

Representatives from the Bundjalung clans were however permitted from time to time to visit the lands of adjoining clans and share in the hunt when an abundance of a particular type of food was available. They would travel as far north as the Bunya Mountains (up to 500km) to cut the bunya nut cones which flowered every three years. They camped and fed off the nuts and held aboriginal dances or *corroborees* at night. These gatherings provided an opportunity to trade both goods and culture with their neighbours.

The Bundjalung family clans would travel to the coast to feast on fish, pippies and oysters, and west for larger game such as the wallaby. This food supplemented their regular diet of possum, bird, flying fox, porcupine, reptiles and native plants and berries. Within the clan the women would undertake the gathering while the hunting was left to the men of the tribe.

Life within the tribal group was generally peaceful and governed by strict social and spiritual lore. Marriage was not a ceremony as such but more the giving of a promised girl to a man after the completion of his initiation ceremony. The couples were chosen by the tribal elders with refusal and elopements being frowned upon and in some instances punishable by death.

The Bundjalung Aboriginal tribe comprised eleven major dialectic subdivisions, these were further divided into extended family groups or "hordes". The main group in the Lismore area was the Wiyabal, whose territory also covered Alstonville, Dunoon, Nimbin, Cawongla and Larnook. Each extended family group had its own home territory (or *djagun*) for hunting and cult-heroes of mythology. The groups were nomadic only within their own territory and trespassing into another groups *djagan* was forbidden.

The Wiyabal hordes territory roughly co-insides with the present day boundaries of Lismore Local Government Area. The Wiyabal *djagun* included numerous mythological and sacred sites. The Tucki Tucki bora ring (i.e. initiation site) was a main traditional site along with two other bora rings near the villages of Bentley and Nimbin. Several *Djurbils* (i.e. ritual sites for beseeching increases of various kinds (e.g. food)) were well known, one for possums at today's Wilson Park, Lismore; and one for echidna at North Lismore on the stone quarry hill. There was a *Djurbil* for Cat birds at Mount Lion (Jiggi) and one of the most awesome sacred sites to the Wiyabal tribe at Parrots Nest. It was here that the Hoop Pine curse was invoked by the *Cooradgi* against offenders of the tribal codes. The ritual coincided with the bone pointing procedure common among Aboriginal tribes throughout Australia. Blue Knob and Hanging Rock in the Nimbin district were also very sacred sites for the Wiyabal with deep mythological significance.⁵

⁵ Lismore City Council

4.2 SITE HISTORY

The first subscription of £43 for the establishment of a Hospital in Lismore opened in the Protestant Hall in Magellan Street on 4 May 1880.⁶ A number of sites were considered for the building of the Lismore Hospital site, and the official Public Grant dated 10 August 1880 dedicated three acres of the County of Rous and Parish of Lismore, Portion 267 to James Baillie, Archibald Currie and James Barrie.⁷ The site was also known as Postman's Ridge.

The site was pegged out in 1882 and the first timber structure was completed in 1883 by John Lumley. Matron Daly and wardsmen were appointed in February 1884. The Hospital became known as 'The Lismore and Richmond Hospital' and 'Lismore Cottage Hospital'. It comprised three rooms with a matron's room, 2 wards (male and female) and a total of 10 beds. A kitchen and a mortuary were also added in 1885.⁸

42 rules for the management and administration of the hospital were adopted in 1883 for staff, patients, visitors and Medical Officers. The management consisted of a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and a 10 member Committee that were elected annually.⁹

On 12 December 1886 a Government grant of 7 acres allowed further expansion of the premises. After the completion of a washhouse in 1887, other improvements had to temporarily cease due to an epidemic of Typhoid fever that spread in 1892 and required the erection of an Isolation Ward to accommodate patients into a temporary tent erected onsite.¹⁰



Figure 4.2: Temporary Isolation Ward in 1892 during the typhoid fever epidemics.

(Source: *Lismore Base Hospital, A Brief History*, attached to 1979 Annual Report, p. 26)

⁶ J. McNaught 2011, *Lismore City Northern NSW, 150 Years of Progress*, p.108.

⁷ NSW Lands and Property Information, Vol.583, Fol.216

⁸ J. McNaught 2011, *op.cit.*

⁹ Lismore Base Hospital, *A Brief History*, attached to 1979 Annual Report, p.28

¹⁰ Lismore Base Hospital, 1979, *op.cit.*, p.26.

Following a public tender a proper Isolation Ward was built in 1893 by Messers Green & Son, and most likely an operating theatre on Hunter Street was added to the complex in the same year.¹¹ After 1895 appointments of staff as Matron, nurse or wardswoman were to be submitted to the Government for approval and nurses were required to be qualified. The first trained nurse to be appointed first Matron was Miss Yasmith.¹² In 1899 the Hospital was also given a Horse Ambulance with springs, stretcher and wheel-chair.



Figure 4.3: View of Lismore looking north-west from Uralba Street below hospital site in 1892

(Source: J. McNaught 2011, *Lismore City Northern NSW, 150 Years of Progress*, p.108)

In 1904 construction of a new brick building, east of the existing structure, was completed by Mr R. Hughes to the design of architect Keithel. The new hospital was officially opened by Mr J.W. Coleman on 1 June 1905.¹³

The new hospital was accessed through a porch, to the left was an outpatients waiting room and dispensary, to the right was the Matron's sitting rooms and bedroom. Private wards for men and female were located on the left of the main hall measuring each 45' x 24' on two levels. The new design incorporated full length windows so that patients could enjoy light coming from the verandah. Adjoining structures were an operating room of 16' x 18' and a sterilising room.¹⁴

A new operating theatre and a new horse ambulance were added in 1912. Between 1904 and 1913 also Nurses Quarters had been built, however information on this block is not given in the historical accounts of the hospital.

