

SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECT

DAN RYAN

OPEN FOUNDATION-HISTORY

TUESDAY 7-9

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH BERYL CLINTON RETIRED OF RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL.

BERYL CLINTON COMMENCED WORKING AT RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL IN 1976. DURING HER EMPLOYMENT SHE COMPLETED A RESEARCH OF RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL AND EMPLOYEES.

MRS. TROTMAN WAS ABLE TO SUPPLY A LOT OF THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOSPITAL. MRS TROTMAN WAS THE DOMESTIC SUPERVISOR AT THE HOSPITAL AND HAD BEEN EMPLOYED THERE SINCE 1947

RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL WAS NAMED AFTER MR A A RANKIN WHO HAD BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AT ROYAL NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL. MR RANKIN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE LAND AT RANKIN PARK. THE HOSPITAL WAS ESTABLISHED DURING WORLD WAR TWO AS AN EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, IN CASE ROYAL NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL CAME UNDER ATTACK.

FOR SOME TIME AFTER WORLD WAR TWO THE HOSPITAL REMAINED CLOSED. THE FURNISHING AND EQUIPING OF THE HOSPITAL CONTINUED THROUGH THIS PERIOD. IN 1947 AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BETWEEN THE RED CROSS AND THE ROYAL NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL, THE RED CROSS WAS TO SUPPLY THE NURSES AND THE ROYAL NEWCASTLE WAS TO SUPPLY THE MEDICAL STAFF. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS THE HOSPITAL WAS REOPENED AND THE FIRST PATIENT ADMITTED ON 14TH MAY 1947.

MATRON CROLL WAS APPOINTED BY THE RED CROSS SOCIETY IN 1947 TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE DOMESTIC AND NURSING STAFF. UNDER MATRON CROLL'S CONTROL THE HOSPITAL ACHIEVED A HIGH STANDARD OF CARE. MATRON CROLL RETIRED IN MARCH 1951 AND WAS REPLACED BY MATRON ELLEN SAVAGE, WHO CONTINUED THE HIGH STANDARD OF PATIENT CARE.

DOCTOR ETHEL BYRNE WAS THE MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL WHEN IT REOPENED IN 1947. A BIRD BATH NEAR WARD 1 WAS ERECTED AS A MEMORIAL TO HER.

RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL PATIENTS BEGAN TO FALL WITH THE REDUCTION OF TUBERCULOSIS. IN 1967 TWELVE BEDS WERE ALLOCATED TO LONG TERM MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PATIENTS. A FURTHER TEN BEDS WERE ALLOCATED TO RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN 1978.

SISTER WILLETS WAS ONE OF THE FIRST EMPLOYEES OF RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL, A BARBEQUE AREA NEAR THE NURSES HOME IS NAMED IN HER HONOUR.

MISS SAVAGE COMMENCED EMPLOYMENT AT RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL IN 1951. MATRON SAVAGE WAS ON THE HOSPITAL SHIP THE CENTAUR DURING WORLD TWO, WHICH WAS ATTACKED OFF THE

COAST OF QUEENSLAND. FOR HER BRAVERY SHE WAS AWARDED THE GEORGE MEDAL. THE PRESENT NURSES AIDE BADGES WORN BY NURSES BEING TRAINED AT ROYAL NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL WAS DESIGNED BY MATRON SAVAGE.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TEACHING HOSPITAL ON THE RANKIN PARK SITE WILL ENSURE THE FUTURE OF RANKIN PARK HOSPITAL FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.