1962 considerable correspondence was entered into over the need to vest the land, buildings and administration of the Chest Hospital in the newly formed Prince of Wales so that it too could be incorporated in the planning for the teaching service (2). The Board established for the Prince of Wales Hospital was identical to that established for Prince Henry Hospital. For that reason it was decided to develop an integrated plan of development.

The first works of the new regime encompassed the establishment of a Paediatric Unit of forty-eight beds in the renovated military huts. Later, others would be renovated for the same purpose bringing the total bed space to 124. However, by 1966, it could be stated that "the lack of finality in respect of the development programme at the Prince of Wales caused concern" (3).

A delay in the decision to provide funds to allow the invitation of tenders for the erection of a new Admissions and Polyclinic Block hampered plans for the further extension of hospital facilities. Part of the problem stemmed from the demands made on the State Government by the State Health Service but the Directors were still optimistic that sufficient resources would be made available for the work (4). Of some cause for delight was the excellent progress then made on the Institute of Radiotherapy which, it was thought, would be completed by the end of 1966 (5). Tenders also were invited for the erection of a new boiler house that would service both the Prince of Wales and Chest Hospitals (6). In 1967 the Government approved funds to develop the Prince of Wales in close association with the University of NSW.

The later 1960s and early 1970s encompassed the most substantial works undertaken in the hospital since the building programme of the 1850s that established the Asylum. At the end of this period of work the nature of the site had changed completely from its later nineteenth-early twentieth century character to a progressive later twentieth century facility. During this time as well the former golf course and tennis courts in the south-eastern corner of the site were redeveloped with several lots of private dwellings.

The new services added to the site in this period included the construction of new laboratories for Clinical Chemistry, Haematology and Microbiology, Morbid Anatomy and Histopathology (7), the Institute of Radiotherapy (8) and new workshops and a boiler house (9). A new Admissions and Polyclinic Building was opened in June 1969. It was one of the major additions made to the site for its new role as a teaching hospital; its final completion cost was over three million dollars (10).
In the next few years planning and construction proceeded on stores, garages, a new 350 bed nurses' home, a psychiatric block and proposals for a children's hospital and a major ward, theatre and pathology block that was opened in 1971 under the name of the Cobden Parkes Building. Dr Cobden Parkes, formerly of the Public Works Department of NSW, had been appointed Honorary Consultant Architect and Planner to the hospital in 1966 after his retirement as Government Architect. These new buildings provided most of the essential services required by the hospital to support the University of NSW.

Phase VII: 1972 - 1997

Amalgamation

In 1972 a major change was made in the administration of the hospital. In this year the administration and professional services of the Prince Henry Hospital, the Prince of Wales and the Eastern Suburbs Hospital were all amalgamated. It was a process that had commenced during the later 1960s with the rationalisation of the services of those hospitals. For example, in 1966, a central purchasing agency was established at Prince Henry Hospital and the Stores Department was closed at the Prince of Wales and the area vacated to allow for a Surgical Appliance Department.

The pace of work initiated in the preceding years continued throughout the 1970s. The Nurses Block was completed in 1972 and a pool built nearby (1), the Psychiatric Unit in 1977 and the Children's Hospital in the same year (2) and a school was built next to it in the following year (3). The Psychiatric Unit, particularly, made a large impact on the site with its construction behind the Catherine Hayes Hospital. It was the result of a long process beginning in the 1950s with radical changes made to the care of the mentally unwell. This led to the integration of that care in the general health care system rather than being isolated in special institutions (4).

The Prince of Wales Hospital has been at the forefront of many important changes in medical practice with respect to both the work by staff and innovative methods of care. In 1975, for example, the Care by Parent Unit was opened in one of the old hut wards. It provided motel style accommodation for one or both parents and was, at the time, unique in Australia.

While this period, particularly in its earliest years, has been characterised by the construction of major new works which have had an enormous impact on the use and character of the campus the old buildings, as well, have been subject to extensive and constant change, renovation and adaptation. For example, in 1975, alterations were made in the main building to provide accommodation for teaching purposes for the Schools of Surgery, Medicine and Psychiatry. In 1977, in the same building, the lecture theatre on the ground floor of the north wing was enlarged and renovated and in 1978 works were carried out on the second floor of the south wing to provide for the Department of Surgery. More work was carried out in 1981 on the first floor of the east wing to renovate the area used by the Secretarial staff. It was finally named the Edmund Blacket Building in 1983 although by that time it owed a great deal to the work of numerous other architects. It was a process symptomatic of all the other extant nineteenth century buildings.
although some of these, especially the Receiving House, had been removed in recent years to make way for the construction of modern hospital blocks.

In 1983 the Hospital gained full accreditation and in 1988 the Prince Henry Hospital was closed and its services moved to Randwick.

(Annual reports for 1985 - present to be added).

Subsidiary Documentation

Endnotes to the Text

Phase I: The Randwick Destitute Asylum


2. Ibid. 71.


4. Ibid., 1854.

5. Ibid., 1855.


8. Ibid., 1857.

9. Ibid.

10. Ibid., 1858.

11. Ibid.

12. Ibid.

13. Ibid., 1863.


16. Ibid., 1861.

17. Ibid., 1863.

18. Ibid., 1860.


21. Ibid., 1866.

22. Ibid., 1863.

23. Ibid., 1864.

24. SMH, "The Opening of the Catherine Hayes Hospital".


27. Ibid., 1881.

28. Sir Alfred Stephen, Public Documents No.5 Randwick Asylum Board of Enquiry 1876


30. Ibid., 61.


32. Ibid., 1876.

33. Ibid., 1877.

34. Ibid., 1879.


36. Legislative Assembly Papers 1904, Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children 1852 - 1908, SAONSW Bundle 5/5229.


38. Ibid., 1883-4.


40. Ibid., 196.


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11. Ibid.
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RANDWICK DESTITUTE CHILDREN'S ASYLUM: 1852 - 1915

1852

Public meeting and committee formed with the objective of establishing a destitute children's asylum. Public appeal made for funds. First housed in Ormond House Paddington.

1853

Question raised of securing a grant of land for a new building.

1854

Annual report refers to extensive repairs to building then occupied to make it habitable. Noted to be in communication with Surveyor General to select site on Sydney Common for new asylum.