¹¹ G. Everingham 2005, *The nurses of the LBH: nursing experiences and a brief history of the Lismore Base Hospital*, p.11/
¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ G. Everingham 2005, *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Lismore Base Hospital, 1979, *op. cit.*, p.27

Since 1880s, a number of initiatives to help financing the hospital helped the running and improvements of the site. In 1904 a sewing class or Ladies Aid Society and a tea tent at the Agriculture Show were also established to raise funds for the running of the Hospital. In the 1912 Annual Report it is noted that the raised funding allowed for the commission of a new Horse Ambulance.¹⁵

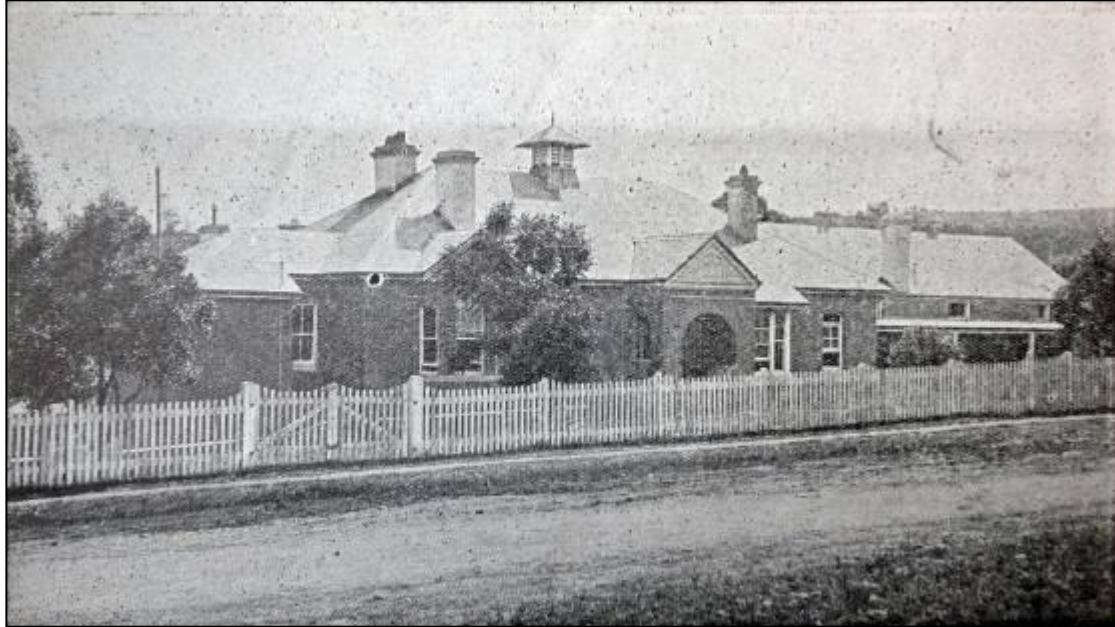


Figure 4.4: Front view of the new Block on Uralba Street.

(Source: 1913 Annual Report)



Figure 4.5: The New Block in 1904

(Source: *Lismore Base Hospital, A Brief History*, attached to 1979 Annual Report, p. 27)

¹⁵ *Ibid.*



Figure 4.6: Map of the Town of Lismore, 1912, showing “Site for Hospital Extension” bounded in black.

(Source: Land and Property Information, Historical Lands Viewer)

After 1915 a new development phase occurred that saw the restoration of Isolation Block and Nurses Quarters (1915), a new Morgue (1916), a new Maternity Ward (1918-1920) and new tennis court (1921). Concern were raised in the 1918 Annual Report for the need of providing accommodation to old men with no family or not ill enough to be in Hospital.¹⁶

An epidemic of pneumonic influenza in 1919 was difficult for staff and administration to manage, however this led to the decision of building a new Isolation Block that was completed between 1925 and 1928.¹⁷



Figure 4.7: The new Isolation Block in 1928

(Source: J. McNaught 2011, *Lismore City Northern NSW, 150 Years of Progress*, p.108)

¹⁶ Lismore Base Hospital, 1979, *op. cit.*, p.28-30

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

Further development occurred after 1930s, when a laundry was set up and a second storey added to the wards blocks to accommodate Maternity and Children's wards. In 1933 a new Nurses Home and Operating Theatre were built, the Nurses Home located at the corner of Hunter and Uralba Street. Around this period a row of mature Canary Island palms were planted along Uralba Street, giving a major contribution to the streetscape.¹⁸

