

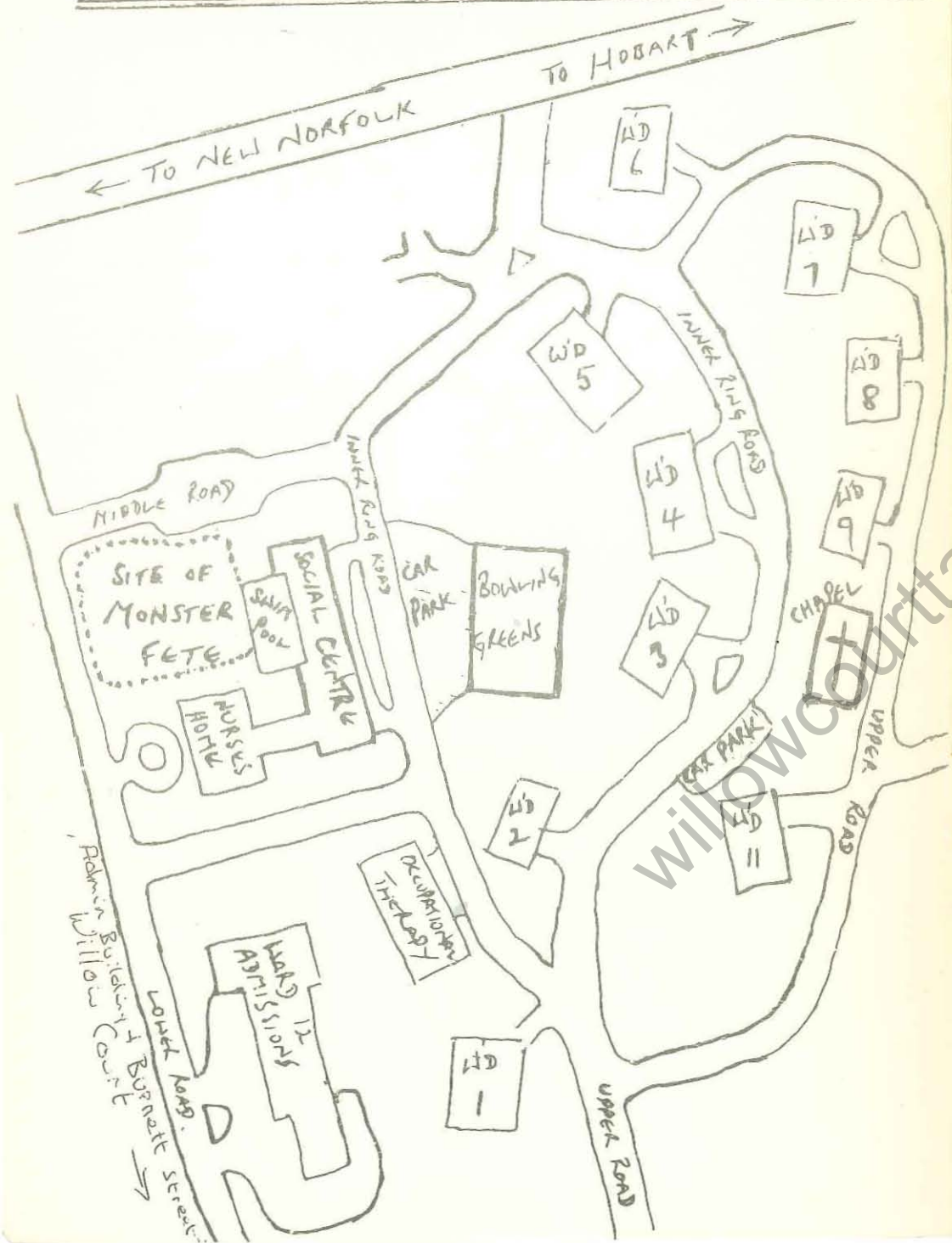
ROYAL DERWENT HOSPITAL

1827 - 1977



SESQUI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

- SKETCH - PLAN OF ROYAL DERWENT HOSPITAL



"One Hundred and Fifty Years A-Growing"

(A brief historical over-view of the development of the Royal Derwent Hospital).