1855

Public enquiry into charitable institutions. Condemned aspects of the work and management of the Asylum.

Directors report selection of 60 acres at Randwick - require Act of Incorporation and then will commence Asylum at once. Land already fenced and plan prepared for "plain and substantial structure" for 400 children. Cost, exclusive of infirmary, estimated at 16,000 pounds. The plan prepared by Edmund Blacket and first known as Randwick Destitute Children's Asylum. Major funding provided by a bequest of 12,000 pounds made in the will of Dr Alexander Cuthill the surgeon of the Institution.

Grant issued 20 December 1855 for two blocks: 31 acres 3 rods 38 perches and the second of 28 acres 3 rods 24 perches. To be used as the site for a model farm and asylum for destitute children. This encompassed the present hospital site and the public high school south of Barker Street.

Plan of main block, kitchen and master's house by Blacket.

1856

Directors state that they lost no time in commencing work on new asylum - plan was adopted and tenders let and one accepted for cost of 9025 pounds. Expect it to be completed by March 1857. Foundation stone laid in May by Governor Denison and four trees planted in commemoration of the event.
1857

Notice given to vacate old building and move to new building which was completed in February. Description of some of the rooms: dining room and nursery (50x20ft), infants' dormitory (50x20), infants' schoolroom (28x20), office (18x14), store (18x14), kitchen (18x14), sitting room (18x14), day dormitory (28x20), girls' schoolroom (50x38), girls' dining room (50x30), washing room (31x12). Besides these were out-offices (10) varying in size.

Act of Incorporation - enabled government subsidy. 5000 pounds provided by government for buildings in this year.

1858

Full occupation by March.

"This edifice which consists of the north and east wings of the building is intended to be completed in after years".

After occupation the first matter to be attended to was levelling the ground surrounding the house and to put the premises in a state of order and neatness.

"Through the liberality of Messrs Baptist, Shepherd and Guilfoyle, your Directors have been enabled to plant a considerable portion of their land with trees and shrubs which will prove as ornamental to the grounds as they will be useful on sheltering the more exposed parts of the property. Some of the land is already under cultivation.... there is every reason to believe that a large supply of vegetables and other produce will be raised...." (work done by boys as training).

Later evidence states that the model farm idea was abandoned due to the poor quality of the land and lack of water. The trustees were able to use twenty acres of land granted to the Benevolent Asylum at the corner of Barker and Botany Streets. This they used as a vegetable garden to supply the establishment; surplus sold off. This land now in the grounds of the University of NSW.

2500 pounds provided by Government for buildings in this year.

1859

Reported to be in good working order. Older boys helping in grounds - "as the ground under cultivation increases in extent the farming and gardening opportunities are enlarged" - 16 acres ready for cultivation and about 6 under crop.

1860

247 children in asylum.

Wendy Thorp
Separate infants department created in the school.

2000 pounds provided by government for buildings in this year.

1861

New wing of asylum building commenced with provision of government funding. The extension provided accommodation for another 400 children.

Some samples of cotton were planted as an experiment as well as about 3000 cuttings of white mulberry (intention to produce silk).

1862

Farming had been greatly expanded despite problems caused by drought. In this year the asylum gardens produced ten tons of vegetables including cabbages, carrots, turnips, pumpkins, peas, beans and potatoes. The asylum also was self-sufficient in bread and dairy produce.

Mulberry plantations flourishing but the cotton was a failure. Children rear silk-worms.

8000 pounds provided by government for buildings in this year.

1863

New asylum wing formally opened and the girls transferred there.

Cemetery prepared and fenced off in an area that had been intended to be part of the model farm. Also noted that a portion was leased to Ah Young for Chinese market gardening. This was in the extreme south-western end of the estate; it was surrounded by land of a rocky character. Another portion was let to Mr Payten for grazing and exercising his horses (between Barker and Rainbow Streets). "They were waste lands and we wanted to get some return from them".

Twenty-two tonnes of vegetables produced.

Separate infants department created in the school.

750 pounds provided by Government for buildings in this year.

1864

2000 pounds provided by Government for buildings in this year.
1865

Visit by Duke of Edinburgh - two Norfolk Island pines planted in quadrangle in honour of the event.

Engraving by S.T. Gill.

1866

Twenty-three tons of vegetables produced.

1867

Superintendent's residence at corner of Avoca and High Streets erected to a design by J. Horbury Hunt.

63 children die of whooping cough and measles - buried in the grounds. Funds first raised for hospital.

April: Plan of Catherine Hayes Hospital signed by E. T. Blacket (not built).

Design of hospital by J. Horbury Hunt - argument over non-payment of fees led to work being given to Thomas Rowe.

Record crop of 30.5 tons of vegetables produced.

1868

2000 pounds provided by Government for buildings in this year.

1869

1000 pounds provided by Government for buildings in this year.

1870

Catherine Hayes building opened in this year as a hospital for the Asylum. The building named in honour of the Irish singer, "Swan of Erin", who donated $1600 towards its construction. Final cost 6103 pounds.

Report of opening in SMH "...on the eastern side of it, next to the road is a thriving belt of fir trees...The hospital...is a fabric not merely commodious in its internal arrangements but of a decidedy attractive exterior and contrasts agreeably enough with the huge sombre monastic looking pile in its vicinity. The high pitched slate roofs, the long narrow windows glazed with plate glass and the carefully
1873

Asylum criticised in Royal Commission for its massive size and lack of attention to the individual child and lack of a family setting.

Farm produced in this year 30 tons of vegetables, 100 tons of feed for animals, 120 quarts of milk per day.

1876

589 inmates.

Introduction of Government policy to board out children but not applied to Randwick until 1881.

Asylum in debt due to costs involved in extending buildings. Receipt of special grant of 3476 pounds from government to extinguish overdraft. Several other government funds were made available and continued to be so until 1885.

Board of Inquiry led to reorganisation of the asylum including the herds which were reduced, sericulture was abandoned, sewage was used for growing vegetables and green food for stock, the dwellings of the farm labourers were repaired, the carpenters' shops were partitioned off from the rest of the buildings and the playgrounds were considerably increased in size and a galvanised fence was in course of construction. When finished weather sheds were to be erected in the grounds.

1877

Public schools established within the institution bringing it in line with the state.