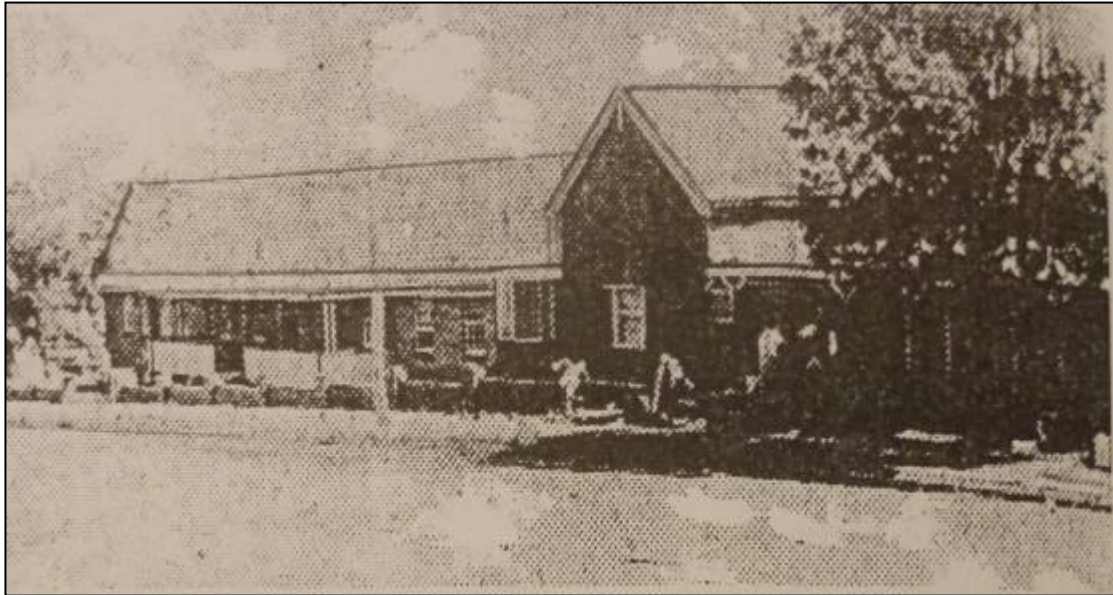


Figure 4.8: New Nurses Home in early 1933

(Source: J. McNaught 2011, *Lismore City Northern NSW, 150 Years of Progress*, p.110)

The Hospital front was further modified in 1937 and a porte-cochere added to form a covered entrance and ambulance access to the hospital.



Figure 4.9: The row of Canary Palms planted in 1930s and the new Nurses Home to the left of the main building.

(Source: J. McNaught 2011, *Lismore City Northern NSW, 150 Years of Progress*, p.111)

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

In 1935 the hospital acquired the status of 'Base Hospital' to allow for further Government funding in the administration and maintenance of the premises. In the same year a new Children's Ward was opened.¹⁹



Figure 4.10: The 1937 porte-cochere to provide ambulance access to the hospital.
(Source: G. Everingham 2005, *The nurses of the LBH: nursing experiences and a brief history of the Lismore Base Hospital*, p.8)



Figure 4.11: Base Hospital, Lismore in August 1936
(Source: State Library of NSW, Government Printing Office 1 - 24314)

¹⁹ Lismore Base Hospital, 1979, *op. cit.*, p.31

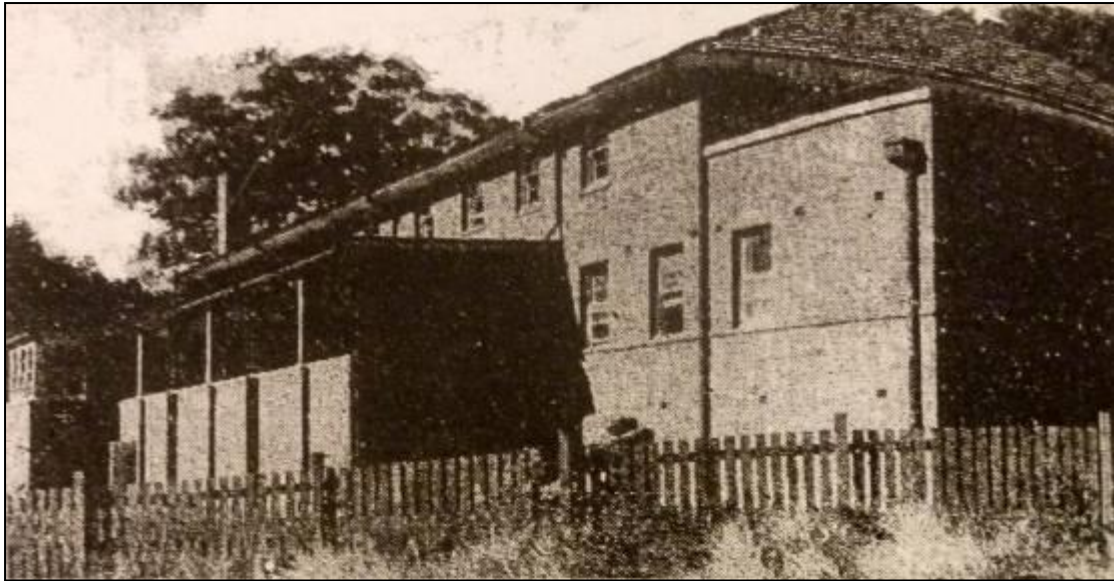


Figure 4.12: The new Maternity Ward in 1947

(Source: J. McNaught 2011, *Lismore City Northern NSW, 150 Years of Progress*, p.112)



Figure 4.13: The entrance to the hospital in 1948

(Source: Kate Flower (Dunstan), reproduced in G. Everingham 1987, *The Nurses of Lismore Base Hospital*, p.14)

Following the end of the Second World War, in 1947, a new Maternity Ward opened with a Maternity unit downstairs and nursing accommodation upstairs. The following year an army hut was purchased and built in front of the hospital to house administrative staff, a dispensary and a board room. A new boiler house and laundry with a brick chimney stack were completed in 1950 and the same year work commenced on a new Nurses accommodation.