This year heralds the 150th. Anniversary of the Royal Derwent Hospital since Governor Arthur issued an Order, on the 19th. April, 1827 to the effect that invalid convicts from Hobart, Launceston and all out-stations should be transferred to New Norfolk, and accommodated in temporary wooden huts until a more durable building had been constructed. The first patients were admitted on 2nd June, 1827, the first "lunatic" in April, 1829, and plans drawn up by Major Kelsall (and modified by John Lee Archer, the Architect/Engineer of the day) led to the construction of the Invalid Hospital and Lunatic Asylum which, by the end of 1831, had "been so far completed as to form an asylum for the reception of such convicts as through age and infirmities have become unable to labour". Part of this original building still stands today, one hundred and fifty years later, as an open quadrangled structure: Willow Court. This makes the Royal Derwent Hospital the oldest mental hospital in Australia standing on its original site, with part of its original buildings still in use. Willow Court is classified "A" by the National Trust because its historical and architectural value is such that it should be preserved at all costs.

In these early years the Hospital served three purposes: as a general hospital for the district, as an invalid depot for convicts, and as an asylum for the insane. It remained under military administration until the official Government takeover in 1855, by which time it was caring solely for mentally ill patients, and changed its name from The Lunatic Asylum to The New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane in 1859. This change of name indicated alteration in attitude towards the mentally ill, especially when only thirty years previously Governor Arthur had remarked on New Norfolk's "madhouse" in official correspondence. However, it is recorded, in 1890, that public entry into the Hospital grounds should be limited because of "throngs of people laughing at the patients".

The number of resident patients had increased from 70 in 1830 to 366 in 1890, a number of patients having been received from other asylums which closed down e.g. the Hospital for the Insane at Cascades. Many of these patients were ex-convicts from Port Arthur, the last one reported to have died in this Hospital in 1938.

At the turn of the century, the Hospital housed in excess of 500 patients in new buildings in that part of the Hospital situated on the western side of the Lachlan River. In keeping with early 20th. Century views that

many mental disorders were due to diseases as yet undiscovered, the name of the Hospital was changed in 1914, from the antiquated Hospital for the Insane to the Mental Diseases Hospital. Further building in the western part of the Hospital occurred in 1925 and 1938, while the Psychopathic Home at Millbrook Rise was opened in 1934.

Millbrook Rise is today an integral part of the Royal Derwent Hospital, though when initially planned after the Great War, it was to be an independent hospital catering for returned servicemen and women.

Unfortunately, in present-day terminology, the title "Psychopathic Home" has an incorrect connotation. It provided for those persons returned from battle who were unable, by reason of mental distress, to rise to the demands of everyday living, and offered convalescence in an agreeable setting for those persons who had received treatment for mental disease and were preparing to go home. This latter point bears emphasising because, although Millbrook Rise is now a ward of the Royal Derwent Hospital, it continues to play an important role today in rehabilitating some of the Hospital's resident patients for living again in the Community.

The section of the Hospital situated on the eastern side of the Lachlan River is the most up-to-date

development, representing two phases of construction in the mid-1950's and the mid-1960's at a total cost of some \$5,000,000, providing a final total of over 1,000 beds throughout the Hospital for long-term management of both mentally ill and mentally deficient patients. This programme of structural expansion was the culmination of a growing swing back to residential care of the mentally ill that was occurring throughout the world during the first half of this century; but with the discovery of a number of new and fairly successful treatment methods in the 1950's coupled with the development of community mental health services, many sceptics suggested that the days of the large mental hospital were numbered. This has not proved to be the case and, although like many other mental hospitals the number of beds has dropped slightly (the Royal Derwent Hospital now has an official bed capacity of 950), it continues to provide an intrinsic part of this State's mental health service, catering for and treating all types of mental disorder and mental retardation in every age group, with a growing emphasis on the disturbed elderly patient.

In December, 1967, the Mental Health Services Commission was formed, to be responsible for all matters pertaining to Mental Health in the State, being directly responsible to the Minister for Health. As part of this new administration a Board of Management under the Chairmanship

of the Hon. Justice Neasey was appointed on 1st. July, 1968 to manage the affairs of Lachlan Park Hospital (as it had been called since 1938). From that date the Hospital ceased to be administered by the Public Service Commissioner, Millbrook Rise was duly incorporated into the Hospital, and the name of the Institution (as it was now designated) became The Royal Derwent Hospital by Royal decree. The granting of a Coat of Arms in 1970 thanks to the painstaking efforts of the previous Psychiatrist Superintendent, Dr. J.R.C. Weatherly, is a fitting climax to the steady growth in stature of this Hospital over the past 150 years in both the historical and mental health context.