1879

Outbreak of opthalmia pointed to a need for an isolation ward. Government contributed 2000 pounds towards cost of a Receiving House for the purpose of isolating and affording special treatment to children suffering from contagious and infectious diseases. Convalescent Home temporarily established at Richmond and additional accommodation provided in the Catherine Hayes hospital - mainly the enlargement of the kitchen, the erection of a treatment ward and play-shed, the construction of urinals and introduction of hot water systems.

2000 pounds provided by Government for buildings in this year.
1881

Visit by Princes Edward and George - pine planted in quadrangle to honour the event.

Report on Sanitary Condition of Asylum by Inspector of Nuisances, Sydney. Refers to the boys' school which consisted of a large and commodious room with lofty ceiling and plenty of ventilation. Dining rooms said to be lofty and well ventilated and clean - one being repainted in a cheerful colour at the time. Sculleries next to the dining rooms. Dormitories were above and closets and lavatories close by. Kitchen, laundry and wash house said to be in perfect order. Lavatories were in basement of one wing but were too confined and not well ventilated. Playgrounds were asphalted. Water closets had twenty one seats, each with two urinals - detailed description of drainage lines; receiving pits in the paddocks attached to the establishment. Some considerable distance from the farm were substantial and well designed piggeries. Vegetable gardens showed great attention paid to them. The main building had a fever ward, an ophthalmic ward. The receiving house was praised for its design, plan and fittings.

1882

643 children in the Asylum.

Report on the boring of an artesian well. Directors entered a contract with the Diamond Drill Company to bore to a depth of 1000 feet. This was to ease the problems with water due to drought and inadequate supply "notwithstanding the excellent provisions made for its conservation during the rainy seasons". Water was also brought in water carts from various places such as Moore Park and Randwick. Messrs Shepherd and Collins went to 349 feet in depth before drill broke. New contract entered into with Diamond Drill Co. Water found at depth and recommendation to drill another 100 feet. Reached 705 feet and boring continued. Later evidence stated that drilling reached about 800 feet but the water was so brackish it couldn't be used.

Laundry enlarged, drying room built and sanitary arrangements were improved.

1883

Receiving House closed?

1884

Laundry and dining room completed and fitted up with new drying, washing and wringing machines; lantern roof erected in connection with the kitchen; new fence extending from the Hospital fence to the boys yard fixed; lavatories were cleaned and whitewashed; boys' dormitory partitioned to the ceiling; isolation ward at hospital painted; upper southern ward of the hospital cleaned, coloured and
Progress Statement

POW Hospital Historical Analysis

painted, the dormitories, lavatories, bath-rooms, hall, staircase and kitchen at the Receiving House were cleaned and whitewashed. General repairs throughout. Workmen's cottages completed.

1885

Asylum reverts entirely to private funding.

1886

254 children in asylum.

1887

The buildings reported to be in good order and state of repair.

1888

The buildings in good state of repair

1889

Very little required to be done to the buildings all of which in a satisfactory state of repair.

1891

Last reported burial in Asylum cemetery.

Plan of Asylum.

1900

A great improvement reported in the farming operations. All cattle reported to be of good class and vegetable garden producing well. 21,427 lb of vegetables received and 16,846 quarts of milk.

1901

All the buildings reported to be in excellent condition though noted that portions are not used.

Additional stock added to the farm - 17,862 quarts of milk produced. Six new pig pens built. Nearly all the vegetable garden under cultivation. 36,900 lbs of vegetables produced comprising 6947 lb cabbages, 4227 lb of pumpkins, 2395 lb beans, 1920 lb cauliflowers, 1740 lb herbs and sundries, 5096 lb carrots, 4117 lb

Wendy Thorp
potatoes, 263 lb tomatoes, 610 lb lettuce, 4015 lb marrows, 2920 lb turnips, 1007 lb peas, 1918 lb parsnips, 42 lb radishes, 356 lb beets and rhubarb. Nine tons of fodder for the animals.

Government sewer connected and asylum connected soon afterwards through contract labour.

1902

Special efforts made to bring sanitary arrangements up to the requirements of the Water and Sewerage Board.

Question of unutilised lands considered; the Premier was in favour of selling 40 acres on a 99 year lease but difficulties of granting a title stopped this plan. Other measures also met with little success "as a consequence the estate continued to remain as it had since 1852...".

Question of unoccupied space in buildings raised again.

1904

Report by Chief Inspector of Public Accounts describes the facility as encompassing the Reception House, the Catherine Hayes Hospital, the Superintendents House and 4 cottages and a small cemetery.

Objections raised by local residents about leasing part of the grounds for Chinese gardens.

1905

Proposal to use asylum as an Industrial School and Truant School

Plan of asylum grounds.

1911

Asylum half empty- proposal to convert buildings to a training college for teachers mooted but abandoned. Agitation continued for the closure of the establishment.

1913

Institution said to be in excellent working order. A good deal of attention paid to the renovation of the buildings. New guttering fixed around the main block, the Catherine Hayes hospital and Superintendent’s residence. Roofs examined and repaired. Internal and external painting. Electric light installed. Modern cooking equipment introduced. Barker Street cottages renovated.
Receiving House to be used to care of infants and young mothers.

1914

Up to 4000 soldiers camped in the Asylum paddock prior to embarkation to the Middle East.

August: Telegram from Directors to Minister for Defence offering free of charge the southern portion of the main building, Catherine Hayes hospital and all vacant lands south of the hospital for any purpose required. Stated that 500 men could be accommodated in the hospital, the hospital could be used for that purpose, 40 acres of cleared levelled land available for military and transport operations, that every facility available for cooking and laundry work, "that the whole of the surroundings - the buildings and grounds - are such as would not only contribute to efficient military training but, in the case of necessity, to the comfort of the sick and wounded, and to the speedy and satisfactory recovery of the convalescents".

"The paddocks (in the area of the proposed model farm) today are just as they were when I first came there fifty odd years ago".

August: Superintendent expected Brigadier General to arrive to secure one of the paddocks for military training.

August: request to use hospital as an isolation hospital for the 1st Infantry Brigade. Battalions to use the paddocks from the 29th. Directors agreed to use of hospital for this purpose but were informed by the Army that an arrangement had been made with the Coast Hospital for this purpose. Still wanted the paddocks.

October: Superintendent offers accommodation for 400-500 men. At that time there were about 4000 men camping in the paddock below Barker Street.

