

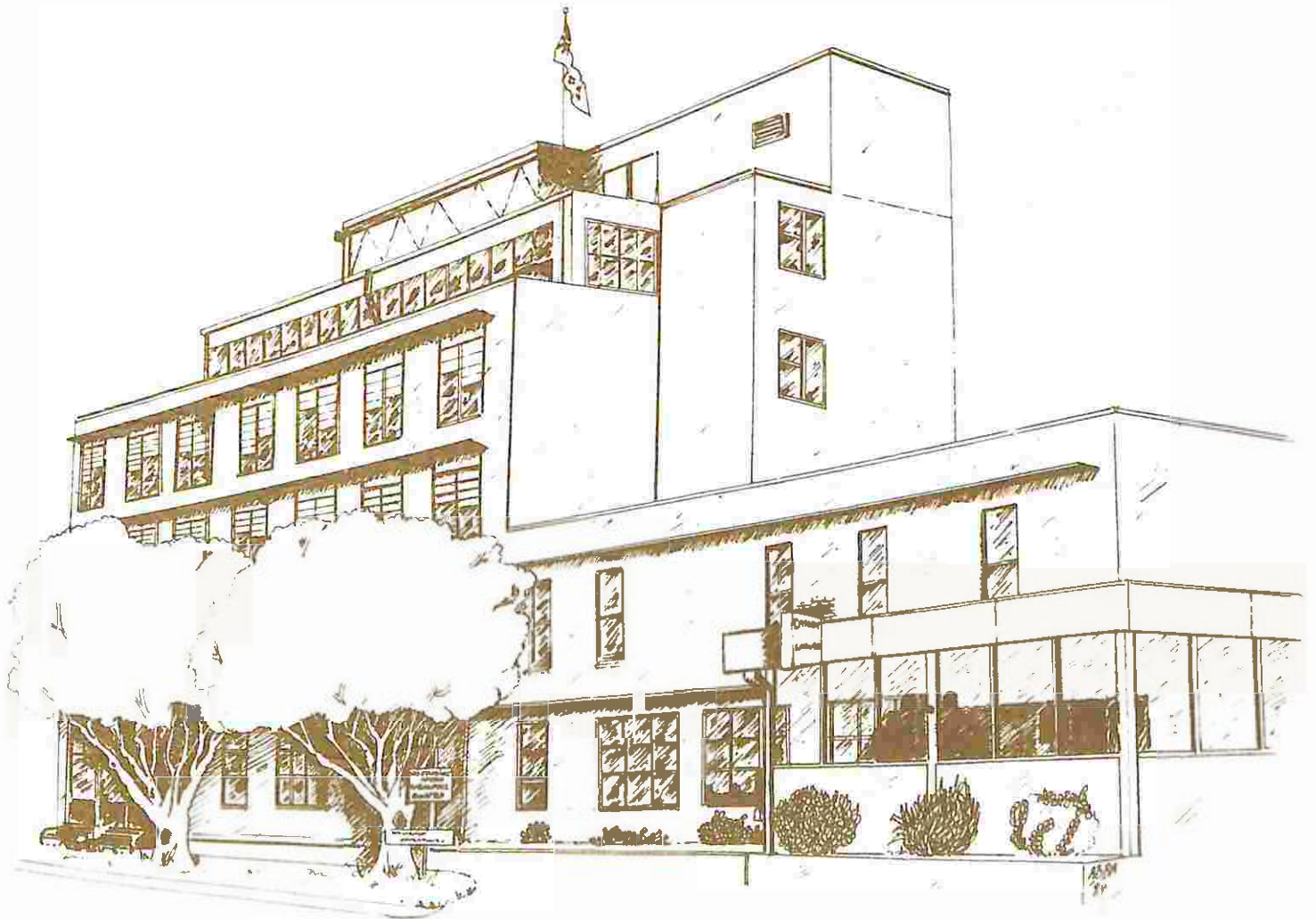
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

In the year to come the hospital looks forward to:

- * The Accreditation Survey to be conducted from November 8th to 10th, 1983.
- * The further planning of the 30 bed extension to the existing nursing home accommodation.
- * The further expansion of the healthy lifestyle project.
- * The further consideration of the need for psychiatric treatment facilities on the hospital site.
- * The ongoing provision of high quality health care services to the people of the Wimmera community.

WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL

110th Annual
Report 1984



THE WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL was established in 1874 as the Horsham Hospital and was incorporated by authority of the Hospitals and Charities Act (No. 5300) on 27th August, 1877.

The name was changed in 1950 to the Wimmera Base Hospital with the approval of the Hospitals and Charities Commission of Victoria.

RIGHT: A view from the east of the new hospital casualty entrance.

The new entrance, completed by hospital tradesmen, will enhance the hospital's service provided to casualty patients.

WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL 110th ANNUAL REPORT 1983/84



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RIGHT: A view from the east of the new hospital casualty entrance. The new entrance, completed by hospital tradesmen, will enhance the hospital's service provided to casualty patients.

WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL 110th ANNUAL REPORT 1983/84



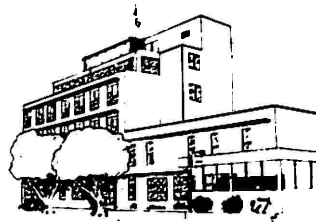
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OUR HOSPITAL'S OBJECTIVES

The registered objects of the Wimmera Base Hospital are:

- (a) To afford relief, including maintenance and the treatment or cure of, or attention to, any disease or ailment, or any injury consequent on any accident, medical and/or surgical attendance, medicine, nursing assistance support or aid of any kind in any form to such persons as are entitled thereto under the Hospitals and Charities Act.
- (b) To provide facilities for the treatment of private and hospital patients or either of them.
- (c) To provide facilities for the carrying out of investigations into ailments, diseases, injuries or other matters affecting the human body.
- (d) To provide facilities for the training of medical, para-medical, nurses and other hospital personnel as approved.



PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Manager

Mr. S.B. Capp, B. Comm. (Melb.),
M. Admin.(Mon.), A.H.A., A.A.S.A.(Snr.)

Medical Administrator

Dr. M.A. Griffith, M.B., B.S.,
D.A. (Melb.), F.F.A.R.A.C.S.
Commenced long service leave January, 1984.
Dr. A.M. Wolff, M.B., B.S., Dip. R.A.C.O.G.

Architects

R.S. Demaine, Russell, Trundle, Armstrong and Orton Pty. Ltd.
Demaine Partnership Pty. Ltd.

Bankers

National Australia Bank

Director of Nursing

Mrs. G.M. Curran, Dip. Theatre Man., F.C.N.A.

Assistant Manager

Mr. M.D. Williams, B.Bus., M.H.P.,
A.A.S.A., A.H.A. (Prov.)

Auditors

Green, Taylor, Ainsworth and Ryan.

Solicitors

Power and Bennett

THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS — at a glance

DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES TO PATIENTS, STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY

- * Completion of the new casualty entrance.
- * Appointment of an audiologist and purchase of a sound proof room and audiology diagnostic equipment.
- * Accommodation provided in the main hospital block for the resident medical officer on duty.
- * Relocation of the social welfare and speech pathology departments.
- * Survey of staff to determine the quality of work life enjoyed.
- * Successful implementation of an arbitrary government cut of 1.5% reduction in operating expenditure.
- * Development of a resident medical officer induction programme and hand-book.

DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT

- * Extension of the fire escape stairway from 3rd to 4th floor.
- * New bathrooms for wards 4 and 5.
- * Renovations to midwifery rooms.
- * Commenced construction of a new lift.
- * Purchase of a new computer for the store and laundry and a new computer programme for pathology.
- * Development of new computer programmes for the laundry and pharmacy.
- * Purchase of new equipment for pathology:- atomic absorption spectrophotometer, cryostat, coagulation analyser, blood cell counter, slide stainer.
- * Commenced construction of a hospital chapel.
- * Construction of a new entrance to the Physiotherapy Department.

FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- * The hospital received full accreditation for a further three years.
- * Introduction of healthy lifestyle classes for staff.
- * Student nurse graduation.
- * Some increase in departmental activity levels during a year of continuing financial restriction.
- * Completion of a staff exchange programme with the Royal Melbourne Hospital.
- * Continuing education for regional hospital staff in mid-wifery and intensive care nursing and continuing professional development of Wimmera Base Hospital nursing staff at Melbourne Teaching Hospitals.

OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



Mr. Reece Burgess—President
P.H.C., M.P.S.

Mr. Burgess was appointed to the board of management in October, 1971 and has held the office of president since October, 1982. He operates a retail business in Horsham and with other members of the board of management is committed to improving the quality of care provided by the hospital. Mr. Burgess brings para-medical qualifications as well as general management skill to the board. He currently serves on the following board sub-committees:

Executive Committee
Planning Committee
Hospital Services Review Committee
Special Purpose Medical Fund Committee
Medical Consultative Committee
Medical Advisory Board
Audit Committee



Mr. Max Cuddihy

MA (Leeds), LACS.T., TPTC., MA.A.S.H. Appointed to the board of management in May 1973, Mr. Cuddihy held the position of senior vice-president in 1982/83. His experience in the field of education combined with para-medical qualifications and interests in speech therapy enhance Mr. Cuddihy's contribution to the board's activities. He is currently serving the hospital as a board representative on the following sub-committees:

Medical Consultative Committee
Accreditation Advisory Committee



Mr. Graeme Lind—Senior Vice-President

Joined the board in September, 1975 and since that time has been actively involved in hospital matters, more recently in the position of senior vice-president. Mr. Lind provides the board with the benefit of extensive managerial business experience in the local community and serves the processes of management on the following board sub-committees:

Medical Advisory Board
Executive Committee
Planning Committee
Building and Engineering Services Advisory Committee
Medical Consultative Committee
Personnel Advisory Committee
Public Relations Advisory Committee.
Audit Committee.



Dr. Rodney Abud
M. B. B. S., F.R.A.C.P.

Dr. Abud was appointed to the board in December, 1970 and is the immediate post-President of the hospital having been appointed to that office in 1977. He is a specialist physician who possesses an in-depth knowledge of the hospital from both an administrative and medical perspective. Dr. Abud is acutely aware of the health needs of the community served by the hospital and also contributes through the following sub-committees:

Executive Committee
Planning Committee
Nurse Education Advisory Committee
Medical and Surgical Equipment Advisory Committee
Pharmacy Advisory Committee



Rev. Allan Thompson - Junior Vice-President
B.A., B.D.

Mr. Thompson was appointed to the board of management in February 1983. As a minister of religion and office bearer of the Horsham Ministers Fraternal he has brought to the board a deep pastoral concern for patient welfare. Mr. Thompson's wide community involvement increases the community's input to hospital matters. He also serves on the following sub-committees:

Executive Committee
Hospital Services Review Committee
Nurse Education Advisory Committee
Planning Committee
Public Relations Advisory Committee



Mr. Keith Lovett—Treasurer
F.A.S.A., F.I.M.A., L.M.A., J.P.

Mr. Lovett was appointed to the board of management in December, 1949 and has been the hospital's treasurer for a number of years. A former Secretary of the Wimmera Shire, Mr. Lovett's long experience in local government administration as a qualified accountant, provides the board with extensive financial and management expertise. As the board's longest serving member, Mr. Lovett also serves on the following sub-committees:

Executive Committee
Medical Advisory Board
Audit Committee
Central Linen Service Advisory Committee
Special Purposes Medical Fund Committee
Building and Engineering Services Advisory Committee.