In 1951 a new Preliminary Training School was built, later referred to as the 'Workshop'. A Victorian house at 83A Uralba Street 'Armstrong House' was purchased for nursing

accommodation after the old nursing home closed down in 1953. A new mortuary was also erected the same year.

In 1954, works on a new 10 Tuberculosis unit started. The building was to provide also accommodation for staff. The new Nurses Home opened in April 1958 and proposals followed to convert the old Nurses Home (Richmond Clinic) into a patients' ward.²⁰



Figure 4.14: The new Nurses Home in 1958

(Source: J. McNaught 2011, *Lismore City Northern NSW, 150 Years of Progress*, p.113)

In 1963, new plans were announced for the redevelopment of the whole site. The construction works were structured into three stages, including a new seven storey patients block (Stage 1), an extended wing to this block for Stage 2 and the complete replacement of the old part of the hospital on Uralba Street for Stage 3.²¹

Stage 1 was completed in 1967. The new hospital block could provide accommodation for 128 patients, operating theatres, central sterilising and X-Ray units, kitchens, stores and staff dining rooms and amenities.

Between In 1969 a new Physiotherapy department was needed, which was completed in 1973. During the same years old mens' ward was converted into administration offices and casualty department, the old Maternity Block was converted for use as a medical and geriatric ward and the Orthopaedic ward was renovated in 1971 with a new pool that opened the following year. In 1973 the new Psychiatric Clinic opened in Ward 8 which was then renamed Richmond Clinic.

²⁰ Lismore Base Hospital, 1979, *op. cit.*, p.29-32.

²¹ Lismore Base Hospital, 1979, *op. cit.*,

In 1993 Stage 3 of the 1967 plan officially opened to the public. The new wing was named Mahaffey Wing in recognition of the great effort by Chief Executive officer Mr Brian Mahaffey. The remains of the original Lismore Base Hospital had to be completely demolished and the whole site became fully upgraded for modern health facilities.²²

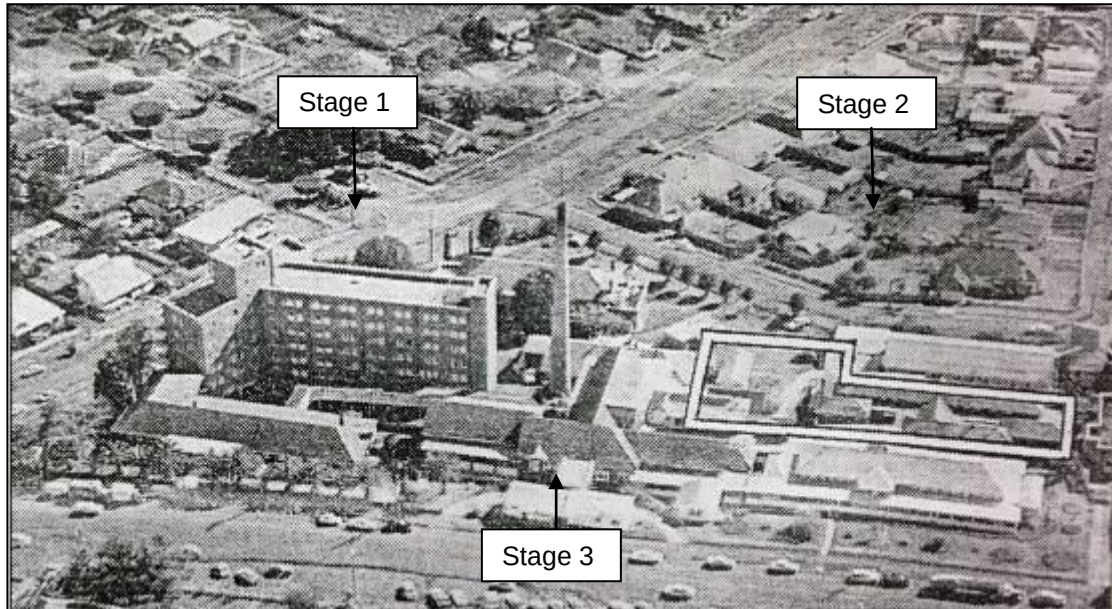


Figure 4.15: The hospital site in late 1960s
(Source: G. Everingham 1987, *The Nurses of Lismore Base Hospital*, p.8)



Figure 4.16: Front of the Lismore Base Hospital in 1960s
(Source: G. Everingham 1987, *The Nurses of Lismore Base Hospital*, p.8)

²² Lismore Base Hospital Annual Report, 1970 and following years.