December: Inspection for the purpose of determining if the buildings could accommodate 150-200 officers training men for the front.
104 AGH MILITARY HOSPITAL: 1915 - 1924

1915

May: Hospital inspected to see what accommodation it could provide wounded and ill soldiers from the front.

May: Directors offer free of charge 300 places in the Catherine Hyaes hospital for the war effort. Several inspections.

May: Military department to take over the southern wing (except one bath-room) and hospital and the land between the two buildings and other land in close proximity as may be required. By that time the hospital was being stripped of all bedding for transfer to the main building. A lift was then being built in the southern wing. The military inspector offered up to 5000 pounds to allow the Directors to build other buildings for the children. Mostly they were to be accommodated in existing buildings except for one temporary school building.

June: Directors informed that the Military authorities had now applied for the whole site. Directors strenuously protest.

June: Directors informed that the Minister has decided to pass a Bill to enable the entire institution to be taken over as a permanent hospital home for disabled and invalided soldiers and sailors. The children to be placed in foster care or farm homes.

June: Minister puts out press statement saying that the asylum will become a permanent home in the manner of the French Church des Invalides or the British Chelsea Hospital. Makes much of the fact that the government provided the land and spent 50,000-60,000 pounds upon the buildings as well as providing subsidies. Notes that the Directors have control over 80 acres in a thickly populated suburb.

July: The Directors put out their own statement that says that Government money far less that the Minister stated, that they only have 60 acres and that they have already offered accommodation for 600. What about the children?

July: Several questions are raised in Parliament with respect to the situation.

July: A Bill enacted (The Military and Naval Hospital Home Act 1915) to allow the site to be taken over. Vigorously and acrimoniously debated in parliament. Split in Labour ranks over the issue.

August: Parliamentary enquiry into the use and management of the site. Report from the Select Committee on the Military and Naval Hospital Home Bill.
Evidence given by the Superintendent regarding the model farm to clear away the doubt that the land was not being utilised as a model farm in the manner of the original charter. "The fact remained that it could not be carried out with the slightest possible degree of success...the Trustees were permitted to utilise for farm and vegetable garden purposes about twenty acres of land at the corner of Botany and Barker Streets such forming a part of 40 acres granted to the Trustees of the Benevolent Asylum. This was brought about through the absence of water. From a flat surface to a sandy portion at the foot of a sand hill the formation of a garden was transferred and even such was carried on for about thirty years with considerable difficulty notwithstanding the digging of a large well in close proximity thereto".

August: Minister uses the powers of the Defence Act to requisition the establishment for a period of the war and twelve months after its cessation.

October: all children and staff leave the site. Wounded soldiers admitted almost immediately.


1916

Report on hospital (AWM x2)

Closure of Asylum. State Government dissolved the Society and resumed all assets and property. Commencement of use of site as a military hospital. Catherine Hayes building used for nurses quarters,

November: 300 patients in military hospital - numbers expected to be increased in the coming week with the arrival of more steamers. 450 beds available and additional wards for the accommodation of another 270 in course of erection. Staff of 210 engaged. A large number of outdoor patients attend for treatment at the hospital.

Recommend establishing a savings bank facility at the hospital.
1917

January: another request to establish a savings bank and postal facility. The PMG is deciding whether it can make a profit out of it.

January: 720 soldiers in the hospital.

March: 1250 soldiers in the hospital.

May: Savings and postal facility commenced - no telegraph.

Orthopaedic and curative workshops (AWM).

Facilities for training disabled men (ACT)

Enquiry re. the possibility of establishing savings bank facilities at the hospital.

Report and enquiry into administration (VIC)

1918

June: Specification: erection of 10 general wards being erection and completion of superstructure of wards on brick piers and graded sites.

August: Specification: erection of tubercular ward. Erection and completion of superstructure of a tubercular ward on brick piers and graded site.

September: Specification: alterations and additions to mess room. Extension to existing mess room and placing two existing serveries into mess room. Forming new servery with special equipment. Removal of existing division wall with arched opening in existing mess room. Removal of all iron sheets from walls of building and reusing on extension to roof. Substituting weatherboard in lieu of corrugated iron sheets on external face of old walls of building. Provision of stormwater, drainage and lighting.

November: Specification: alterations to mess room counter entailing construction of joinery for servery counter.

December: Specification: conversion of Red Cross room into vegetable and meat store at 4 Australia General Hospital. Entails taking down portions of existing building as necessary in order to carry out new work. Execution of various alterations and additions and renovations to existing building to convert same to vegetable and meat store - provision of an asphalt turning space.

December: Lease of part of site for an electricity sub-station.

Insurance report (VIC)

Plan of military hospital

1919

January: Specification: erection and completion of recreation rooms being erection and completion of a building to be used for recreation including provision of drainage and lighting etc.

February: Specification: provision of a guard room. This is to be made between Observation Room and Crime Room.


1920

Removal of huts from Randwick to Holsworthy (VIC).

Report on alleged indiscipline (VIC)

Admission to hospital of soldiers other than those suffering disabilities (VIC)

1921

Report of inspection of naval wing (VIC)

1922

Report on patients treated naval wing (VIC)

1923

Final year in use as a military hospital. From this year to 1939 served as a repatriation hospital.

1924

Correspondence re closure of savings and postal facility. No action - still operating into the 1950s.
REPATRIATION HOSPITAL: 1924 - 1939

1925

January: Specification: alterations and renewals being erection of wood and iron partitions and laying tiles to floor of kitchen.

1926

November: Specification: alterations to guards room and proposed secretary's residence, painting etc. Guard room is to be converted for use as an X-ray department. Secretary's residence requires alteration of two weatherboard buildings and converting of same into a residence.

Plan of residence for secretary 24.9. 1926

Plan of conversion guard room to x-ray 22.20.1926

December: Specification: Work at X-ray and dark room. Required repairs to slate roof, covering all the ceilings of the first floor with fibrous plaster sheets and repairs to window frames and damp course.

1927

Due to large numbers of infectious diseases being referred to the Coast hospital an arrangement came into being with POW whereby two wards at the southern end of the hospital were made available for the Coast Hospital and numbers of convalescent and chronic cases were transferred there. These wards had been used for military patients but had been empty for some years. The control of the wards rested with the Coast Hospital. During the next two years more wards opened and reconditioned for this purpose at Randwick. Two were used for terminal patients transferred from Lidcombe and Waterfall. This section became known as the Randwick Auxiliary Hospital. Eventually only used for tuberculous patients.