Mrs. Ann Dickson

Mrs. Dickson was appointed to the board in December, 1983. Mrs. Dickson has a background in pharmacy and nursing and her experience in committee involvement at the community level has benefited the hospital board. She is currently serving the hospital as board representative on the following sub-committees.

Hospital Services Review Committee
Personnel Advisory Committee



Mrs. Dolores Orchard

Mrs. Orchard was appointed to the board in February, 1984. Mrs. Orchard has a background in journalism and radio and her experience in committee involvement at the community level has benefited the hospital board. She is currently serving the hospital as a board representative on the following sub-committees:

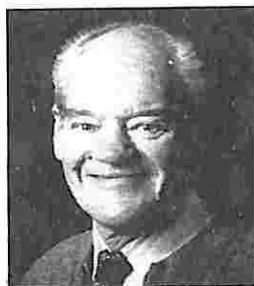
Building and Engineering Services
Advisory Committee
Personnel Advisory Committee



Mr. David McFarlane

Joined the board in June 1967 and during that time has held the office of president for a four year period. Mr. McFarlane is a company director of the plumbing business which he developed in Horsham and brings building and planning skills to the board. His broad experience in hospital affairs over a sixteen-year period strengthen the board's working knowledge of hospital procedures and development. Mr. McFarlane also contributes on these sub-committees:

Executive Committee
Building and Engineering Services
Advisory Committee
Hospital Services Review Committee
Medical and Surgical Equipment
Advisory Committee



Mr. Ron Shepherd

J.P.

Mr. Shepherd joined the board in August, 1950 and is currently a director of the business which he developed in Horsham. Over his long period of service to the hospital, Mr. Shepherd has developed a very detailed knowledge of hospital matters which has been enhanced by his representation of hospitals on the Victorian Hospitals' Association and Country Hospitals' Association. A past president of the hospital, Mr. Shepherd's guidance is also valued on the following sub-committees:

Planning Committee
Special Purposes Medical Fund
Committee
Medical Consultative Committee



Dr. Mark O'Brien

M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P.

Appointed to the board in April, 1954 Dr. O'Brien is a past President of the hospital and holds Life and Centenary Governorships. As a medical practitioner his wealth of experience in the provision of health care in the Wimmera provides the board with important advice on patient care and medical matters. Dr. O'Brien serves on the board's:

Medical and Surgical Equipment
Advisory Committee
Operating Theatre Advisory
Committee



Mr. Euan Thompson

B.Jur., LL.B.

Mr. Thompson was appointed to the board in October, 1983. Mr. Thompson is a practising solicitor and his extensive experience in committee involvement at the community level has been of significant value to the hospital board. He is currently serving the hospital as a board representative on the following sub-committees:

Hospital Services Review Committee
Central Linen Service Advisory
Committee



Mr. Reece Burgess
President
Board Of Management

It is our great pleasure to present to you this summary of hospital activities for the year ended June 30, 1984.

The health arena has been in a state of change for some years and the year under review has certainly been no exception. Changes in health financing continue to occur with the most recent being the re-introduction of a universal health insurance system in the form of Medicare. The introduction of a 38 hour week, a reduction in our allocated budget of 1.5% and participation in an extraordinary number of Government inquiries have further increased the pressures on the hospital.

The board is delighted with the support it has received from the staff in meeting the many challenges of the past year. There can be no doubt that the provision of high quality health care is made more difficult in periods of severe budgetary constraints but we are confident that the standards set over a large number of years continue to be maintained.

A highlight of the year was the accreditation survey conducted in November by the Australian Council on Hospital Standards. We are pleased to report that our hospital received full accreditation for a further period of three years. Accreditation is a process of evaluation by three surveyors who are each experienced in specific areas of either medical, nursing or general administration. The hospital is required to comply with as many of the standards as are appropriate to its size and complexity.

The board supports the accreditation process and believes that by its participation, the hospital's standard of service will continue to be improved and will keep pace with those standards appropriate to a base hospital.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

This year has seen a significant change in the membership of our board of management. Mrs. Heather Mitchell decided not to re-nominate after seven years valuable contribution. Fortunately, Mrs. Mitchell has agreed to retain her membership of our nurse education advisory committee where she brings a knowledge and understanding of considerable depth.

During the course of the year, Mr. Lachlan Campell and Mr. Geoff Heard resigned their positions for their own personal reasons. It is a matter of regret that the Board could not retain their services since Mr. Heard over his seven years and Mr. Campell over his two years, each brought a dimension and perspective to the board which greatly assisted it in its deliberations.

ANNUAL REPORT

The board wishes to record its appreciation of the service of these three community minded citizens.

The advertising of vacancies on the board has prompted a strong community response and a total of twenty applications have been received on the three occasions in the year on which applications were sought. This interest in the management of our hospital is encouraging.

The board has pleasure in welcoming to its number Mr. Euan Thompson, Mrs. Ann Dickson and Mrs. Dolores Orchard. Members re-appointed in 1983 for three years were Dr. Rodney Abud, Mr. Max Cuddihy and Mr. Reece Burgess.

HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Since our last Annual Report, an analysis of the State's capital works requirements has been prepared for the Minister of Health by Mr. John McClelland. This report excluded any major development at our hospital apart from a new kitchen and a psychiatric facility recommended for 1991. The board has responded strongly to this report and our response, with the reactions of other providers of health care is currently being assessed by a review committee prior to final recommendations being made to the Minister.

The report is welcomed as an attempt to place planning decisions in a longer term perspective and in accordance with needs and particular objective criteria. However, the report has ignored the needs of Wimmera Base Hospital and has implied that sufficient numbers of beds is synonymous with a satisfactory provision of acute health services.

Since 1975 the Hospitals and Charities Commission and the Health Commission have acknowledged the sub-standard level of accommodation provided at Wimmera Base Hospital. It was for this reason that planning was commenced to completely re-model and update the main ward block, providing an acceptable standard of ward accommodation, theatres, midwifery, central sterilising, pharmacy, casualty, kitchen, and medical records.

Until 1981, there was never any indication that this development would not proceed and it is a great concern to the board that our development did not rank in the first of the McClelland reports. It is our hope that our needs will be recognised in the report's review, and the release of this review is keenly awaited.

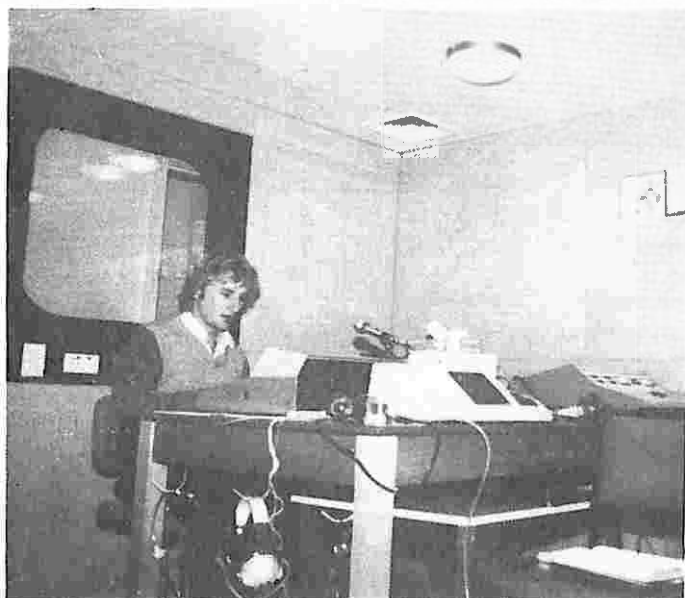
TO THE COMMUNITY



Mr Stan Capp
Manager

Related to our planning of the main block development is the cost of architect and consultant fees which had been charged and for which the Health Commission had not accepted responsibility for payment. The board is pleased to report that as a result of negotiation and discussion, the matter has been satisfactorily resolved. Although parties to the settlement have requested that details remain confidential, the board wishes to record that considerable support has been received from the Health Commission thereby permitting the hospital's reserves to remain largely intact. The personal interest and support of the Minister of Health, Mr. Tom Roper, in the resolution of this long outstanding matter has been appreciated.

Despite the setbacks on our main block development, some new works have been possible through the Minor Works programme funded by the Health Commission. Three major projects have been completed this year including the new casualty entrance, audiology centre



Audiologist Mr. David Brownstein testing equipment in the new sound proof audiology room.

and the extension of a fire escape to the fourth floor of the main block. Once again the works have involved disruption to normal routines and the co-operation of the staff and the community during these projects is appreciated. The casualty entrance has been a major project of the Engineering Department and we should feel very proud of the expertise and workmanship displayed in this area.

FINANCE

The financial reports disclose a total turnover in excess of \$12.4 million which reflects an 8.7% increase on the previous financial year. Much of this increase has been to absorb the cost of the 38 hour week which resulted in twenty additional positions being created.

The government introduced arbitrary cuts in the budgets of all departments and the effect on our hospital was a reduction in our approved budget of \$147,000. In order to meet this target it was necessary to introduce a number of initiatives which reduced expenditures but did not affect our staffing levels or our service provision. A budget committee was formed and representatives of all parts of the hospital joined together to form strategies to enable our targets to be met. The final result was that we met our target apart from some unavoidable expenses incurred by the introduction of Medicare. It is understood that our budget will be adjusted to recognise these expenses.

The board wishes to acknowledge the contribution of those who served on the Budget Committee and also thank the staff who assisted the committee in the implementation of its strategies.

The cuts to our budgets are expected to be of an on-going nature and whilst this year has concluded satisfactorily, the effects over the long term on staff, facilities and patient care cannot be ignored. The board accepts the challenge of living within resources but recognises that this may lead to some changes in service provision.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE PROGRAMME

The board has continued its support of the healthy lifestyle programme which commenced in 1982 with the screening of 200 staff, medical practitioners and board members.

This year, classes have been conducted in weight reduction, stress management and exercise with several staff participating. Follow-up is occurring on all who participated in the screening programme to enable some assessment to be made of its effect on lifestyle. Discussions are also taking place with the Health Commission to determine the appropriateness of extending our programme into the wider community. A major initiative this year has been the surveying of our staff to gain an understanding of the quality of work life enjoyed. The results of this survey have been very interesting and overall show a healthy organisational climate. How-

ever, it did highlight some areas of concern and these are now being addressed in a positive manner. A further highlight of the year was the recognition by the Commonwealth Department of Health of our healthy lifestyle programme by the granting of an award for health programmes at work. The award was the only one granted to a Victorian hospital.

WORKSHOP

The board is aware of the need to plan and respond to the needs of the community and to constantly review what is being done and how it could be done more effectively. In order to give consideration to the future directions of the hospital, the board held a one day workshop. The specific tasks of the day were to consider the hospital's objectives, a strategy for achieving these objectives and the role of board members in both the hospital and the community. As a result of this workshop, a number of action plans were determined. These plans are now being put into effect and the board is giving consideration to the feasibility of introducing new services.

STAFF

A major appointment during the year was that of our Medical Administrator, Dr. Alan Wolff who commenced his duties in January, 1984. Dr. Wolff had been on rotation to Horsham in 1983 as a fellow in medical administration and has previously held appointments at Prince Henry's Hospital and The Royal Melbourne Hospital. The board welcomes Dr. Wolff's appointment and looks forward to working with him in the coming years.