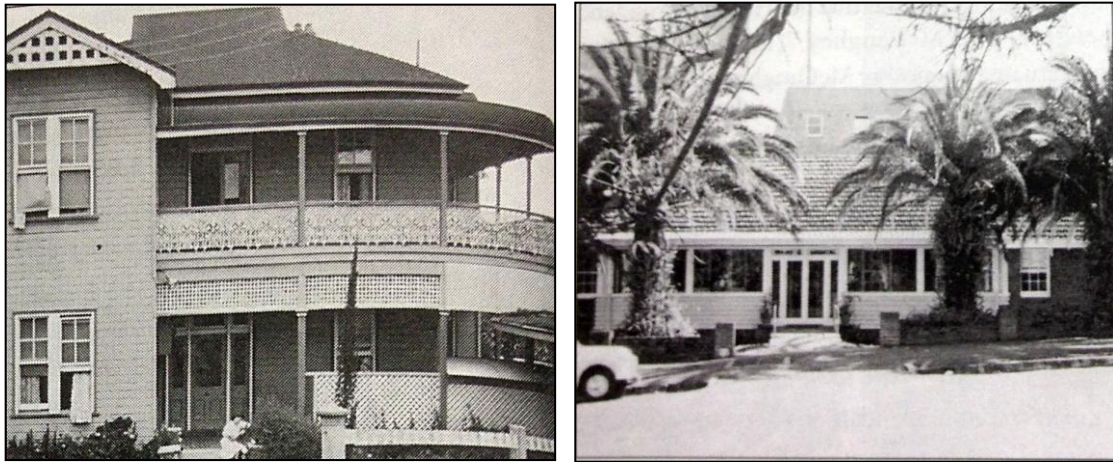


Figure 4.17: Armstrong House (restored 1987) and the new Psychiatric Ward
(Source: Fay Troy Harris and Marion Parker Crawford, reproduced in G. Everingham 1987, *The Nurses of Lismore Base Hospital*, p. 16 and 18)

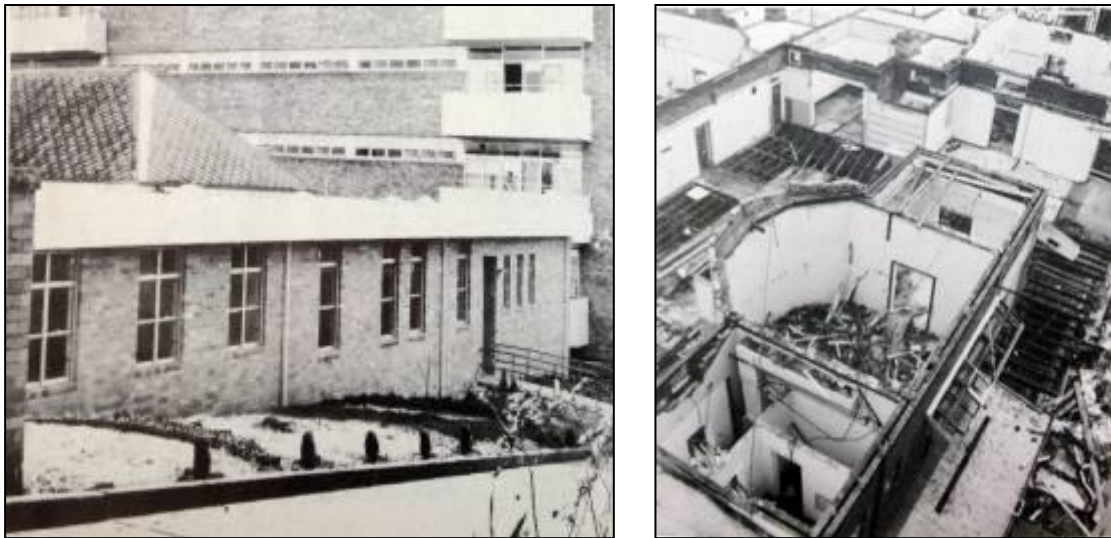


Figure 4.18: The new Physiotherapy Block after completion and the original Lismore Base Hospital during demolition works in c1990.
(Source: Annual Report 1972-73, p. 16 and 1990, p.13)



Figure 4.19: The Lismore Base Hospital in 1993 (from Uralba Street) and 2009 (viewed from north)

(Source: J. McNaught 2011, Lismore City Northern NSW, 150 Years of Progress, p.113)

In 1979, the Lions Club financed the construction of a Renal Dialysis Unit and the Government Architect's Office was appointed to prepare a Master Development Plan for the hospital redevelopment. In 1982, the hospital laundry is relocated off site, making the old boiler house and chimney stack redundant. In the following two years a New Children's Ward and Cafeteria opened and Armstrong House (Residence of Medical Officers) was restored.

In 1985, the Day Only Surgery Ward was completed and a new Cancer Care Unit started, being completed in 1989. A new Bus Shelter in front of the Hospital was also installed in 1985.

In 1988, a new 8-stage development programme was put into place and approved by the Minister for Health, with the NSW Public Works Department being the construction authority and C.M. Campbell and Associates the principal consultants. The re-development included the following works:

- Two new wards
- One new Orthopaedic ward

- Four new operating theatres
- New Accident/Emergency and Outpatients department
- New Medical Records Department
- New Pharmacy
- New Medical Imaging Department
- Additions and alteration to the Stores department
- Refurbishment of three floors of A Block
- A new ICU department
- A new Psychiatric Ward²³