Reginald V. Parton.

Chairman

(Historical, Archival & General Academic
Sub-Committee of the Sesqui-Centennial
Celebrations)

ROYAL DERWENT HOSPITAL

SESQUI-CENTENARY CELEBRATION WEEK

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS: 26th March - 2nd April, 1977

Saturday 26th March

- 11 a.m. - Official Opening Ceremony: His Excellency, The Governor of Tasmania. Sir Stanley Burbury will officially open The Sesqui-Centennial Week and the Hospital's Lawn Bowls Complex.
- 8.30 p.m. - Sesqui-Centenary Staff Ball: Special Guests and Staff Members will attend a Gala Ball at the Charles Brothers Social Centre wearing (optional) period costume. (By invitation only)

Sunday 27th March

- 3 p.m. - Interdenominational Church Service: to be held at the Hospital Chapel.

Wednesday 30th March

- 2.30 p.m. - Children's Ball: to be held in The Hall of the Administration Building.
- 6.30 p.m. - Patients' Fancy Dress Ball: to be held at the Charles Brothers Social Centre.

Friday 1st April

- 7 p.m. - Parade of Floats Through New Norfolk: a foretaste of the Grand Parade scheduled for the next Day.
- 7.30 p.m. - Historical Event at Willow Court: with "Son et Lumiere" and Tableaux, recounting aspects of the Hospital's Century and a half existence and changing face; with military manoeuvres and musical accompaniment by the Army. Period-style Supper with mulled ale served as a finale. (By invitation only)

Saturday 2nd April

- 1.00 p.m. The Grand Parade: Commencing in High Street, New Norfolk, follow the parade of floats, pipe bands, marching girls and vintage cars through town and into the grounds of the Royal Derwent Hospital to the Monster Fete situated behind the Social Centre. Entertainment including exhibition dancing on the giant dais; roundabouts, hurdy-gurdy, greasy pole; stalls, side shows, pony rides, etc. etc. Presentation of prizes for sporting competitions held during the week. (Open invitation to all)
- to
- 6.00 p.m.

The Meaning of the Coat of Arms

of the

Royal Derwent Hospital

The Hospital applied for, and was granted in 1970, a full Coat of Arms by the Earl Marshall of England through the King of Arms and Royal College of Heraldry, subsequent to receiving the Royal Prefix in March, 1968, the Hospital's name being changed from Lachlan Park Hospital to the Royal Derwent Hospital by Royal Decree.

Every item (or 'charge') of the Coat of Arms, shown on the front cover of this programme, has special significance for the Hospital:

The Ermine Background of the Shield indicates that this is a special hospital.

The Fancy Gold Cross symbolizes a hospital, again a 'special' or specialist hospital.

The two Royal Crowns - one in gold at the head of the Cross and one in red on the head of the lion indicate the Royal Prefix.

The Red Lion stands for Tasmania, but this lion is 'truly different' as it is shown to be looking out of the page, sticking out a blue tongue and displaying fearsome looking blue claws.

The Circlet of Hellebore surrounding the lion represents mental illness. Hellebore was an ancient remedy for mentally ill patients.

The Wreath over the Helm and the intricate Mantling surrounding the Shield are in red and white, the traditional colours for a hospital.

The two human arms on the Crest are undoing a piece of lattice work called a Fret (an heraldic pun implying the resolution of mental disorder).

The rays of sunlight bursting through a black cloud (of depression) are also symbolic of the hospital's work in mental illness in its many forms.

The Motto - Et Comitas - means Comradeship. Some latin scholars may argue that it can mean Courtesy or Kindness. All three translations admirably portray the spirit in which the staff of this Hospital endeavour to perform their duties in the delivery of mental health care.

Sesqui-Centenary Commemorative Booklet

By way of perpetual commemoration of this important landmark in the history of the Royal Derwent Hospital, a substantial Commemorative Booklet will be produced later this year to illustrate the growth of the Hospital from its early military beginnings, the changes down the years, and the Hospital's relationship with the local community.