(L to R) Mrs. G. Curran (Director of Nursing), Mrs. June Griffith, Dr. Max Griffith, Mr. Stan Capp. Dr. Griffith and his wife were farewelled by staff in December, 1983.

The position of Medical Administrator became available due to Dr. Max Griffith proceeding to long service leave prior to his retirement in February, 1985. Dr. Griffith has given a lifetime's service to the Victorian public hospital system having been Director of Anaesthetics at the Alfred Hospital for nine years and Medical Administrator at our hospital since 1975. Dr. Griffith is an eminent professional and the board wishes to record its appreciation for the contribution he has made to our hospital and wish both he and his wife, June, a happy and healthy retirement.

The board was pleased to make three new appointments to the medical staff over the year. Dr. David Bracy was appointed consultant orthopaedic surgeon and Dr. Gillian Jenkinson and Dr. Roger Williams were appointed visiting medical officers.

APPRECIATION

Several organisations and individuals support our hospital throughout the year and the board wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all who have contributed in any way.

Once again the Wimmera Base Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary has made significant donations to the hospital. The board is aware of the great efforts of these ladies to raise funds and records its gratitude and appreciation. The Uncle Bobs Club generously donated funds to enable the purchase of neo-natal equipment. This group does an enormous amount of work for the children of this state and we are grateful for their ongoing support.



Marie Morrison, Mothercraft Nurse, checks neo-natal equipment donated by the Uncle Bobs club.

The board would also like to express special thanks to the following organisations:

Health Commission of Victoria
 Department of Social Security
 RS. Demaine, Russell, Trundle, Armstrong & Orton Pty. Ltd.
 Demaine Partnership Pty. Ltd.
 The Victorian Hospitals Association Limited
 Australian Hospital Association
 Horsham City Council
 Wimmera Mail-Times
 Radio stations 3WV and 3WM
 Television station BTV6

In concluding this report we wish to reiterate our appreciation to all the staff who contribute to our hospital in such a positive way. Staff professionalism and expertise is a major factor in the way in which our health service is delivered and the board acknowledges the high standards which this hospital enjoys.

Reece Burgess
PRESIDENT

Stan Capp
MANAGER



Dr. Alan Wolff
Medical Administrator

This year saw the establishment of a new medical department at the Hospital. After numerous representations made to the State Government, the Wimmera Hearing Society finally achieved its goal of convincing the Health Commission to provide funds for a much needed **Audiology Clinic** in Horsham.

After some initial delays, a large sound-treated room was installed at 75 Baillie Street and the purchase of the latest testing equipment makes the clinic one of the most up-to-date in the country.

One of the highlights of the year in the Audiology Department was its involvement in the Wimmera Machinery Field Days free hearing test programme. Over 200 people, mainly farmers, were screened for hearing loss over the three days in March. Sadly 60% failed the test, many of these having severe hearing losses caused by excessive exposure to noisy farm machinery and lack of adequate hearing protection. Those who failed the screening test were referred for further audiological management. The programme proved to be most valuable in educating the public about the dangers of prolonged noise exposure and the importance of adequate protection and hearing conservation in general.

The **Dietetic Department** continues to see in-patients and out-patients in regard to dietary modification. This service is being used more, as is the regional service provided one day per week. The regional service includes regular visits to Stowell, Dimboola, Nhill and Warracknabeal.

Within the Hospital, two staff weight loss groups have achieved excellent results. These began as a result of the Healthy Lifestyle Screening Programme. More groups are planned for the future.

Invitations from groups within the community, including diabetics, cottage parents, and students present the opportunity to re-inforce general nutrition education.

The **Dental Clinic** has been able to establish a liaison with the Royal Dental Hospital that will enable our apprentice dental technician, Jeff Umbers, to spend some weeks at the Dental Hospital laboratory later this year.

MEDICAL DIVISION

The clinic had the pleasure of welcoming the Director of Regional Dental Clinics and Chairman of the Victorian Dental Board Dr. John Dawkins to the clinic on a brief visit. Dr. Dawkins commended the clinic most favourably on its efforts.

During the next few months the clinic will expand its services to include regular examination of all resident patients from the Menzies and Geriatric Wings.

About 130 new books have been added to the **Medical Library catalogue**. To accommodate our growing collection of books and journals, extra shelving has been installed and some of the outdated issues of journals have been sent to larger libraries to allow us to conserve space.



Sandra Ebejer, Medical Records Clerk, using new photographic equipment in the department.

In the **Medical Records Department** rapidly expanding files led the department to investigate and subsequently purchase an in-house microfilming system. This system will be used in the first instance to film the vast number of inactive records which date back as far as early this century. This procedure will result in greatly reduced storage space requirements.

The department continues to provide medical record services to eleven regional hospitals. The recent approval of a three-year degree course in medical record administration will open many new horizons to professionals in the field and it is hoped that department members will be able to take an active part in the upgrading of medical record qualifications.

A major highlight in the **Occupational Therapy Department** was the commencement of stress management classes conducted by the occupational therapist as part of the healthy lifestyle programme. Classes were conducted for general hospital staff and for all student nurses. Other highlights included outings for the patients to the Wimmera Wool Factory, the Horsham Show, the Wimmera Machinery Field Days and 'On our Selection' at the Horsham Theatre.



Scientist, Helen O'Dea, using the new blood cell counter equipment.

In the **Pathology Department** considerable new equipment purchases included a Lietz Freezing Microtome for frozen sections, Coulter S to automate full blood counts, a blood film staining machine and atomic absorption spectrophotometer for measuring trace metals in the blood.

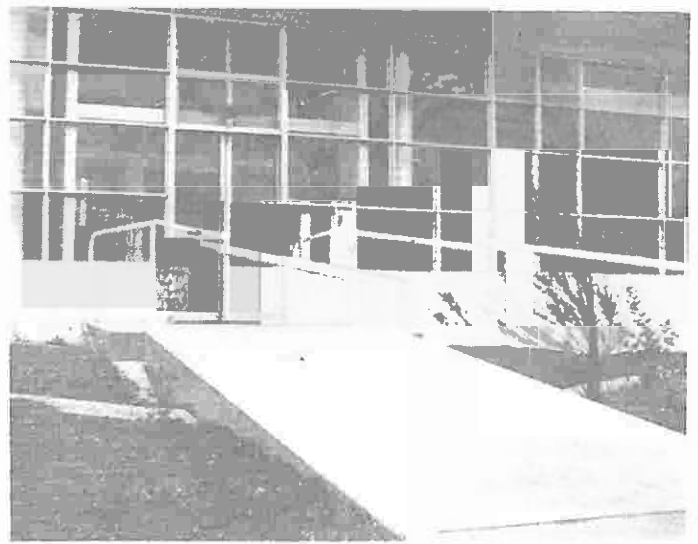
The department now has several of the larger out-put analysers linked to Apple microcomputers which record and check the results produced and then make direct entry of the results to the main laboratory computer.

The main computer is now handling all accounts for the Group Linen Service as well as the Laboratory and X-Ray Departments and producing labels for Base Hospital in-patients.

During the past year **Pharmacy** services have been maintained with a 10% increase in items issued. The impres system is now being extended to the Casualty, Outpatients Department. All ward areas will now have the benefit of this service. The Hospital prescribers list has been completed and is now available in all ward areas. It contains a complete list of all drugs stocked by the Pharmacy and, in addition, the location of these within the Hospital. It should prove to be of benefit to both Medical and Nursing Staff.

Chemotherapy protocols are being supplied with drug issues and it is hoped that within the not too distant future these drugs may be reconstituted in a sterile laminar flow area by the Pharmacy staff. Regional services are being maintained and during the past year a sessional Pharmacy service was introduced at Murtoa Hospital.

After a very significant contribution to the hospital and community, Joy Anderson announced her retirement from the **Social Welfare Department** in April this year. Her enthusiasm and concern in this area will be greatly missed. There is therefore an urgent need for a chief social worker appointment in the department to cope with its busy load. It is hoped that this position will be shortly filled.



New automatic sliding doors and a new ramp provided a new entrance to the Physiotherapy Department in 1984.

Highlights for the year in the **Physiotherapy Department** included the commencement of an exercise programme as part of the healthy lifestyle programme follow-up. Also there has been upgrading of facilities and equipment. An automatic door with a ramp allowing safer access by patients has been installed, three hydraulic high-low treatment couches aiding manipulative techniques and staff safety have been purchased and an interferential unit has been purchased for use in the treatment of acute injuries and chronic pain. There has also been an increase in the number of weekly ante-natal classes due to an increase in community response.

The **Podiatry** service has been extended to include regular visits to Edenhope, monthly, and Nairnuk, fortnightly. Aside from this, the past twelve months have been spent consolidating, with treatment numbers continuing to rise and administration methods being updated.

The recent acquisition of an X-ray film copier in the **Radiology Department** has fulfilled a long standing need by the department. Copies of X-rays are often required for clinical and medico-legal purposes.

The **Speech Pathology Department** which is now located with the newly created Audiology Department is proving beneficial in case management in both children and adults with speech problems due to hearing loss. Also the introduction of intensive fluency programmes has proved very successful.

In February this year Mr. David Bracy was appointed as visiting orthopaedic surgeon to the hospital and will alternate with Mr. Andrew McQueen to provide a three-weekly outpatient service.

The continuing high standard of medical care has been given to all patients at the Hospital, despite a high turnover among paramedical staff. It is hoped, with a concerted effort, that some stability can be achieved with staffing in these areas, and that some departments will be able to expand their range of activities.

To all staff, especially paramedical and medical, I would like to extend my thanks for their assistance in making my job easier and maintaining the high standard of patient care in the hospital.

Alan Wolff

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATOR

MEDICAL STAFF

at June 30, 1984

Medical Administrator:

A.M. Wolff, M.B., B.S., Dip., R.A.C.O.G.

Director of Pathology:

G. Humphries, M.A., B.M., Ch.B., D.T.M. and H., D.R.C. Path., M.R.C. Path.

Director of Radiology:

L. Wong Shee, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.R.A.

Director of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care:

R.C. Bennett, M.B., B.S., D.A. (Lond.), M.F.A.R.C.S.

PARA MEDICAL STAFF

at June 30, 1984

Chief Pharmacist:

Mr. I. Gerlach, Ph.C., M.P.S., F.S.H.P.

Chief Radiographer:

Mr. H. Kortman, M.I.R., A.R.M.I.T.

Chief Physiotherapist:

Mrs. J. Ellis, B.App. Sc (Phty), M.A.P.A.

Chief Speech Pathologist:

Mr. S.D. Hill, B.App.Sc (Sp.Path'y), M.A.A.S.H.

Chief Medical Records Administrator:

Mrs. C. Dooling, Assoc. Dip (Medical Records Administration)

Medical Librarian:

Mrs. J. Sheldon, B.A.

Chief Occupational Therapist:

Mrs. J. Jarred, B.App. Sc. (O.T.), M.V.A.O.T.

Dietitian:

Mrs. P. Marshman, B.Sc. (Monash), Grad. Dip. Diet.

Podiatrist :

Miss C. Tynan, Dip. App. Sc. (Podiatry)

Audiologist:

Mr. D. Brownstein, B.Sc., Dip., Aud.