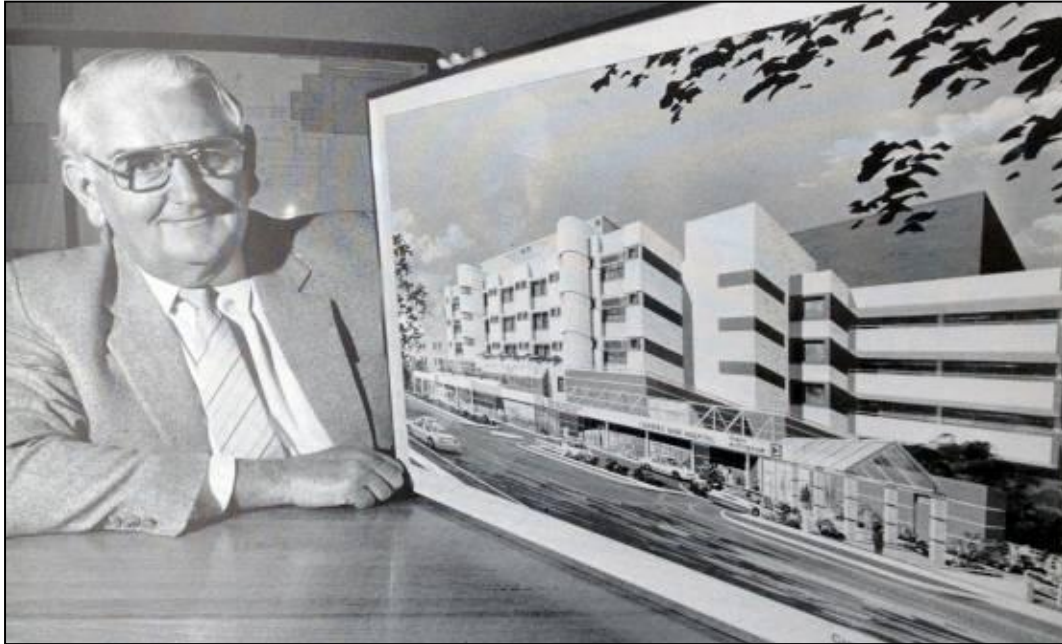


Figure 4.20: Board Chairman, Jim Donaghym with an artist's perspective of the new Main Block C

(Source: Annual Report 1988)

Since late 1980s, the hospital started acquiring a number of properties in Laurel Avenue and Weaver Street and generally around its perimeter to allow for future expansion of services. In 1990 three cottages were purchased including 66 Hunter Street, 58 and 79 Uralba Street to provide for a Sexual Health Service, a new Blood Bank and additional car parking. Also a 12 flats block known as Laurel Lodge was acquired to accommodate staff. During the same an application with lands Department was lodged for the closure of the rear Laurel Avenue.²⁴

²³ Lismore Base Hospital Annual Report, 1988

²⁴ Lismore Base Hospital Annual Reports, 1990 to 1993

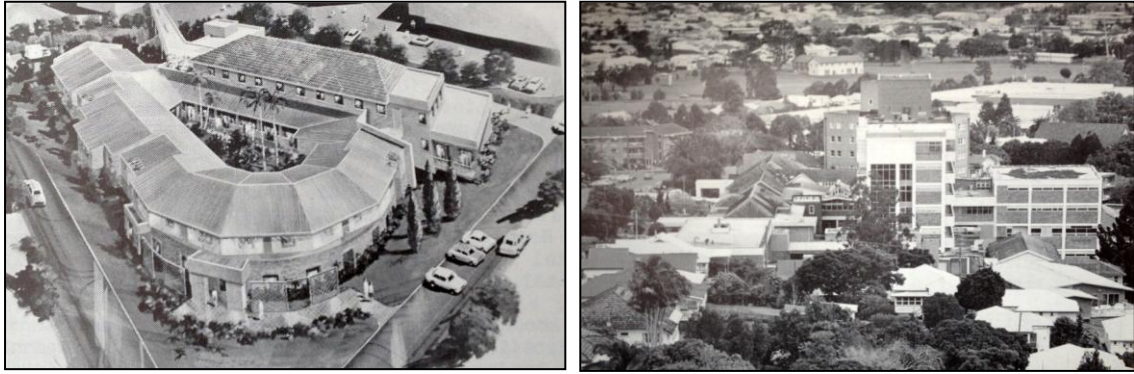


Figure 4.21: An artist's impression on the new Richmond Clinic and general view of the Hospital, both images dating 1987.

(Source: Annual Report 1987, p.5 and 29)

A major change occurred when Mental Health Unit opened in 2005, following the demolition of old Isolation Block, Tuberculosis Block, cafeteria and Day Only Surgery. A further expansion north-west allowed the construction in 2001 of an Ambulatory Care Unit for Mental Health. A number of previous structures have been demolished during this redevelopment.

5.0 ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE POTENTIAL

The above historical at Section 4.0 has been provided as the background to this discussion of Aboriginal cultural heritage potential for the subject site. While Aboriginal people would have been associated with the subject site during the thousands of years of history preceding European settlements, the remnants of their use - such as transport tracks, burned landscapes, short term campsites, or tool working sites - can be difficult to assess. For an area to be identified as an 'Aboriginal place' it would have to be identified as being of special significance to Aboriginal culture. This significance can be spiritual, natural resource usage, historical, social, educational or other type of importance.

Aboriginal objects are physical evidence of the use of an area by Aboriginal people. They can also be referred to as 'Aboriginal sites', 'relics' or 'cultural material'. They include:

- physical objects, such as stone tools, Aboriginal-built fences and stockyards, scarred trees and the remains of fringe camps, rock art sites
- material deposited on the land, such as middens
- the ancestral remains of Aboriginal people

5.1 REGIONAL INDIGENOUS CONTEXT

Whilst the AHIMS search indicates there are no identified Aboriginal sites or places within the 200km of the subject site, the Lismore area contains an extensive history of Indigenous occupation. Aboriginal sites in the Lismore region range from large shell middens, which represent campsites, usually associated with lakes and rivers, to natural landforms associated with Dreamtime legends. Although many Aboriginal sites have been lost over time as a result of European settlement and natural environmental factors (for example, weathering of rock art), the region is rich in existing Aboriginal sites, which are of great cultural value and importance to Aboriginal peoples. In many instances these sites have been destroyed or desecrated through development. Those sites, which remain, require recognition and protection to preserve the Aboriginal Heritage of the region.