If anybody has any interesting items of information, newspaper cuttings or old photographs, maps or drawings relating in any way to the Hospital (particularly if they date back to the last Century), would they kindly contact Dr. R.V. Parton, Acting Psychiatrist Superintendent of the Hospital, who is presently compiling the material for the Booklet. All contributions, if used, will be duly acknowledged within the eventual publication.

ROYAL DERWENT HOSPITAL

SESQUI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr. Norman H. Rutledge (Senior Medical Officer).

Vice-Chairman & Chairman of the Socials Sub-Committee:
Mr. L.E. Cullen (Principal Nursing Officer).

Chairman of Sports/Fete Sub Committee: Mr. M. Templeman
(Recreational Instructor).

Chairman of Historical Archival & General Academic
Sub Committee: Dr. Reginald V. Parton
(A/Psychiatrist Superintendent).

Public Relations Officer: Mr. I. Green
(Industrial Therapist)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr. J. Warner (Chairman of the Hospital's Board of Management).

Mrs. N. Williams (Member of the Hospital's Board of management).

Dr. G.R. Pate (Senior Medical Officer (Mental Retardation Services)).

Mr. J. Burr (Superintendent of Nursing).

Miss A. Tumaneng (Principal Nursing Officer).

Mr. J. Mitchell (Senior Nursing Education Officer).

Mr. F. Adlard (Assistant Administrator).

Mrs. R. Hayes & Mrs. A. Plunkett (Recreation Dept.).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONT'D.

Mrs. M. Webber (Secretarial Assistant to A/Psychiatrist Superintendent).

Ms T. Seadon (Secretary to the Committee).

Mrs. J. Newton (Principal Occupational Therapist).

Mr. L. Penegar (Senior Social Worker - deceased).

Mr. A. Caswell (Welfare Officer).

Mr. T. Morgan (Services Engineer).

Mr. J. Malek, Mr. A. Leggate & Mrs. S. Julin
(Catering Department).

Mrs. J. Gillies (Student Nurses representative).

Mr. T. Triffitt (Artisans representative).

Mrs. M. Warner (Volunteers representative).

Nurse A. Pilkington (R.A.N.F. representative).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board of Management of the Royal Derwent Hospital and the Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations Committee would like to sincerely acknowledge with thanks, the following individuals, organizations and business houses for their generosity and assistance in various ways to make possible the presentation of this Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations Week:-

His Excellency, The Governor of Tasmania,
Sir Stanley Burbury.

Mental Health Services Commission.

Col. J.D. Stewart, M.C. & the 6th Military
District Royal Australian Army.

Ric Paterson John Van Der Hoek

Derwent Valley Gazette

The Mercury Newspaper

Hobart Police Department

New Norfolk Police

New Norfolk Council

New Norfolk Trotting Club

Cascade Brewery

Cadbury Fry-Pascall

Lions Club New Norfolk

Rotary Club New Norfolk

Soroptimist Club New Norfolk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS CONT'D.

Tas. Government Insurance Office

New Norfolk Business Houses

New Norfolk High School

New Norfolk Swimming Club

Sapphire Ballroom Dancers

St. John's Park Hospital

Hobart Marching Girls

New Norfolk Marching Girls

National Trust Council

Mrs. Grace Curtain

Mrs. Joan Goodricke

Mrs. A. Terry

Miss J. SkaiFFE

Mrs. C. Johnson

Mrs. V. Annells

Miss J. Worsley

Miss M. Lahl

Police Cadets

Police Pipe Band

Mrs. M. Vaughan

Participating Bowling Clubs

A warm thanks also to all staff members and others who contributed to these Celebrations, no matter how small that contribution may have been.

ROYAL DERWENT HOSPITAL - 26TH MARCH, 1977

OPENING OF SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WEEK

AND

BOWLING CENTRE CEREMONY

10.55 a.m.

His Excellency & Vice Regal Party
(Lady Burbury, Mrs. R.C. Peterson
and A.D.C. Captain A.M. Hart)
arrive at walkway to Bowling Green.

Met by Chairman of Board of Management,
Mr. J.H.A. Warner & Mrs. M. Warner.

Proceed to entrance - pause for
playing of National Anthem.

Mr. Warner introduces His Excellency to
Board of Management and Hospital Officers.

Mrs. Warner introduces Lady Burbury to