Valuation of Ward 30 ("T" Block) 1600 pounds.

1928

April: Specification: conversion of two steam boilers from coal to oil burning

May: Specification: extension, repairs and renewals to steam and water services.

May: Specification: erection of smoke stack. The old smoke stack, portion of which is dismantled on the ground, and portion is still standing is to be dismantled and carted from the site. New stack to be erected on brick bases.
June: Specification: installation of refrigerating plant with insulated cool room. Manufacture, delivery, erection, charging, testing and handing over complete refrigeration plant and insulated cool room.

1929

By this year four wards in use by Coast at Randwick - nearly 900 beds. 600 were used for general medical and surgical and the rest for infectious diseases.

1933

March: Specification: general repairs and painting to lavatories and bathrooms huts 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16

1934

February: Specification: manufacture, supply, delivery and erection on site and testing of one multitubular boiler with necessary mountings

October: Specification: erection of additional cubicles to huts 10, 12, 15, 16 and 20. On verandahs.

Plan: erection of cubicles to huts 10, 12, 15, 16 and 20. 12.6.1934.

October: Specification: erection additional cubicles to huts 11 and 18 on verandahs.


1935


June: Specification: erection of new lavatory and bath room to huts 10, 11, 12, 14 to 21 and TB recreation hut. Encompassed 12 lavatory and bathroom blocks. Alternative tenders were requested for eleven of these minus one for the TB hut.

July: Specification: erection of porches to huts 11, 15, 17, 19, 21 and TB reception hut. Construction of timber framing lined with timber and fibro cement with flat
bituminous felt covered roofs and lining part of end gables of huts with fibro cement.

August: Specification: remodelling of main kitchen. Removal of bakers oven and various partitions, make good tile floor, alterations to various partitions and walls, altering position of swing copper boilers and provision of new hood and vent over them, altering position of sinks and tubs and painting throughout.

Specification: erection of additional cubicles to huts 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 18. On verandahs.

Correspondence to this year's late payment on lease of site for sub-station.

1936

January: Specification: installation of electric light in nurses quarters. Includes block plan showing "Hillside". Supply, delivery and installation of all fittings and fixtures to supply electric light and later existing services.

January: Specification: erection of cubicle to hut 20. Enclosure of existing verandah with walls lined externally with weatherboard and lined internally with fibro-cement and containing four box frame windows, cupboards, lavatory and basin.

Specification: erection of additional cubicles huts 17, 19, 21

Plan: erection of cubicles to huts 17, 19, 21 8.12.1936

Specification: installation of electric light and power at POW

Plan: Randwick Military Hospital - electrical installation. Also block plan with Hillside and The Shack 30.1.1936.

Valuation of Ward 30 (Block "T") now 6300 pounds (from 1600 pounds in 1927) after "recent alterations and additions.

Between this year and 1936 the Coast Hospital was re-organised under its own board and named Prince Henry Hospital. The Randwick Auxiliary Hospital remained as a completely separate institution under the control of the Department of Public Health.

1937

February: Specification: installation of electric light and power, all fittings and fixtures, for wards 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20. Plan of typical ward.

February: Specification: repairs to roads and paths. Overhaul, repair, remake parts, top-dressing and rolling of all roads and paths.

March: Specification: internal painting of rooms in kitchen, block of wards and construction of asphalt paving

March: Specification: repairs and painting. 1. Maids quarters - internal and external painting and repairs, 2. Massage department - internal painting to part of shower recess, enclosure of open eaves with battens and bird proof wire.


1938

March: Specification: repairs and painting to various buildings. 1. Internal painting to main ward 20, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18 and annexe of ward 17, 2. internal painting to all cubicles, two dressing rooms, billiard and reading room in Tub. Block, 3. internal painting and lining of some walls in main kitchen, 4. alterations to hoods over copper boilers, 5. complete renewal in asbestos cement sheets to roofs of main kitchen, boiler house, fumigator house, laundry and laundry store.

November: Specification: general repairs, painting and re-roofing. 1. external painting and roofing to main block. 2. internal painting and new bench to weighing store. 3. internal painting butcher shop. 4. external painting, re-roofing and repairs to two rooms secretary's residence. 5. external painting and re-roofing massage building. 6. painting lavatory blocks, renewing bird wire and treating verandahs, all wards east street. 7. T block painting lavatory blocks and treating verandahs. 8. Painting and repairs fire hydrants and steam line supports.

December: Valuation of Buildings Owned by the State (which was done because of the proposed exchange of land to from state to Commonwealth Government of land in POW for some in the rifle range): "In my opinion the buildings as standing are of practically no value beyond the purpose for which they are used and due to obsolescence the accommodation afforded is very poor and of low capital value. The buildings were erected about 80 years ago and if sold in their present state and taken over by private persons in all probability would be condemned on account of not complying with building regulations. They are also lacking from a purchase point of view any possibility of conversion and outside their present use are only of demolition value chiefly on account of the walls being of face-picked
dimensions stone which would have a market value" Main hospital administration block 14,000 pounds, "Hillside" nurses quarters 1000 pounds, x-ray building 200 pounds, medical superintendents residence 1000 pounds.

"Another aspect to be considered with respect to the purchase value by the Commonwealth is that in a period of another 30 years (providing there is not another war) there would be no inmates left and no further need left for a military hospital..."

1939

Commencement again as a military hospital.


Plan: actually dated 1938 for above work.

January: Specification: repairs and renewals for fencing. Removal of existing fences and erection of new fences and repairs to others. New: all new fencing to be similar in height to existing = sawn hardwood paling with 6"x 6"gateposts and %'square corner posts. Tops bound with 2 strands 1 1/4"galvanised hoop iron.

May: Specification: repairs, alterations and painting of pathology building, external painting, repairs and internal repairs and painting.

May: Specification: repairs and painting to wards. External painting and reapers to all of 12 wards east street. Internal repairs and painting to cubicle ward east street.

May: Specification: supply etc of new laundry equipment. The supply, delivery and installation of new 30 in hydro extractor and steam pressing machine and alterations to the existing drying room and roller mangle.


November: Request for addditions to the hospital. To be used as a 1200 bed base hospital.