The high diversity and abundance of natural resources available to the Aboriginal people of the region resulted in a high density of Aboriginal occupation in the region, particularly around the northern rivers close to the coast. The marine environment coupled with the lush vegetation along the coast provided the people with much of what they needed to subsist. Despite the hardships they encountered in association with the defence of their homelands during European settlement, they have retained their strong links with the land up to the present time .²⁵

²⁵ OEH North Coast Bioregion info

5.2 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

In addition to the development history, understanding the past and present environmental contexts of a study area is requisite in any Aboriginal archaeological investigation. It is a particularly important consideration in the development and implementation of survey strategies for the detection of archaeological sites.

Any discussion of the likely presence of Aboriginal cultural remains, or of the basis why such remains might be discovered, must be within the context of the environment and the resources that would have been available to any Aboriginal occupants of the area. Environmental characteristics - including the availability of water, the abundance and type of plant and animal food resources, the nature and type of stone and ochre resources; and the access and the availability of shade and shelter - play an influential role in determining the type and nature of material culture remains that will have been distributed across the landscape by Aboriginal people in the past. The following sections provide information relating to the environmental context of the study area especially where these have the potential to aid the prediction and or explanation of Aboriginal archaeological site location.

5.3 TOPOGRAPHY

Lismore is located within a valley surrounded by ridgelines. The Hospital is located within the valley to the east of the Town Centre on a slight ridgeline to the north of Ballina Road, the primary east-west arterial road through Lismore. The height and location of the Hospital ensures it is a prominent feature from all view points, as well as offering expansive views from the upper levels of the main acute buildings.

5.4 WATERWAYS

There are no waterways or historic waterways or drainage lines that have been identified or documented for the subject site. However, several watercourses exist in relatively close proximity. The most significant is the Wilsons River which is located approximately 1km north north east from the subject site (as shown in Figure 5.1).

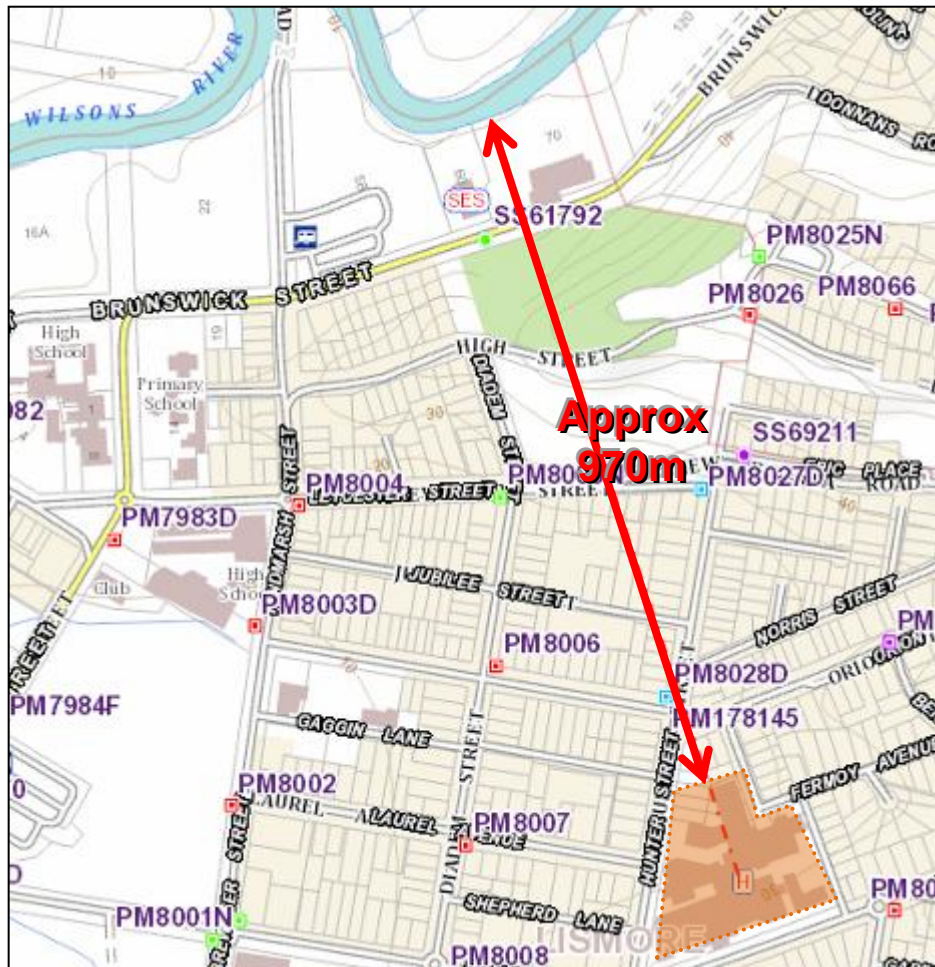


Figure 5.1: Subject site in relation to key water sources.
(Source: Land and Property Information Spatial Information eXchange
With City Plan Heritage overlay)

There is no feeder creek that runs through the site. Without the presence of an established waterway across the subject site, it would be unlikely for enduring campsites, rock shelters, and art sites to be located there.