Laboratory Manager:

Mr. R. Starr, B. Sc., M.A.A.C.B.

VISITING MEDICAL STAFF

at June 30, 1984

Consulting Staff:

R.A.M. Taylor, M.B., B.S., (Lond.), L.M.S.S.A.

M. M. O'Brien, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P.

Consulting Pathologist:

G. B. Leyton, M.A., M.D., D.C.P., F.R.C.Path., F.R.C.P.A.

Consulting Surgeon:

E. G. Brownstein, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin), F.R.A.C.S.

Obstetrician and Gynaecologist:

E. T. Miller, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.O.G.

Ophthalmologist:

D. Kaufmann, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.S.

Oral Surgeon:

P. Bowker, M.D.Sc., F.D.S.R.C.S. (Eng)

Orthopaedic Surgeon:

A. McQueen, F.R.A.C.S.

D. Bracey, F.R.A.C.S.

Paediatrician:

M. Brown, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.P.

Physician:

R. E. Abud, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.P.

Psychiatrist:

I. V. Jackson M.B., B.S., D.P.M., M.R.C. Psych.

Otolaryngologist:

R.L. Thomas, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.S.

Surgeon:

G.S. R. Kitchen, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.S.

Vascular Surgeon:

I. A. Ferguson, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.S.

Medical Officers:

C. H. Foord, M.B., B.S., Dip. Obst., R.C.O.G.

P. P. Haslau, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P.

A. Horwood, M.B., B.S.

G.M. Jenkinson M.B., B.S.

J. Jenkinson, M.B., B.S.

D. Leembruggen, M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P.

R. M. Lloyd, M.B., B.S., Dip. Obst.

A. McBain, M.B., B.S.

G. A. O'Brien, M.B., B.S., Dip. Obst., R.C.O.G.

J.R. Williams M.B., B.S., D.C.H., D.A., D.R.C.O.G.

Dental Surgeons:

B. Bourke, B.D. Sc., I.D.S.

D. Lye, B.D. Sc., I.D.S.

J. McCombe, B.D. Sc., I.D.S.

M. Monk, B.D.S. (Lond.)

C.W. Pearson, B.D. Sc., I.D.S.

E. Wolff, M.D. Sc., I.D.S., F.R.A.C.D.S.



Mrs. Gillian Curran
Director of Nursing.

NURSING SERVICE REPORT

The past year has provided great challenges to the nursing staff. We have experienced a reduction in the financial resources for the provision of patient care and although we have made our contribution to budgetary savings, it has not been without some untoward effects.

The strategy of cost savings by restricting the employment of permanent night staff has been reviewed as the financial gains were outweighed by staff stress factors. Difficulty has also been experienced in recruiting staff to implement the 38-hour week.

The staff have done their utmost to ensure that standards of patient care have been maintained and will continue to work towards this goal. I thank them sincerely for their contribution and support. The report from the surveyors from the Australian Council on Hospital Standards was very complimentary to all divisions of the hospital and reflects credit on all staff disciplines who work together as a close-knit team to achieve the objectives set by the Board of Management.

Our School of Nursing continues to achieve excellent results in the nurse training programme and we await with interest the findings of the committee of enquiry into nursing and the joint ministerial working party on costs associated with the transfer of nurse training to tertiary institutions. Submissions were forwarded to both these enquiries.

The annual nurses' graduation ceremony was held on February 23, 1984, when Miss Faye Smith, a former Wimmera Base Hospital graduate, presently with the Neo-Natal Emergency Transport Service, was guest speaker. She presented hospital certificates to the following graduates:

Wendy June Davis
Sheryl Janine Robertson
Francis Allan Blake
Helen Louise Dymke
Marita Anne Keane
Kaye Elizabeth Wagenknecht
Mary Angela Walsh
Krystyna Maria Wesolek
Barry Charles McIntyre
Teresa Clare Bayd

Bronwen Lynette Boone
Pamella Louise Bothe
Cheree Leanne Croser
Kerryn Christina Eldridge
Alison Louise King
Susanne Marshman
Trevor James Spencer
Julie Anne Walsgott
Susan Joy Warrick
Jennifer Dorothy Wilcox

The T.F. Ryan Nursing prize was awarded to Helen Dymke, the Wimmera Base Hospital Past Trainees' Award was awarded to Cheree Croser, and the Award for academic excellence was awarded to Julie Walsgott.

Students who commenced their training during the year:-

Group 883:

Lisa Ann Arnott
Jennifer May Blandthorn
Julie Margaret Dickson
Gay Elizabeth Healey
Donna Louise Hurley
Louise Margaret Kearns
Robyn Maree Kuhne
Kaylene Elizabeth Lutze
Sally Anne Radcliffe
Jennifer Ridler
Trudy Dawn Robbins
Alison Maree Ward

Group 284:

Dorothy Lillian Barber
Gaynor Heather Biggs
Birgitte Rita Brown
Terry-Anne Chisholm
Robin James Crawford
Bernadette Anne Craig
Pauline Maree Falls
Dionne Farnsworth
Leonie Therese Keane
Fabian Patrick McLinden
Therese Mary Sharry
Christine Mary Sinclair
Wendy Anne Stronach
Judith Anne Wood

SCHOOL OF NURSING:

The past twelve months have been extremely busy and rewarding.

Twenty-six young people commenced their general nurse training, twelve in late July, fourteen in late January. The majority of these came from the Wimmera area, in keeping with our policy of giving preference to local residents. While gladly welcoming them, it was also sad to lose twenty-six of our students. After passing their registration examinations, eight students left in August and ten in February. The other eight students discontinued for a variety of reasons during their first or second year of training.

Presently the student body is 64, with 22 third year students, 16 second year students and 26 first year students.

Both the theoretical and clinical programmes have undergone minor revision, to increase correlation between theory and practice, and to allow for the 38-hour week.

Once again the staff has seen changes. We were sorry to lose Sr. M. Facchin, our clinical instructor, to her new position as charge sister in C.S.S.D. We welcomed Sr. C. Witney as our new clinical instructor.

As usual, our educational responsibilities have extended beyond the basic nursing course and have included providing and supervising work experience for 29 district secondary school students. We have also supervised four weeks' general nursing experience for five students from Pleasant Creek Training Centre and ten from Aradale. Most Monday mornings have seen us helping to orientate new nursing staff. The graduate nurse in-service education programme has continued each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but attendances have not been as good as last year.

Mrs. Curzon, a nursing officer from the Victorian Nursing Council inspected the School of Nursing and hospital in September. The few problems that were highlighted have since been rectified.

The School of Nursing staff have continued their involvement in post-basic courses. Sister J. Champlin has commenced the four year Diploma of Teaching (Nursing) course through Armidale College of Advanced Education, Sisters, P. Keyte, L. Mentha and C. Witney have almost completed this course. Sisters M. Pannan and B. Taylor have completed the graduate Diploma in Educational Administration (Hawthorn).



1984 Student Nurse Graduates

STAFF CHANGES

Sister Betty Boyd resigned on April 2nd, 1984, from the position of charge sister on Ward 1. Sister Boyd was on the midwifery ward staff for 25 years with seventeen of those years as sister in charge. She demonstrated a complete commitment to the service she gave, with love and compassion to more than 7000 mothers and babies. We thank her for that commitment and commend her for the pursuit of excellence she demonstrated throughout her nursing career. We sincerely wish her a long and happy retirement. Sister Jan Lawson is acting charge sister on Ward 1 pending the appointment of a permanent charge sister.

Mrs. Margaret Facchin has been appointed charge sister of C.S.S.D./Infection Control following the resignation of Mrs. Pam Muszkieta.



The hospital farewellled Sr. Betty Boyd in April 1984 after 25 years of service to the hospital.

Mrs. Louise Walsh resigned as Assistant Director of Nursing prior to proceeding on maternity leave in April. Miss Jocelyn Lade, from the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, has been appointed to the position and will commence duty in September.

The Board of Management continues to sponsor staff to upgrade their education by attendance at seminars and study courses. Dianne Thornton and Elizabeth McLean successfully completed the one-month course in coronary care at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Peter Davie and Dianne Thornton attended the intensive care unit at Prince Henry's Hospital for special training in intensive care nursing.

Lynne Maggs and Catherine Seymour from Ward 1 spent two weeks at the Queen Victoria Hospital. Jan Lawson and Patricia McKay spent two weeks at the Royal Women's Hospital to observe and practise new methods of care in the neo-natal nurseries. We are grateful to the management and staff of all these hospitals for offering their facilities and staff to assist us in this way.



Sr. Fiona Schneider was awarded the Lyndal Skea Scholarship in 1984

Mrs. Fiona Schneider was awarded the Lyndal Skea Scholarship and attended The Royal Melbourne Hospital Oncology Unity for two weeks' study in the treatment of patients requiring cytotoxic therapy.

DAY CENTRE

A number of changes have occurred in the Day Centre since the last report.

Due to budget cuts the nursing staff and occupational therapy staff have become more involved with the transporting of our patients to and from the Day Centre and their homes.

Two very successful open days and donations from interested visitors and relatives have enabled us to purchase our own colour television set.

Two very successful outings were organised, one to Halls Gap to see the wild flowers and the other to Warracknabeal to visit the antique museum and the machinery museum.

Visits to local displays and plays have also involved staff and patients of the Day Centre.

To the Ladies' Auxiliary, service clubs, school groups and the many community members who have demonstrated so much interest and support in the hospital, we extend our sincere thanks for your generosity.

In concluding this report I wish to record the thanks of the nursing staff to the Board of Management, and all hospital and medical staff for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

G.M. Curran
DIRECTOR OF NURSING

NURSING STAFF
at June 30, 1984.

Director of Nursing:
Mrs. G.M. Curran, Dip. Theatre Man., F.C.N.A.

Deputy Director of Nursing:
Mrs. J.I. Waixel

Assistant Director of Nursing:
Mrs. S. Wines

Supervisory Sisters:

Miss C. Lamenta

Mrs. J. Yarwood

NURSE TRAINING SCHOOL
at June 30, 1984.

Principal Nurse Teacher:
Mrs. M. I. Pannan, Assoc. Dip. N. Ed. (Armidale)

Deputy Principal Nurse Teacher:
Mrs. B.J. Taylor, Assoc. Dip. N. Ed. (Cumberland)



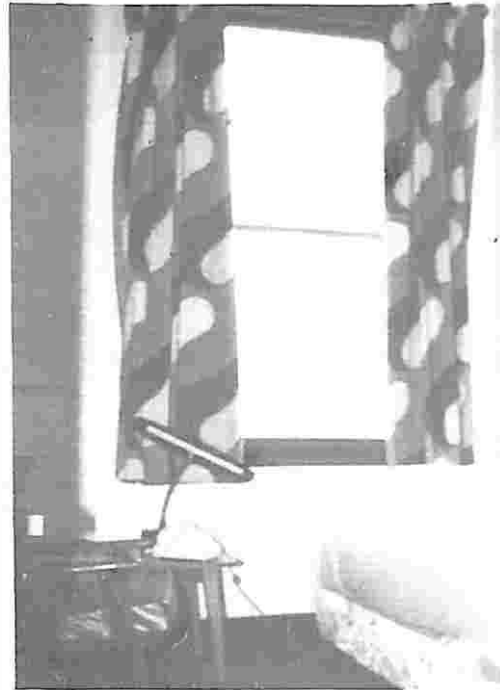
Sr. J. Ellis demonstrating nursing procedures in the practical room.