December: Specification: erection of additional cubicles to huts 17, 19, 21 on verandahs. Timber built.

December: Specification: additions to laundry. 32 x 20' addition for drying cabinet - part brick and part timber framed with asbestos cement sheeting to walls and roof.
December: Telegram "Repatriation Hospital Randwick Treasury approved 26690 pounds for seven wards may be anticipated. (This followed quickly).

File note ND: Additions to Randwick Hospital since May 1939: 1. installation of larger hydron in laundry 168-10-0, 2. enclose luncheon room 240-28-4, 3. enclose cubicle and complete walls to ceilings 51-0-2, 4. improvements to laundry 2302-6-6, 5. provision of lavatory block 107-2-2, 6. provision of dining room and covered way to dorm 193-19-3, 7. installation of x-ray apparatus 1450-6-3.

1940

January: correspondence - notes hospital accommodation for military forces approaching saturation point. At that time all soldiers requiring care from Liverpool, Ingleburn, Wallgrove, the Sydney Fortress and Garrison and others sent to POW. Recommend an increase of 200 beds in the military hospitals. Additional correspondence estimates another 600 beds - considers extending Randwick but claims there are difficulties with the lease of the land. The huts were 25 years old and rebuilding could be justified - but if it was to be rebuilt the preference was for a site close to Centennial Park. Yaralla also considered and offered to the Government. Previous estimate of 26,600 pounds for seven wards was cancelled.

January: Specification: repairs, painting and alterations to X-ray department and sisters quarters. 1. External repairs and painting x-ray building. 2. Internal repairs and painting x-ray building 3. internal repairs and painting sisters dining rooms 4. internal painting and repairs cubicles and passages adjoining sisters dining rooms. 5. internal painting and repairs to 32 cubicles, passages and lobbies comprising sisters quarters "The Shack". 6. internal repairs and painting lavatory block and lobby "The Shack" 7. internal repairs and painting bathrooms block sisters quarters "Sand Dunes" verandahs enclosures. 8. repairs and painting verndahs sand Dunes".

February: Red Cross begins alterations to ward 10 for occupation by the Blood Transfusion Service. To be used until it gets its own premises.

July: correspondence states that question of hospital accommodation in Sydney area has become acute. Thought 300 beds to be added to POW - but this was cancelled and hospital operating at limits. Requests 200-300 beds to be added to the hospital.

Specification: internal painting and extension of partitions. 1. Extension of partitions - sisters quarters main building. 2. Internal painting to sisters quarters first floor main building. 3. Internal painting resident medical officers quarters first floor main building. 4. internal painting of maids (household workers quarters) first floor main building including lobby, stairs and hall on both ground and 1st floor main building.

1941
Progress Statement

POW Hospital Historical Analysis


Specification: various minor works


1943


March: Specification: turfing areas adjoining wards Nos 1 and 2 and erection of paling fence and gate at rear of same. Copy of plan.

1945

Final year as a military hospital - commenced then as a repatriation hospital.

May: Specification: construction of glazed windscreens to two new medical wards. Glazed ends to verandah and infilling of side panels to door opening to verandah on western ends of each of the two new medical wards situated near the laundry.

June: Specification - supply, delivery and erection of steel chimney stack. No location noted.

August: Specification: alterations and additions to laundry rest rooms. Removal of portion of existing wood floors, erecting new brick piers and extending of existing piers to support new concrete floor, forming new door and window openings in existing timber-frame walls, erect new timber partitions, lining portion of building with asbestos cement flat sheeting, replacing portion of existing corrugated iron wall sheeting with new iron and installation of electrical and sanitary services.

September: Specification: erection and completion of brick nurses home (no plans).

September: Specification: erection and completion of new partitions and ceilings in massage and short wave rooms. Extending existing timber framed partitions and provision of new ceilings, the partitions and ceiling being lined with asbestos cement flat sheeting and installation of new cement exhaust ventilators.

Specification: repairs and wall tiling to butchers shop

1946

Military hospital post office established

February: Specification: extension to ration store comprising store room, motor room, cold store and wine and spirits store. Supply and fixing of shelving, refrigeration, electricity and light.

Plan: Proposed extension to existing ration store 6.2.1946

February: Specification: alterations and additions to dispensary

February: Specification: external and internal painting to "T" block. Painting external woodwork, fibro sheets, ironwork etc and internal woodwork, walls ceilings etc to whole buildings and verandahs.

March: Specification: manufacture, supply and delivery of steam heated sterilising equipment in wards 11, 15, 17, 19, 21 and two in T ward.

April: Specification: supply, delivery and installation of one refrigeration unit for a cool room in ration store
May: Specification: supply of two instrument sterilises


May: Specification: alterations and additions to hot water steam and condensate services in main kitchen.

June: Specification: erection and completion of visitors’ rest rooms and alterations and additions to various buildings. 1. erection and completion of visitors rest rooms, 2. alterations to kitchen, 3. construction of ration store and cool room, 4. alts and adds to x-ray department, 5. adds to out-patients, 6. alts for wine and spirits store, 7. electrical services.

June: Specification: construction roads, paths and military works. Formation, preparation of sub grade, base course and penetrated tar or bituminous emulsion macadam surface course; concrete paths, concrete retaining wall, gully pits, kerb and channel; removal and re-erection of existing fence, construction of new fence and sign board and ancillary works.

July: Specification: erection of 2 cubicle partitions, taking down and fixing hand basin and connection, supply and installing two electric light fittings ENT clinic

July: Specification: supply and installation of ventilation system to kitchen of sisters’ quarters.


July: Specification: erection and completion of partition walls to form consulting rooms and waiting room. Also the formation of new doorway at the centre of the main building.


December: Specification: schedule for extension of existing fire service to provide additional hydrant at western corner of the "Shack", sisters quarters.

December: Specification: reconditioning, delivery and installation 16 refrigerators

Specification: supply and installation of ventilation system to sisters quarters

Specification: supply, delivery and installation of hot water heating system

Wendy Thorp
Progress Statement

Specification: manufacture, supply and delivery of steam heated sterilising equipment

Specification: erection and completion of temporary examination rooms and a waiting room for out patients

1947

January: Specification: removal of hot water system and supply of replacement with new hot water system in pathology building

April: Specification: supply, delivery, installation and maintenance of plenum ventilation system.