5.5 FLORA & FAUNA

The district provided an abundance of native fauna and flora which was hunted and gathered by the Bundjalung. In the Lismore area, soils derived from basalts support sub-tropical and warm temperate rainforests, or wet sclerophyll forests. Dominant species of flora include black booyong (*Argyrodendron actinophyllum*), white booyong (*Argyrodendron trifoliolatum*), hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), bangalow palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), climbing palm (*Calamus muelleri*), rough tree fern (*Cyathea australis*), Australian cedar (*Toona australis*), teak (*Flindersia australis*), white mahogany (*Eucalyptus acmenoides*),

small-fruited grey gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*), tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*) and Sydney blue gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*).²⁶

The subtropical habitats of the area are rich in bird diversity, with many endemic species and species with restricted distributions, especially in rainforest habitats where there are also several threatened species.²⁷

However, animals associated with this landscape are no longer present in the subject area. The urbanisation and development of the site has ensured that the landscape and its vegetation has been dramatically altered and no longer resembles the pre-contact landscape.

5.6 GEOLOGY

The Tweed Heads 1:250,000 geological map shows that the site is underlain by the Lismore Basalt Formation. The basalt comprises a series of flows derived from the Tweed shield volcano deposited over a significant period of time. The basalt of the Lismore Basalt described on the geological map comprises a significant thickness of basalt flows each of which may be as thick as tens of metres and as thin as say five metres. The contacts between individual flows may be either concise and comprise distinct rock on rock contacts that may be welded, or in some cases the contact between flows may be gradational and separated by palaeosols (ancient soils) developed by weathering of the top of the lower flow in the intervening time period. In some instances sedimentary deposits are laid down between flows, over earlier palaeosols.²⁸ This geology reflects the availability of stone used as raw material for tool manufacture. Basalt deposits can be associated with Aboriginal sites, with Basalt being frequently used by Indigenous toolmakers who preferred hard, volcanic stones which can hold an edge.

5.7 CONCLUSIONS REGARDING ABORIGINAL SITE LOCATION IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS

These landscape features for the subject site indicate that the subject site is likely to have been used by aboriginal groups prior to European contact though it is not likely to have been a site of particular ceremonial or spiritual importance. Aboriginal people would have utilised, passed through or congregated around the Wilsons River and associated waterways for thousands of years. While they would have had a presence in the area of the subject site, the extensive development and disturbance means there is low potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage remains.

²⁶ <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bioregions/NorthCoast-Biodiversity.htm>

²⁷ *ibid*

²⁸ Broad Desktop Review - Lismore Base Hospital: Geotechnical Data – NSW Health Infrastructure, Coffey, p24

No previous Aboriginal sites or places recorded within the site or the wider area, as indicated by the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management Systems (AHIMS) search. There is nothing special or significant noted for any of the historical landscape qualities of the subject site that would warrant further research into the area. In particular, the examination of the environmental contexts indicate that the effects of clearing and development throughout the study area is likely to mean that Aboriginal objects if found will not be *in situ* nor will they be associated with significant archaeological deposits.

In the unlikely event that any subsurface deposits containing Aboriginal relics are found, they are likely to consist of isolated or low density artefacts within disturbed soil profiles. In that instance, work would need to be temporarily halted and the Office of Environment and Heritage contacted for the appropriate course of action.

6.0 HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

This section broadly encompasses the European "heritage" values of the study area with respect to a possible archaeological resource. Heritage values are understood to mean the appreciation and value placed upon the resource by contemporary society in terms of the criteria expressed in the Burra Charter and formalised by the Heritage Council of NSW. Archaeological evidence, "relics", is defined by the Heritage Act of NSW to be physical evidence (structures, features, soils, deposits and portable artefacts) that provide evidence of the development of NSW, of non-Aboriginal origin and are fifty or more years in age.

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION IN THE VICINITY

There have been a number of assessments and investigations carried out around the Lismore area, although very little has occurred within the Lismore basin itself. The only archaeological study found during the research for this report was the 2002 report prepared for Lismore Railway Station for the NextGen Fibreoptic Network. Whilst not in immediate proximity, the site is located within the Lismore Basin and is subject to similar environmental influences including soil types, European influences, etc. The subject of this report is the sub-surface archaeological resource that may be contained within land encompassed by the Lismore Railway Station heritage precinct. The objective of the work has been to determine the probability of finding archaeological evidence within a trench that is to be excavated to lay a fibre optic cable through the precinct. It determines the extent, nature, integrity and significance of the resource and the impact of the excavation on archaeological relics. It provides strategies to mitigate that impact. The work fulfils statutory requirements of Lismore LEP 2000 and a request for information to support a Development Application and a Section 60 application to the Heritage Council of NSW.

Other studies include:

- Archaeological Survey of the Grafton-Lismore transmission line. Unpublished report for the Electricity Commission of NSW. (D Byrne, 1981)
- Wiy-abal aboriginal clan (Bundjalung Nation) cultural heritage and values relating to the Lismore City Council local government area : an archaeological and anthropological survey (June 2000)
- Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Heritage Review: Dumaresq - Lismore 330kv Electricity Transmission Line (OzArk Environmental and Heritage Management, September 2009)
- Aboriginal Archaeology Impact Assessment- Watermark Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement (AECOM, February 2013)