L to R SN Robyn Kuhne, SN Louise Keans, SN Lisa Arnott, Sr. Jenny Ellis, SN Donna Hurley.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR — IN CAMERA



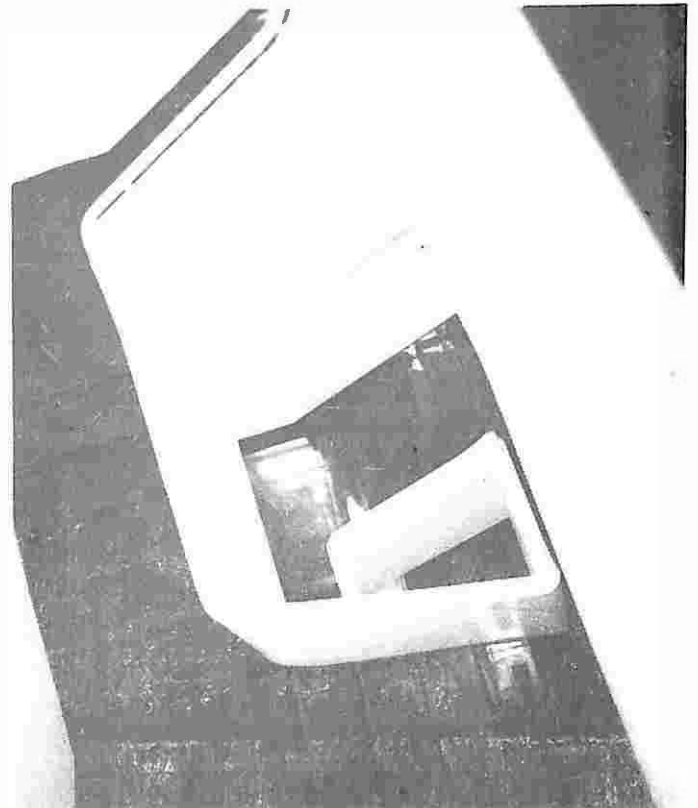
Scientist, Mr Graham Exell, measures trace metals in blood using the atomic absorption spectrophotometer purchased by the hospital.



Accommodation was provided in the main hospital block for the Resident Medical Officer on duty.



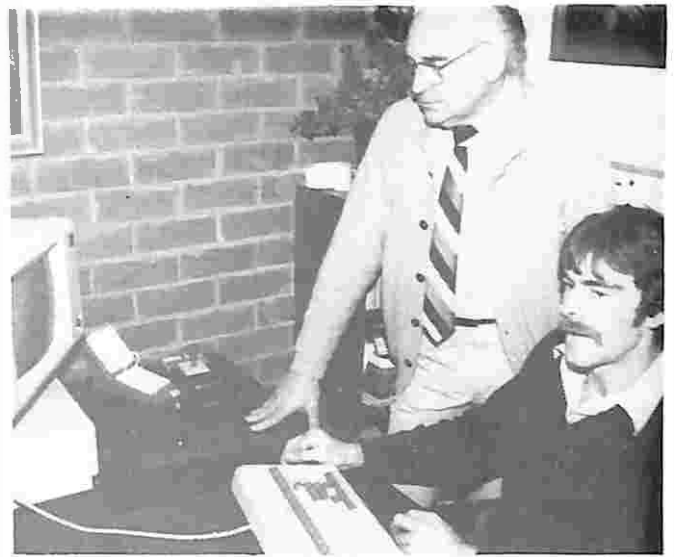
Construction of a new lift has commenced at the hospital.



The fire escape was extended from the third to the fourth floor.



The bathrooms in wards 4 and 5 were renovated during the year.



Purchasing officer, Mr. Maurice O'Connor and storeman, Mr. Rick Dumesney with the new store computer.



Assistant Manager, Mr. Murray Williams, in training for the interhospital Spring & East.



Welfare staff in front of their new department.



Tradesmen at work on the new hospital casualty entrance.



Mr. Murray Williams
Assistant Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The past year for the Administrative Services Division has been highlighted by the same factors which have affected all other areas of the hospital. Those factors are the introduction of the 38-hour week, the reduction in approved budgets and the accreditation survey which took place in November, 1983.

I am pleased to report that we have worked through these challenges effectively and I am particularly pleased with the manner in which the various departments have responded and supported the initiatives taken in response to these issues.

During the year two of our departmental heads resigned. Mr. Gary Mason resigned as Finance Manager in April, 1984 and his position has been taken by Mr. John Airey. Mr. Ross Haby, who had been employed at the hospital for nine years resigned his position to take up a post as Assistant Manager at the Hamilton Base Hospital. A further restructuring of the administrative services division has occurred with Mr. Haby's departure and Mr. Bernie Waixel has now assumed the role of administering four of our annexe and associated agencies as well as personnel recruitment. Mr. Paul O'Connor has assumed responsibility for payroll and personnel recording and Mr. Stuart Schneider is our personnel training officer with additional responsibilities in safety, healthy lifestyle promotion and special projects. Mr. Schneider also administers an annexe hospital.

We have been pleased to welcome Mr. Michael Toone to our administrative team and he has assumed the responsibilities of general services manager which encompasses the domestic services and the Wimmera Hospitals Group Linen Service.

The **Food Services Department** is continuing to provide for the catering needs of patients and staff within the confines of its resources and facilities. The department has been particularly active in reassessing its purchasing and stock control and has successfully made cost reductions with no effect on the quality of meals provided to both patients and staff. All staff have been involved in planning and implementation of this project which has proven to be most effective.

We were all saddened at the sudden death of Mrs. Rita Gaylor during the year. Mrs. Gaylor had worked in the food services department for 27 years and is missed by all her colleagues and friends in the hospital. Another personality who has left the department is Mrs. Marjory Hardingham who retired after 39 years of service to the Wimmera Base Hospital. We hope that Mrs. Hardingham's retirement is long and happy. Mr. Renzo Panozzo completed his apprenticeship with us and is now furthering his career in private enterprise.



The Hospital farewellled Mrs. Marjory Hardingham after 39 years service.

The McClelland Report into capital works requirements classified a new kitchen project as a priority. It is disappointing that this is not part of an overall hospital wide development, but it is at least a recognition that the kitchen facilities at this hospital are inadequate and in need of upgrading. It is to be hoped that the new facility will be built in the near future, thus enabling a better and more efficient food service to be provided.

The **Engineering Department** has continued its high standard of maintenance and upkeep of the hospital's buildings, plant, equipment and grounds, as well as continuing to operate the hospital's boilers for the production of steam and hot water, the water treatment facility and the emergency power generation equipment. A major project for the department during the year was the design and construction of the new casualty entrance. All trades contributed to this project and the standard of workmanship involved has brought comment from many sources. We are fortunate to have such talented staff with us.



Mr. Jack Thomas, carpenter, instructing Mr. Tim Butler, apprentice.

In the **General Services Department** the domestics, cleaners and orderlies have continued the high standard of cleanliness throughout the hospital over the past year.



General Services Manager, Mr. Mike Toone, discussing the performance of a new vacuum cleaner with Mr. Jack O'Connor (left) and Mr. Colin Mills (right).

The performance by the general services team was highlighted in the recent accreditation, wherein Wimmera Base Hospital was classed as having an extremely high standard of cleanliness. Morale has been very good and the group has been capably led by Miss Kathy Flack and Mr. Athol Coombes. A significant purchase for the year was ten vacuum cleaners which are significantly quieter than those previously in use. This has resulted in some reductions in noise levels throughout the hospital.



Staff at work in the sorting area of the laundry.

The **Group Linen Service** is one of those quiet achievers which is vital to the overall performance of not only Wimmera Base Hospital, but the 24 other health care providers in the region spreading from Beulah in the north, Donald in the east, Stowell to the south and Kaniva to the west.

One of the most important assets of any organisation is its staff and there are now five employees of the linen service who have over twenty-five years' service. These are Mr. Barry McCourt, Mr. Laurie Hirst, Mrs. Maria Cericola, Mrs. Betty Muller and Mrs. Angie Aucello. This is a tremendous achievement and indicative of the loyalty displayed by members of the group linen service. Indeed the average service figure for all full-time staff is nearly ten years' service.

With a very productive and fruitful 1983/84 just completed the laundry staff now looks forward to servicing all hospitals and other agencies in the coming year.

The hospital's **Personnel Department** continues to service the needs of all employees and is involved in staff selection, training and the processing of payroll for twelve health care organisations throughout the Wimmera. The department has been particularly active in providing the administrative support for the introduction of the 38-hour week which has generated another twenty equivalent full-time staff at the hospital. Further development of personnel budget information has taken place and is leading to better reporting and analysis.



Mr. Paul O'Connor, Administrative Officer, discussing a personnel report with Mr. Peter O'Beirne, Paymaster.

The **Business Administration Department** is responsible for controlling the hospital's finances and recommending on matters of financial policy. The detailed reporting now required by the Health Commission of Victoria has placed significant workloads on the department and this is particularly difficult when these reports are required not only for the Wimmera Base Hospital, but for all other annexe and associated hospitals. Despite these pressures, the department has again functioned efficiently. There are a number of projects now in place to improve the financial reporting within the hospital and to place greater emphasis on the involvement of the various departments in the budget setting process. The department looks forward to participating with all sections of the hospital in developing these systems.

The **Purchasing and Supply Department** is responsible for the purchase of all goods and materials needed in the day to day running of the hospital and a number of other health agencies through the region. This department has also been under considerable pressure in this financial year in assessing stock levels and buying patterns.

One of the key reasons for the success of the administrative services division has been the leadership and guidance of the divisional head, Mr. Murray Williams.



Accountant, Mr Stephen Bell, discussing financial returns with finance staff Miss Sue Woodward and Miss Amanda Lind.

Towards the end of this financial year Mr. Williams was appointed Manager of the Ovens and Murray Hospital for the Aged at Beechworth in north-eastern Victoria. Mr. Williams showed great administrative abilities and we wish him well in his new position.

S.B. Capp
MANAGER

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

at June 30, 1984

ASSISTANT MANAGER:

Mr. M.D. Williams, B.Bus., M.H.P., A.A.S.A., A.H.A.
(Prov.)

FINANCE MANAGER:

Mr. J. Airey, B.Bus., A.A.S.A., M.I.A.A.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS:

Mr. P. T. O'Connor
Mr. S.M. Schneider, B.Sc., Dip. Ed., B. Ed. (Admin)
Mr. B.N. Waixel

GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER:

Mr. M.J. Toone

CHIEF ENGINEER:

Mr. T.R. Martin, M.I.H.E., M.A.I.R.A.H.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER:

Mr. R.S. Cox, A.F.C.I.A., M.I.H.C.

REGIONAL RELIEVING MANAGER:

Mr. J.W.F. Walker, B.H.A., L.H.A.

PURCHASING OFFICER:

Mr. M. J. O'Connor, J.P.

THE COMMUNITY IN THE HOSPITAL

LADIES' AUXILIARY

I have much pleasure in presenting the annual report of the Wimmera Base Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary for 1983-84. It has been another very successful year with our donation to the hospital being \$15,182-60.