June: Specification: supply and delivery of two vertical 100 gallon copper calorifiers.

August: Specification: supply and delivery of two vertical 100 gallon copper calorifiers.

1948

April: Specification: modification, overhaul and testing of refrigerating plant in butcher’s shop

June: Specification: supply of one 3 compartment steam cooker

June: Specification: re-construction of tennis court. Weed destruction, removal of undesirable grasses, filling and turfing to depressed areas, seeding, fertilising and top-dressing to recondition existing court.

August: Specification: top dressing and seeding tennis court. Finishing to true level surface. Tennis court situated adjacent to x-ray and pathological department.

September: Specification: supply and delivery of two vertical 100 gallon copper calorifiers

Adoption of Commonwealth States Tuberculosis Agreement. This allowed for the Commonwealth to provide funds for all new capital expenditure required for the investigation and treatment of the disease and also for maintenance costs. The new Nurses Home was completed under this agreement.

1949

August: Specification: renovation and painting of nurses' kitchen, butcher's shop and new concrete floor to kitchen annexe. Painting walls, ceilings and woodwork, fitments and furniture of nurses kitchen, rendering of wall above tile dado, preparation and painting of walls, ceilings and woodwork to butchers shop and laying of new tinted cement floor in kitchen annexe.

1950

February: Specification: repair and installation of second hand water tube steam boiler

1951

Note that work at post office decreased due to the number of patients transferred to the Concord Repatriation Hospital.

1953

Repatriation patients transferred to Concord. "The Repatriation Authority have vacated the Randwick Military Hospital which has been taken over by the hospital commission and the name Randwick Military Hospital is no longer appropriate". All military patients and repat staff were relocated.

Inventory of buildings, plant, fittings etc in the transfer of POW to Sydney Hospital.
NSW HOSPITALS COMMISSION: 1954 - 1961

1954

February: Hospitals Commission has in mind major development within the area of land generally described as the POW Hospital at Randwick. The premises at the moment are being conducted as a public hospital on behalf of the Commission by the Board of Sydney Hospital. Catered largely for long term and convalescent patients.

March: "Sydney Hospital recently took over the management and control of the POW Hospital Randwick which was formerly controlled by the Commonwealth Repatriation Department". Ultimate control was now vested in the NSW Hospitals Commission.

April: "There are actually two separate but adjoining institutions... one is the institution latterly known as Randwick Military or Prince of Wales Hospital (now Randwick Hospital) and the other is the Randwick Auxiliary Hospital. The former is now an annexe of Sydney Hospital and is used mainly for convalescent patients. The latter is for patients suffering from TB and is under the control of the Board of Health"

June: Post office in the hospital grounds closed

Following the Tuberculosis Agreement of 1948 the Chest Hospital expanded; took over for awhile the 60 bed T block of POW which had been evacuated by the Repatriation Department. The Chest Hospital reached 300 beds in 1954 with a staff of 250.

1956

Much newspaper reporting re. hospitals moving into debt and the need to economise.

Establishment of thoracic surgical unit at the Chest Hospital.

July: Opening of the Special Unit for the Investigation and treatment of Cancer and Allied Diseases. Building designed as a square with the public room on the north, wards on other three sides and operating theatre in north-west corner. Also had a science section.

Contract for alterations to part ground floor north-west wing and first floor.

1957
Progress Statement

POW Hospital Historical Analysis

Approval granted to several works including improvements to The Shack (28,812 pounds), to Ward 15 (8,591 pounds), construction new floor to ward 15 (684 pounds).

30,000 pounds of work to create new kitchen in old building.

More newspaper reportage on the debts of hospitals; arguments whether it is due to unpaid bills, extravagance etc.

1958

Name changed from Randwick Auxiliary Hospital to Randwick Chest Hospital. A permanent staff established at Randwick.

Contracts for alteration to kitchen and part of ground floor, accommodation for nurses in nw wing, remodelling wards 12, 15, 17 and The Shack and electricity reticulation.

1959

State Government decides to establish a second medical school at the University of NSW; POW to be developed as a teaching hospital of that University in close association with Prince Henry.

Decision to move Sydney Hospital to Randwick on old golf course. (rescinded).

1960

Construction of sentry box at Avoca Street gate.
ESTABLISHING A TEACHING HOSPITAL: 1961 - 1972

1961

Newspaper reportage re. need to reorganise Sydney Hospital if it lost control of POW. Would involve loss of some units such as casualty. Separate Board to be established for the POW.

August: Board of ten appointed for POW.

1962

Correspondence re vesting the land, buildings and administration of the Chest Hospital in POW. Needed to include this in re-planning as part of the teaching hospital function for Uni of NSW.

1963

The Boards of the Prince Henry Hospital and Prince of Wales identical in membership. An integrated plan of development established.

1964

Paediatric Unit of 48 beds opened in renovated military hut wards (later other similar wards were converted to bring the number to 124 beds).

1966

Dr Cobden Parkes appointed Honorary Consultant Architect and Planner to POW on his retirement as Government Architect in recognition of the contribution he made to development of POW and PH Hospitals.

"Lack of finality in respect of the development programme at the POW caused concern". Delay in decision to provide funds to allow the invitation of tenders for erection of new Admissions and Polyclinic Block hampered plans for further extension of hospital facilities. Directors aware of financial problems which face government in view of demands of State Health Service but hopeful sufficient resources will be made available.

Excellent progress with building for the Institute of Radiotherapy - should be available for occupation by the end of the year.

Tenders invited for erection of new Boiler House to service both POW and Randwick Chest Hospital.
Progress Statement

POW Hospital Historical Analysis

New laboratories for Clinical Chemistry, Haematology and Microbiology (Bacteriology labs in stone building).

New Laboratories for Morbid Anatomy and Histopathology in an advanced stage of completion.

1967

Following decision of Government to provide funds for development of POW in close association with Uni NSW planning to ensure adequate facilities there.

Institute of Radiotherapy finished during the year.

Work commenced on Admissions and Polyclinic.

Randwick Chest Hospital nearing completion.

Skeych plans have been approved for a new Workshop building.

1968


New boiler house and associated services placed in commission.

Construction commenced on new workshop building.

In "Old Stone Building" work of installing lift and new staircase was completed.

