



## Fond farewell to Crommelin House

Crommelin House, more commonly known as the Old Nurses Quarters, has stood on the Glen Innes District Hospital campus for nearly 70 years.

Opening in 1955, it was initially accommodation for nurses, before becoming the home for community health services until they were transferred to the hospital in 2002, and then the building sat empty for most of the 21st century. Flash forward to 2023 and the building is soon to be removed to make way for the new Glen Innes District Hospital.

To farewell the building, current and former nurses and community members were invited by the Glen Innes Hospital Redevelopment project team to an afternoon tea in early February. Around 50 people gathered to share stories from their time either living or working in (or visiting people within) the building. It was wonderful to hear about the history of the building and the enthusiasm of the community for the new hospital.

The demolition of the Old Nurses Quarters will be completed by Hutchinson Builders who have been engaged for the redevelopment project early works. The site fencing has been erected around the building and the removal process will begin soon.

While the building is being carefully removed over the coming months, our project team will continue to work with the staff of Glen Innes District Hospital to develop the detailed design for the new hospital. This work will take us into the middle of 2023 and we will then share the final designs with the community for feedback.

We expect to start construction on the new hospital later in 2023 and be completed in 2025. We will continue to keep the community updated as we progress. At any time, you're welcome to contact the Glen Innes Hospital Redevelopment project team with questions or feedback via: [HI-GlenInnes-Redevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HI-GlenInnes-Redevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au)



*Current and former nurses and community members say farewell to Crommelin house in February 2023. Photos taken by Jill Hilton.*





## History of Crommelin House – from Glen Innes Examiner articles 1954-1955

- The nurses' quarters opened in 1955 as a three-story building located on the corner of Ferguson and Macquarie streets providing accommodation for sisters and nurses training at the Glen Innes District Hospital.
- The first brick was laid by Hospital Board president Jack Tratt on March 4, 1952.
- The building was named after Matron Beatrice Crommelin MBE, who was the matron at Glen Innes District Hospital for 23 years from 1922 to 1945.
- There were 80 bedrooms for nurses as well as accommodation for the matron and two residential medical officers.
- Each nurse and sister had her own bedroom, complete with built-in wardrobe and a dressing table of polished Pacific Maple and a wall mirror.
- The building had 12 showers and 12 baths, and 2 laundries containing seven sets of wash tubs and four electric coppers.
- There were two public telephones.
- There was a recreation room on each floor and an electric lift.
- Copper tanks provided hot water and radiators were run off the hot water system.
- The main staircase was completed with a surface finish of Terrazzo stone.
- A modern feature at the time was the inclusion of the plumbing inside the building during the construction.

***Image below: Crommelin House in the background with the Glen Innes District Hospital in the foreground also being constructed around the same time. Image supplied by the Glen Innes & District Historical Society.***

No.9039 The building of Crommelin House