The Opportunity shop is continuing to progress well with record sales again this year of \$9,459-53. This has been possible with the continued support of church guilds and district ladies' clubs and individual donors who have stocked the shop throughout the year. We have a very hardworking committee to whom I give my sincere thanks. Our weekly dinners and monthly raffles are still being well supported by the public as well as our house parties.

Our functions for the year were a very successful luncheon in the Town Hall with a floral and gown extravaganza by Mr. Greg Block, cocktail party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Schmidt, coffee party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Rudolph and a luncheon at Mr. and Mrs. J. Freijah's home. To these people we extend our sincere thanks.

To the Mail-Times and local radio stations for publicity, donors of gifts for raffles and prizes, hospital staff from various departments and Mr. Stan Capp for auditing of our books, we give our grateful thanks.

The money raised throughout the year is to be used for furnishing and extras for the proposed additional frail aged unit.

In concluding, I would like to thank all the members for their help and support throughout the year and to the incoming office bearers, my best wishes for the coming year.

Joy Murch
PRESIDENT



Presentation of a Ladies' Auxiliary Life Member's Certificate to Miss Mamie Smith. Left to right: Dr. Mary Brown, Mrs. June Griffith, (Immediate Past President), Miss Mamie Smith, Mrs. Edna Crellin (Secretary).

RED CROSS LIBRARY

It is my pleasure to present the annual report of the Red Cross Library.

We have had a busy year delivering books to the patients. We also have a picture library, from which prints are hung in the Sir Robert Menzies Nursing Home, Geriatric Unit and the Day Centre. Comments indicate that the prints are very much admired by the patients and the visitors. The prints are changed every three months.

In February we were moved from our own library on the fourth floor to a hospital house where we are sharing a room. In the near future we hope to have a library room again in the hospital.

Our library consists of many interesting books and also included are the large print books, which are very much appreciated by the aged patients.

At Christmas we had our geriatric party and the patients were provided with afternoon tea served by the Red Cross Unit. They were also given a gift. Our thanks go to Mavis and Harry Muller for entertaining everyone.

We also gave gifts to the patients in the Sir Robert Menzies Nursing Home. These gifts were purchased with money raised from a trading table at our monthly meetings. RSL patients were also given gifts, which were wrapped and sent from headquarters.

Our services at the hospital help in many other ways. Red Cross certainly gives a lot of pleasure through helping others and it is found that the patients get much happiness from our visits and assistance, which is very rewarding.

In closing my report I would like to thank Mr. Capp for the help and advice he gave during the year.

Thanks also go to my assistant Miss Crafter for her help at all times and to other Members for their help. I need to thank Matron, sisters and nursing staff for their kindness and co-operation and Miss Maureen White, director of hospital services is again thanked for her assistance. To all others concerned a special thanks as this certainly makes our library work a very happy and rewarding one.

Thelmo Cain
LIBRARIAN

STATISTICS FOR 1983/84



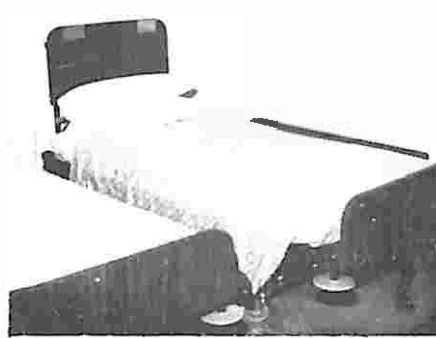
ADMISSIONS

1982/83 3,546
1983/84 3,634



AUDIOLOGY

1982/83 —
1983/84 475 attendances



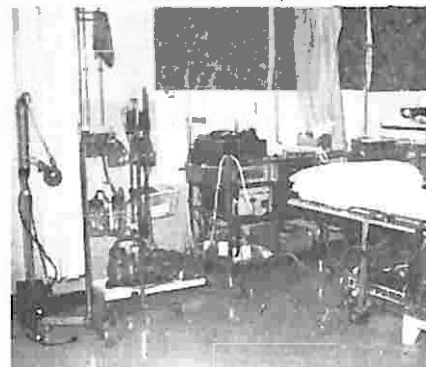
BED DAYS

1982/83 23,376
1983/84 25,264



BIRTHS

1982/83 337
1983/84 314



CASUALTY

1982/83 9,926 attendances
1983/84 7,681 attendances



DAY CENTRE

1982/83 5,750 attendances
1983/84 6,319 attendances



DENTAL CLINIC

1982/83 4,134 attendances
1983/84 3,790 attendances



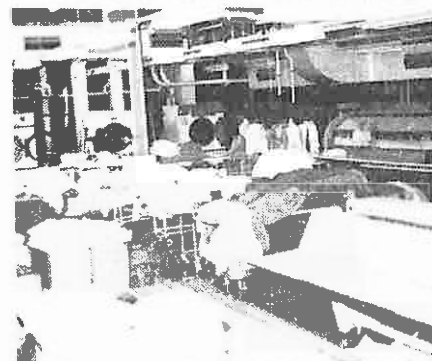
DIETETICS

1982/83 1955 consultations
1983/84 2,906 consultations



DISTRICT NURSING

1982/83 19,901 visits
1983/84 20,132 visits



LAUNDRY

1982/83 1,021 tonnes
1983/84 975 tonnes



MEALS PREPARED
 1982/83 244,953
 1983/84 245,851



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
 1982/83 17,091 treatments
 1983/84 14,926 treatments



PATHOLOGY
 1982/83 21,999 attendances
 1983/84 20,609 attendances



PHARMACY
 1982/83 132,709 items supplied
 1983/84 146,839 items supplied



PHYSIOTHERAPY
 1982/83 3973 attendances
 1983/84 3,751 attendances



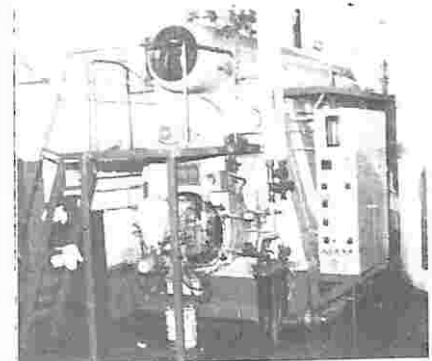
PODIATRY
 1982/83 1,862 attendances
 1983/84 2,406 attendances



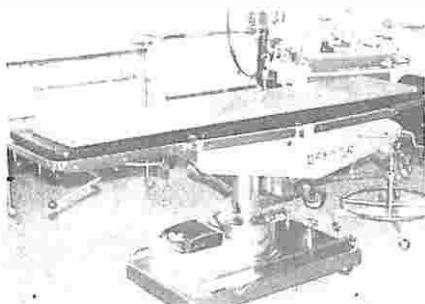
SOCIAL WELFARE
 1982/83 2,721 consultations
 1983/84 2,832 consultations



SPEECH PATHOLOGY
 1982/83 2,750 attendances
 1983/84 2,720 attendances



STEAM GENERATED
 1982/83 15,023 tonnes
 1983/84 13,110 tonnes



THEATRE OPERATIONS
 1982/83 1,608
 1983/84 1,734



X-RAY
 1982/83 7,319 examinations
 1983/84 7,677 examinations

WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR
HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME SECTIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1984
OPERATING ACCOUNT

Revenue	1983	1984
Hospital revenue		
Government grants	\$7,917,578	\$8,406,768 (1)
Inpatient fees	1,559,606	1,424,089 (2)
Non inpatient fees	457,224	397,866
Meals and accommodation	86,932	91,812
Meals on wheels	36,664	35,926
Other revenue and recoveries	32,627	64,442 (3)
Total Hospital revenue	<u>\$10,090,631</u>	<u>\$10,420,903</u>
Nursing Home revenue		
Government grants	1,005,558	1,251,518 (4)
Patient fees	399,589	432,563
Total nursing home revenue	<u>\$1,405,147</u>	<u>\$1,684,081</u>
Combined total	\$11,495,778	\$12,104,984
Deficit for year		350,947
	<u>\$11,495,778</u>	<u>\$12,455,931</u>
Expenditure		
Salaries and wages	\$8,147,084	\$8,754,569
Payment to visiting medical officers	215,612	318,257
Superannuation	97,143	89,157
Food supplies	323,056	341,823
Medical and surgical supplies	213,675	243,721
Special services department	149,698	159,290
Drug supplies	178,164	210,402
Fuel, light and power	317,503	370,635
Domestic and laundry charges	465,493	514,030
Renovations and equipment	195,564	111,004
Repairs and maintenance	171,329	129,153
Administrative expenses	370,347	360,573
Other expenses	616,131 (6)	853,317 (5)
Surplus for year	<u>\$11,460,799</u>	<u>\$12,455,931</u>
	34,979	
	<u>\$11,495,778</u>	<u>\$12,455,931</u>

WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL
BALANCE SHEET AS AT JUNE 30, 1984
OPERATING FUND

Assets	1983	1984
Advance accounts and cash on hand	\$31,490	\$31,490
Debtors - Patient	528,636	440,571 (7)
- other	83,062	77,711
Accrued income	16,151	
Stores	<u>133,585</u>	<u>121,361</u>
	<u>\$792,924</u>	<u>\$671,133</u>
Liabilities		
Bank overdraft	\$133,255	\$113,690
Accrued salaries and wages	82,707	137,059
Creditors	324,251	312,894
Provision for long service leave	390,666	454,205
Accrued annual leave	20,245	771,922 (8)
Accrued days off		42,110
Fund		
Fund surplus (deficit)	(158,200)	(1,160,747) (9)
	<u>\$792,924</u>	<u>\$671,133</u>

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AS AT JUNE 30, 1984

CAPITAL FUND

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash at bank	\$ 61,988	Loan Accounts	\$13,902
Investments	275,000	Tenant bonds	500
Land and buildings	4,735,557	Fund balance	5,805,933
Plant & equipment	1,207,522		
Less provision for depreciation	459,732		
	<u>747,790</u>		
	<u>\$ 5,820,335</u>		<u>\$ 5,820,335</u>

SPECIAL PURPOSES MEDICAL TRUST FUND

Cash at bank	\$ 16,305	Fund balance	\$ 517,675
Investments	445,000		
Motor vehicles at cost	41,409		
Other debtors	14,961		
	<u>\$ 517,675</u>		<u>\$ 517,675</u>

SPECIFIC PURPOSES FUND

Cash at bank	\$ 14,814	Fund balance	\$ 350,830(10)
Investments	335,800		
Savings account	216		
	<u>\$ 350,830</u>		<u>\$ 350,830</u>

WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL ANALYSIS OF MAJOR BANK ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE, 30, 1984

Capital Bank Account Summary

Receipts		Payments	
Balance July 1st, 1983	\$ 11,703	Land & buildings	\$ 305,957
Interest received	39,220	Sundry expenses	7,435
Rent	12,899	Balance June 30, 1984	61,988
Donations	6,451		
Sale of assets	138,409		
Transfer from investments	13,000		
Government grants	138,826		
Sundry receipts	14,872		
	<u>\$ 375,380</u>		<u>\$ 375,380</u>

SPECIAL PURPOSES MEDICAL BANK ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Receipts		Payments	
Balance July 1st, 1983	\$ 11,380	Equipment	\$ 127,822
Interest received	44,234	Private practice expenses	50,582
Ultrasound receipts	36,016	Ultrasound loan account	23,832
Private practice income	246,911	Transfer to investments	120,000
	<u>\$ 338,541</u>	Balance June 30, 1984	16,305
			<u>\$ 338,541</u>