Teaching laboratories, offices and conference room provided for School of Paediatrics. Two wards reconstructed to provide additional accommodation for Paediatrics.

Three wards of Chest hospital brought into use for general hospital purposes.

Planning completed for new Ward Block, Operating Theatres and Pathology Building and development of plans for construction of new Paediatric Hospital, new Nurses Home and hundred bed Psychiatric Hospital.

Rehabilitation Medicine building demolished to make way for new multi-storey ward block.

New pathology labs said already to be straining to cope with the work required there.

Wendy Thorp
1969


Contract let for new Main Ward, Operating Theatres and Pathology Block - also to Mainline Constructions Pty Ltd for $8,083,021. Construction period of 130 weeks from April.

Workshops, Garages and Inflammable Liquids Store completed at a cost of $121,471.

Basement of south wing of Old Stone Building converted for use by Department of Medical Illustration.

Detailed planning for new 350 bed Nurses Home. 100 bed Psychiatric Block.

1970


Admissions and Polyclinic Building occupied.

Contract let for the construction of 350 bed nurses home to V.H.Y. Pty Ltd for $1,849,185. Expected completion August 1971.

Hospitals Commission authorised resumption of planning for 100 bed Psychiatric Block.

Ward B to be renovated,

Tender accepted from Kell and Rigby Pty Ltd for alterations on the ground and first floor of north wing of "old Stone Building" at cost of $24,988 for improvements to the entrance lobby and provision of student accommodation, locker rooms and student common rooms.

Childrens Hospital to be erected on POW site.

1971

As part of development of clinical teaching and student facilities the area occupied by the Resident Medical Officers to be vacated and the old brick nurses home used for their accommodation.

Wendy Thorp
Preliminary discussions held regarding need to house Group Administration at POW.

Work on ward and theatre block nearing completion - expense to date (June) $8,691,602.

New staff residence for 352 nurses nearing completion - total cost to June $1,849,185.

Detailed planning continues for new childrens block for 140 beds - provision being made for later expansion. Hospitals Commission allocated $3,000,000 for work. Department of Education to provide nine classroom as part of the development.

GAB preparing sketch plans for erection of Psychiatric Block at rear of Catherine Hayes building.

The Cobden Parkes Ward, Theatre and Pathology Block completed and opened in December 1971.
**AMALGAMATION: 1972 - 1997**

**1972**

Amalgamation of administrative and professional services of Prince Henry, POW and Eastern Suburbs Hospitals.

Cafeteria, kitchen and staff areas completed and handed over and remainder of ward, theatre and pathology blocks will be completed and handed over successively.

350 bed Nurses block completed and handed over in March at a total cost of $1,849,185.

Planning for children's hospital has reached an advanced stage and tenders to be invited for excavation and concrete footings in September.

Planning resumed for construction of 40 bed psychiatric block.

Swimming pool being constructed adjacent to the staff residence.

**1973**

Tenders for Childrens Hospital in March.

Childrens hospital commenced in August (original contractor later found to be unable to complete and contract renegotiated with Costain Limited). To contain 144 beds, casualty and outpatients as well as supporting facilities. Administration to be integrated with POW.

Occupation of Cobden Parkes Ward and Theatre block. Total cost of building was $9,780,486. Contract let for landscaping adjacent to the new block.

Planning formalised for Childrens Hospital and excavations completed at a cost of $117,187. Construction commenced in August.

Planning undertaken for Psychiatric Unit.

**1975**

Alterations commenced to "the Main Stone Building" to provide teaching accommodation for Schools of Surgery, Medicine and Psychiatry.

Psychiatric unit commenced building in August "to an interesting design which blends a modern brick and concrete structure with the existing historical..."
Progress Statement

Wendy Thorp

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POW Hospital Historical Analysis

sandstone of the Catherine Hayes Building"... To provide 40 beds for in patients and a large out-patients referral centre.

Care by Parent Unit opened - provides motel style accommodation for one or both parents - unique in Australia. "One of the old hut wards was renovated to provide eight air-conditioned bedrooms with an ensuite shower recess, toilet and wash basin. Communal facilities include a play room, dining and TV rooms and a laundry".

1976

Progress made during the year on POW Childrens Hospital will ensure its occupation before end of year.

Alterations made to "the Main Stone Building" to provide teaching accommodation for Schools of Surgery, Medicine and Psychiatry completed.

1977

New Psychiatric Unit opened, "a blend of old and new buildings. The new section is a two level brick and concrete structure and the old is the historic Catherine Hayes building".

New loungeroom attached to RMO quarters completed.

Hut Wards M and O renovated to accommodate the Finance Branch.

"Extensive alterations" to Special Unit.

Lecture theatre on ground floor of North Wing of Old stone building enlarged and improved.

Extensions to Institute of Radiotherapy opened.

Official opening of Prince of Wales Childrens Hospital being a four storey 144 bed hospital of reinforced concrete and brick with five wards. Glass links to main buildings of the hospital. Cost of building $8.6 million.

1978

On behalf of NSW Department of Education, PWD awarded a contract for construction of hospital school adjacent to Childrens Hospital. Work commenced in May. At present school has temporary accommodation in ground floor of Childrens Hospital.
University of NSW has allocated funds for renovation of the second floor of the south wing of the old stone building - intended to house Department of Surgery.

1979

School attached to Childrens Hospital completed to "an innovative design".

The Avoca and Tumbatin clinics for children renovation commenced.

Painting of hut wards, exterior of stone building and the Admissions and Polyclinic Building completed.

1980

The Avoca and Tumbatin clinics for children renovation concluded.

Boiler House converted for gas firing.

1981

Work continued on conversion of boiler from coal to gas firing.

First floor of east wing of old stone building housing secretarial staff was renovated and redecorated.

Chaplains offices and chapel moved to Hut A.

Contracts let for Childrens Leukaemia and Cancer Foundation Research centre.

1982

Boiler conversion completed.

General works such as major upgrading of air-conditioning in main theatre suite.

Major extensions to Nuclear Medicine Department, Hut K refurnished to house Cytogenics Unit, basement of Cobden Parkes block renovated for use by medical Records.

1983

"The Old Stone Building" renamed the Edmund Blacket Building.

Hospital gained full accreditation.
INstallation of major computer system.

1988

September: Closure of Prince Henry Hospital announced - hospital to be removed to the POW site.