SPECIFIC PURPOSES BANK ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Receipts		Payments	
Balance July 1st, 1983	\$ 335	Equipment	\$ 26,557
Interest received	64,552	Transfer to investments	53,000
Donations	30,980	Training expenses	3,849
Other	2,353	Balance June 30, 1984	14,814
	<u>\$ 98,220</u>		<u>\$ 98,220</u>

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

(1) Government grants

Grants received were:	
Ordinary	\$7,814,000
Specific purpose grants. (Collective Buy)	12,880
Works and services	173,071
Visiting nurses	39,170
P.A.D.P.	16,349
Employment	69,376
Home nursing subsidy	37,538
Costs met by Health Commission	244,384
	<u>\$8,406,768</u>

(3) Other revenue and recoveries

Sale of surplus goods	\$1,063
Mortuary fees	600
Sundry	15,769
Miscellaneous sundry debtors	30,449
Domiciliary	6,034
Dental	1,317
Domestic care	9,210
	<u>\$ 64,442</u>

(7) Debtors

Inpatients	
Private	\$109,779
Motor Accident	17,983
Workers compensation	8,811
Repatriation	31,542
Nursing home type	11,121
Boarders	250
Hospital	6,603

Less provision for doubtful debts	\$186,089
	<u>18,762</u>

Outpatients	
General	\$137,595*
Less provision for doubtful debts	<u>8,150</u>

Motor Accident Board	7,992
Less provision for	<u>1,892</u>

Workers compensation	8,458
Less provision for	<u>2,247</u>

Nursing home	
Patient fees	42,099
Department of Health	<u>95,240</u>
	137,339
Less provision for doubtful debts	<u>5,851</u>

(2) Inpatient fees

Private	\$1,093,100
Motor Accident Board	64,830
Workers Compensation	25,746
Repatriation	186,174
Boarders	560
Nursing Home Type	17,163
Hospital	36,516
	<u>\$1,424,089</u>

(4) Nursing home revenue government grants

Grants received were:	
Ordinary	\$135,000
Department of Health	1,100,360
Pharmaceutical benefits	16,158
	<u>\$1,251,518</u>

(5) Other expenses

Depreciation	\$107,803
Costs met by Health Commission ..	244,384
Additional provision for long service leave	203,980
Provision for annual leave	95,653
Decrease stock	12,224
Accrued days off	42,110
Ambulance	117,325
Other	29,838
	<u>\$853,317</u>

\$167,327

129,445

6,100

6,211

131,488
\$440,571

(6) Prior year payments in lieu reclassified to payment to visiting medical officers.

(8) Previously accrued annual leave was limited to leave which had not been taken within 12 months of it becoming due. Standard practice now necessitates all accrued annual leave at balance date to be brought to account.

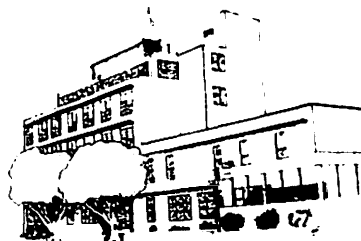
* Includes special purposes debtors

(9) Fund deficit

Accumulated deficit as at July 1, 1983.....	\$ (158,200)
LESS repayment of prior year deficit	67,553
ADD deficit for year.....	(350,947)
LESS Prior year adjustments.....	
Annual leave..... (656,024)	
Radiology opening balance ... 9,611	
Pathology trainings..... 18,000	
Trade waste agreement (26,660)	
Meals on wheels..... (2,801)	
	(657,874)
Transfer of provision for depreciation to capital	107,803
Assets funded under minor works ...	(169,082)
	<u>\$ (1,160,747)</u>

(10) Specific Purpose Funds

Medical and surgical equipment fund	\$ 11,035
Frail aged fund	183,571
Staff training	29,068
Specific projects	121,018
Other	6,138
	<u>\$ 350,830</u>



**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIODS
1979/80 to 1983/84**

REVENUE	1980 (Cash)	1981 (Cash)	1982 (Accrual)	1983 (Accrual)	1984 (Accrual)
Government grants ...	\$5,814,360	\$6,661,371	\$7,760,851	\$8,923,136	\$9,658,286
Patient fees	1,498,221	1,434,624	1,934,821	2,416,419	2,254,518
Other	170,661	174,760	130,453	156,223	192,180
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$7,483,242</u>	<u>\$8,270,755</u>	<u>\$9,826,125</u>	<u>\$11,495,778</u>	<u>\$12,104,984</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries and wages ...	\$5,069,661	\$5,784,724	\$6,805,355	\$8,147,084	\$8,754,569
Other expenditure	2,232,409	2,496,620	2,651,830	3,313,715	3,701,362
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>7,302,070</u>	<u>8,281,344</u>	<u>9,457,185</u>	<u>11,460,799</u>	<u>12,455,931</u>
Operating surplus (deficit)	181,172	(10,589)	368,940	34,979	(350,947)
	<u>\$7,483,242</u>	<u>\$8,270,755</u>	<u>\$9,826,125</u>	<u>\$11,495,778</u>	<u>\$12,104,984</u>

★ ★ ★ Any analysis of the trends demonstrated in this statement should take account of the different bases of accounting used over the five year period, as well as the different systems of health care financing which have existed in that time.

WIMMERA HOSPITAL GROUP LINEN SERVICE REVENUE STATEMENT

FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1984

INCOME

Charges to participating Institutions.....	\$764,146	
Sales of Equipment.....	1,500	
Sundry income.....	991	\$766,637

DIRECT EXPENSES

Production salaries and wages.....	369,378	
Bedding and linen replacement.....	82,457	
Laundry materials.....	27,392	
Steam.....	10,620	
Electricity.....	15,840	
Repairs & maintenance salaries & wages.....	20,495	
Repairs & maintenance expenses.....	18,873	
Cleaning salaries & wages.....	21,048	
Cleaning supplies.....	1,190	
Outside cleaning service.....	3,104	
Uniforms.....	3,088	
Depreciation.....	20,814	
Asset replacement.....	36,000	630,299

GROSS OPERATING MARGIN

\$136,338

DISTRIBUTION EXPENSES

Salaries and wages.....	37,369
Motor vehicle expenses.....	18,185
Depreciation.....	5,100

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

Salaries and wages.....	37,910
Accrued days off.....	2,151
Annual leave.....	5,524
Long service leave.....	15,319
Superannuation.....	11,710
Other administration expenses.....	6,498
Depreciation.....	2,352

\$142,118

NET OPERATING MARGIN SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

\$(5,780)

NON OPERATING INCOME

26,606

NET OPERATING RESULTS SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

\$20,826

BALANCE SHEET AS AT JUNE 30, 1984

CURRENT ASSETS

	1983	1984
Cash in Bank.....	—	31,762
Accrued income.....	378	—
Prepaid expenses.....	912	—
Investment.....	100,000	150,000
Stores (Bulk Linen).....	105,602	89,490
Stores (Bulk Materials).....	6,440	6,696
Sundry Debtors.....	66,902	79,184
	<u>\$280,234</u>	<u>\$357,132</u>

FIXED ASSETS

Plant & Equipment.....	363,339	384,709
Less Depreciation provision.....	261,652	289,919
	<u>\$101,687</u>	<u>\$94,790</u>
Building at Cost.....	323,363	323,363
	<u>\$425,050</u>	<u>\$418,153</u>
Total Assets.....	<u>\$705,284</u>	<u>\$775,285</u>

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Bank overdraft.....	6,347	—
Pre paid expenses.....	—	814
Accrued Annual Leave.....	—	48,758
Provision for Long Service Leave.....	70,599	74,235
Provision for Accrued Days off.....	—	2,150
Sundry Creditors.....	16,841	7,613
Accrued expenses (Salaries & Wages).....	11,899	17,815
Asset replacement reserve.....	30,000	—
	<u>\$124,976</u>	<u>\$151,385</u>

CAPITAL

Laundry capital.....	513,171	482,004
Prior year adjustment (annual leave).....	—	(43,233)
Surplus (Deficit) for year.....	(31,166)	20,826
Asset replacement reserve.....	98,303	164,303
	<u>\$580,308</u>	<u>\$623,900</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

\$705,284 \$775,285

AUDITOR'S REPORT WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL

We report that we have examined the accounts of the Wimmera Base Hospital and Sir Robert Menzies Nursing Home for the year ended 30th June, 1984.

Our examination included auditing procedures and tests of the records which we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In preparing the financial statements, the hospital has not provided for depreciation of buildings (refer to accounting policies). This is a departure from a statement of accounting standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and Australian Society of Accountants.

Subject to the above, in our opinion, the accounts are properly drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Health Commission of Victoria so as to give a true and fair view of the institution's financial affairs as at 30th June, 1984, and of the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.

The accounting and other records examined by us have been properly maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Health Commission of Victoria's Cost Centre Accounting and Budgeting Systems Procedures Manual.

GREEN, TAYLOR, AINSWORTH AND RYAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
M.W. RYAN, F.C.A.
PARTNER

WIMMERA HOSPITALS' GROUP LINEN SERVICE

We report that we have examined the accounts of the Wimmera Hospitals' Group Linen Service for the year ended 30th June, 1984.

Our examination included such auditing procedures and tests of the records which we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In preparing the financial statements, the organisation has not provided for depreciation of buildings. This is a departure from the statement of accounting standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and the Australian Society of Accountants.

Subject to the above, in our opinion, the accounts are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the organisation's financial affairs at the 30th June, 1984, and of the results of its operations for the year ended on that date.

GREEN, TAYLOR, AINSWORTH AND RYAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
M.W. RYAN, F.C.A.
PARTNER

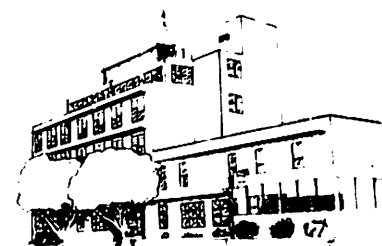
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the hospital are as follows:

- (a) The accounts of the hospital are prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of the Health Commission of Victoria and normally accepted accounting principles, with exceptions being:
 - (i) No provision has been made for the depreciation or revaluation of buildings. Buildings are recorded in the capital fund at cost.
 - (ii) The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of the historical cost convention.
- (b) Income and Investments
 - (i) Income from capital investments has been credited directly to the capital account.
 - (ii) Income from investment of endowment and specific purpose funds has been credited directly to the relevant trust fund.
 - (iii) Income from short term investment of operating funds has been credited directly to the specific purpose account.
 - (iv) Income from investments has not been brought to account in determining the year's operating result. This is consistent with prior years.
- (c) Stock on Hand.
Stocks on hand include all stores in the General Stores and Pharmacy. Stocks on hand are valued at latest purchase price, which is consistent with prior years.
- (d) The accounts of the hospital have been prepared on the basis of accrual accounting.

WIMMERA BASE HOSPITAL DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30-06-84

Alcoholics Anonymous	\$ 50.00
Anonymous	500.00
Anonymous	10,000.00
Australian Paper Manufacturers	350.00
Blake, Mrs. D.	50.00
Block, P.	10.00
Buckler, J. & L.	100.00
Capp, Mrs. Agnes	50.00
City of Horsham	200.00
Decker, A.J. & F.R.	20.00
Dellar, P.	15.00
Dickins, J.M.	100.00
Dooen Ladies Guild	16.00
Elbourne, Mrs. G.	30.00
Estate of Charlotte Maddern	7.23
Estate of Alice Schultz	16.60
Estate of V. Mayberry	55.00
Estate of Mrs. P.L. Ziersch	200.00
Freijah Bros.	100.00
Giddings, Mrs.	50.00
Glare, J.E. & B.C.	50.00
Hamilton, Mrs. F.	20.00
Harris, Mrs. G.	50.00
Hathaway, L. & A.	5.00
Hemley, W. & H.	20.00
Horwood, A. & L.	200.00
Houston, D.	5.00
Kemp, E.O.	50.00
Kerr, G.A.	25.00
Kroschel, D. & A.	10.00
LePlastrier, G.	50.00
Lions Club Horsham	100.00
McFarlane, M.D.	5.00
McLean, Miss V.	112.00
McClelland, Mrs. D.	20.00
Mitchell, H.	20.00
Mott, E.	10.00
Muhlnickel, M.E.L.	1,000.00
Muller, M.H.	5.00
Natt, Mrs. D.	10.00
Novo Laboratories Pty. Ltd.	50.00
Nixan, F.W. & A.E.	20.00
Oliver, Mr. E.	20.00
Pethard Tarax Charitable Trust Fund	500.00
Preuss, Mr. S.A.	100.00
Ravert, Mrs. E.	50.00
Rahley, M.	20.00
Rowlands, Mr. R.	50.00
Sadie Club	305.00
Simms, Mrs. E.	10.00
Smith, N. & R.	20.00
Stewart, Mrs. R.	20.00
Sun-News Sunball	50.00
Thomas, I.E.	100.00
Troeth, P.	239.39
Uncle Bobs Club	4,755.00
Van Dyk, J. & R.	942.00
Victoria Hotel Social Club	1,200.00
Wimmera Mallee Radia Appeal Committee	100.00
Wimmera Base Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary	15,182.60
Weir, E.D. & G.C.	10.00





The third birthday of the Large Print Wimmera Mail-Times was cause for celebration. Hospital Manager, Mr. Sian Capp, shares the cake with Mrs. Kitty Fowler and Mr. Peter Plozza.

LIFE GOVERNORS

ABUD, Dr. R. E.
 ANDERSON, Mrs. A.
 AUMANN, Mr. R. E.
 BEYNON, Mr. J. H.
 BOEHM, Mrs. G. E.
 BRIDGE, Dr. A. L.
 BROWNBILL, Mrs. K.
 BUTLER, Mr. L. H.
 CAIN, Mrs. T.
 CARTER, Mrs. V. A.
 CATHCART, Miss R.
 CATHCART, Miss D.
 CORNER, Mrs. P.
 COURTNEY, Miss A. R.
 CRAIG, Miss M. E.
 DRAFFIN, Mr. I.
 GARTH, Mr. D. J.
 GILL, Mr. W.

HANNA, Mr. W. T.
 HARDINGHAM, Mrs. M.
 HARFIELD, Mrs. D.
 HEALEY, Miss N.
 HOFFMAN, Miss L.
 HOPKINS, Miss E. V.
 JOHNS, Rev. A. A.
 KROKER, Mrs. C. O.
 LEITH, Mr. C.
 LEIVESLEY, Mr. A. G.
 LEYTON, Dr. G. B.
 LOVETT, Mr. K. H.
 MCFARLANE, Mr. D.
 MCINTYRE, Miss V. C.
 MONTGOMERY, Mrs. L.
 MOORE, Mr. L. G.
 O'BRIEN, Dr. M. M.
 O'CONNOR, Mr. K. J.
 PASCALL, Mrs. L. G.

PHILLIPS, Mr. A. W.
 PIETSCH, Mr. E. B.
 POWELL, Mrs. J.
 REID, Mr. L. E.
 ROBERTSON, Mr. P.
 RUSSELL, Mrs. E. W.
 RUSSELL, Mr. M. S.
 SCHULTZ, Mr. F. P.
 SCHURMANN, Miss N. J.
 SHEPHERD, Mr. R. W.
 SMITH, Miss M. A. R.
 STEWART, Mrs. R. V.
 STENHOUSE, Miss L.
 TIPPETT, Mrs. A. M.
 TROETH, Mr. P.
 WALPOLE, Dr. T. V.
 WEBSTER, Prof. R. W.
 WIK, Mrs. W. M.

CENTENARY GOVERNORS

BETHELL, Mr. R.
 BROWNSTEIN, Mr. E. G.
 CHISHOLM, Mr. G.
 COUTTS, Mr. P. A.
 CRELLIN, Mrs. E.
 CUDDIHY, Mr. M. W.
 EDWARDS, Mr. R. G.
 ELDRIDGE, Mr. E.
 FINCH, Mr. A.
 FRANCIS, Mr. S.
 GRANT, Mr. R. G.
 HEARD, Mr. G. B.
 HILL, Mrs. D.
 JENKINSON, Mr. C.
 JOHN, Mr. M. D.
 LIND, Mr. G. B.
 MATUSCHKA, Mr. E.
 MOORE, Mr. L. G.
 MUHNICKEL, Mr. V. F.
 O'BRIEN, Dr. M. M.
 PATTERSON, Mr. R.
 RODDA, Mrs. H.
 ROGERS, Mr. B.
 SMITH, Miss M. A. R.
 TAYLOR, Mr. M. H.
 VANDYK, Mr. I. A.

THE HOSPITAL IN THE COMMUNITY A SIGNIFICANT PROJECT

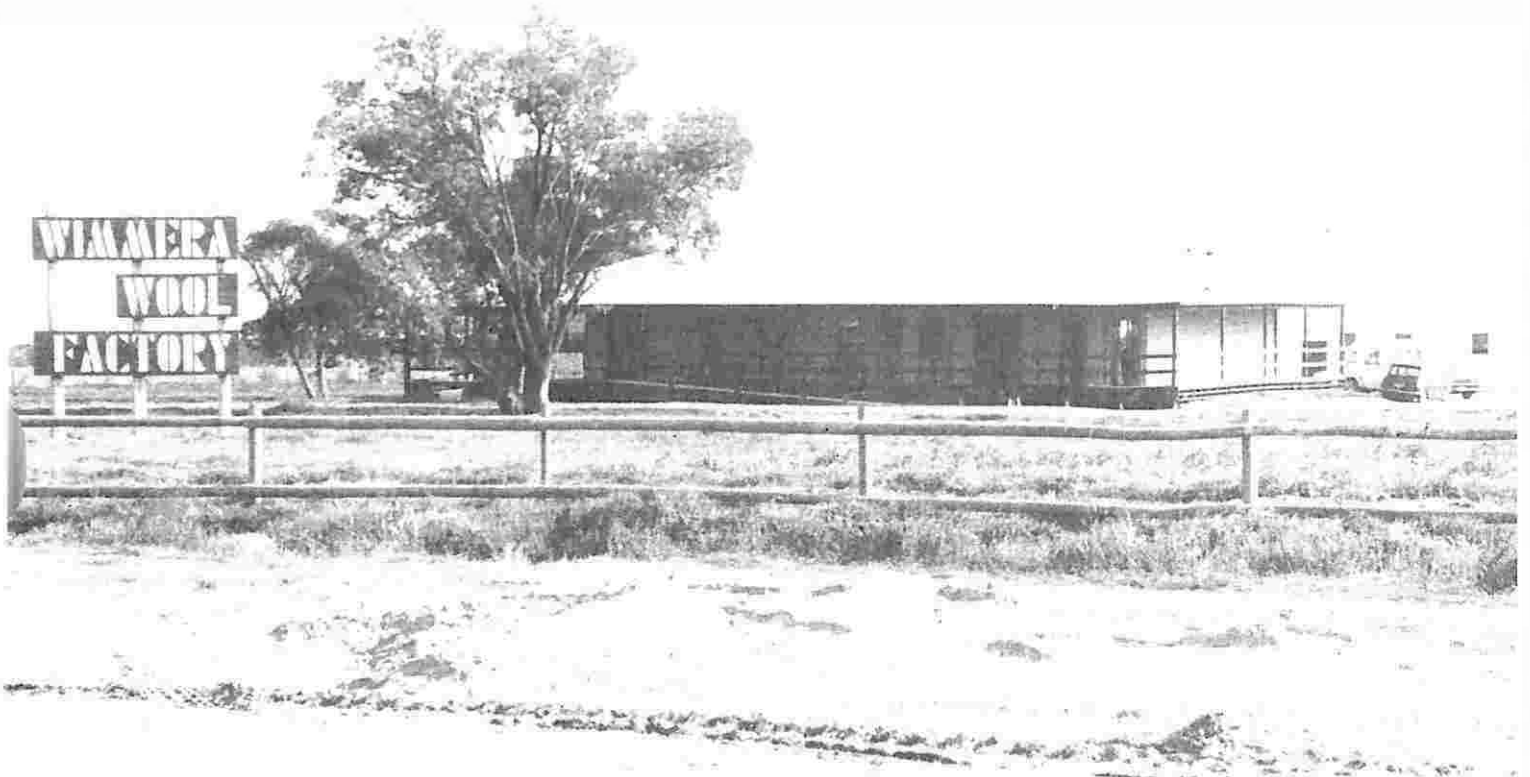
The opening of the Wimmera Wool Factory, a Horsham-based sheltered workshop, was a major event in the hospital's year because it proved the maturity and independence of a major regional project.

The hospital initiated the workshop, prepared its case for government support and then worked with the community committee and staff of Wimmera Handicapped Persons Association.

Unlike many other developments in health care or community services, the hospital's objective was to launch a separate and self-sufficient organisation. This began with appointment of staff to work at the Wool Factory site from the end of 1982, and was completed by the start of 1984.

The hospital has offered its work with Wimmera Wool Factory as an entry for the national Community Outreach Award for Hospitals. This is what Wimmera Base says in its introduction to its award entry:

Involvement began with the stimulus of the sheltered workshop idea from the hospital. It continued with the nuts and bolts of staffing, building and accounting procedures. The hospital remains related to an organisation which it has led to independence, retaining interest in an organisation which extends care to a new section of the community. The hospital has routine links through workshop management committee membership, and advises in fields beyond the workshop staff's qualifications.



The Wool Factory has more than 600 sheep housed in individual pens in sheds, producing ultra-fine wool. Handicapped workers care for stock and work in the more traditional type of sheltered workshop activity including manufacturing, packaging, small-scale production and repetition jobs.

A sheltered workshop offers a model of working life to people who have generally been unable to find work because of a disability. The system, in which workshops receive government grants but are expected to pay much of their own way, offers a mixture of rehabilitation, personal development and preventive medicine at a very low cost to the community.

Wimmera Base Hospital is proud of the principle of launching the project, then stepping back to be a friendly but not obtrusive neighbour. The independence has no doubt encouraged the Wool Factory to develop its services, staff and workers more quickly than if it had the necessary restrictions of being part of a larger organisation.

Many hospital departments and staff members advised the workshop during establishment but there was little direct cost in beginning the Wool Factory. The hospital's first contribution was its largest, employment of a specialist officer for six months to prepare a detailed case on the unique sheep husbandry and tourist project.