

A heritage of compassion

THE centrepiece of Calvary Health Care Riverina's Wagga Wagga hospital remains its main building, which became an instant local landmark when its construction was completed in 1929.

The building is now essentially a monument to the mission and vision of Mary Potter, the Foundress of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary and Calvary's values of hospitality, healing, stewardship and respect which are embraced to this day.

However, while these values effectively became the foundation for the hospital more than 84 years ago, Calvary has always moved with the times.

A sepia portrait of Mary Potter dating from the 1920s hangs on the wall of the CEO Jo Williams' office in the historic building but below it are architect plans for a series of ambitious building projects.

When completed, these new facilities will ensure that Calvary will continue to provide the best health care to the Riverina community.

A number of new services are under development and a Development Application has been lodged to build a Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Unit.

Building will commence early next year and the unit will be operating by early 2015.

Calvary Riverina has also been successful in securing Commonwealth funding



Registered Nurse Bree Harris and Calvary Health Care Riverina CEO Jo Williams in the hospital's grounds.

to build a 32 bed multi-purpose drug and alcohol unit, which is under construction and will be operational by next August.

"A huge redevelopment in the 1990s not only ensured Calvary kept up with the latest in medical advances and technology," Mrs Williams said.

"But we also continued to maintain the mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, which was to not only to provide a hospital to Wagga and surrounding districts, but to also take care of the sick and the dying.

"Calvary needs to

remain relevant to the community and this is our challenge.

"While Calvary is essentially a private hospital we also provide a host of public services which include drug and alcohol rehabilitation and mental health support. These services rely on State and Federal Government funding.

"We do not compete with anyone for this funding – we are providing services in response to where there are community needs.

"Calvary has been part of the Riverina community for a long time – and we're here to stay."

A hospital, and so much more



Calvary Hospital's main building was a grand achievement when it was completed in 1929 and it remains a cornerstone of the facility to this day.

CALVARY Health Care Riverina began its operations with the Sisters of The Little Company of Mary being invited to Wagga Wagga in 1926. In 1929 they established the hospital in Wagga.

Today Calvary Health Care Riverina is much more than a hospital for the people of Wagga and the surrounding districts.

In addition to the 104 bed private hospital, there is a 10 bed alcohol and 12 bed drug and illicit drug rehabilitation Unit.

The Calvary Day Procedures Centre has three procedure rooms, 13 stage one recovery places and 11 stage two places.

Calvary's 20 bed Critical Care Unit has four dedicated Intensive Care beds and the balance of the beds provide monitoring for cardiac patients and those who have undergone major surgery and require high dependency care.

In November, a partnership between Calvary Health Care Riverina and Murrumbidgee Local Health District saw the opening of specialist acute



palliative care beds at the hospital to public patients. Patients can now be directly admitted through the admitting doctor in consultation with the clinical lead and priority will be based on clinical need.

The unit will look at people's pain management, nausea, any side effects from radiotherapy, chemotherapy, rehydration and reconditioning.

Other services provided by Calvary include general medical and surgical, coronary/intensive care, day procedures, maternity services with three labour wards and Special Care Nursery, orthopaedics, urology, gynaecology and paediatrics.

There is also a specialist Sleep Study Unit and the Palliative Care Specialist Unit was developed in July at St Anne's East.

Calvary's main theatres operate 24 hours a day, and starting next year session times will be extended to accommodate increasing specialist demand.



Rural centre of learning

THE University of Notre Dame Australia, with funding from the Commonwealth Government under the Rural Clinical Training and Support program, has established a rural clinical school campus on the grounds of Calvary Health Care Riverina.

The key goals of this program are to support the rural health workforce and to increase the number of doctors working in rural Australia.

In June 2011 the Wagga Campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia Rural Clinical School, opened its doors in temporary accommodation at Calvary.

In 2014 the school will have nine final year graduate students studying in Wagga for the full year along with other rotating students. Already six of the eight students who studied in Wagga in 2013 have been successful in their applications for internship at Wagga Base.



The architect's impression of the completed Wagga Campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia.

The University of Notre Dame will open a new \$3.8 million facility in February which will provide not only excellent training facilities for teaching staff and students but also facilities for the medical and broader health community including a lecture theatre seating 120 people.

The Wagga Wagga Notre Dame Rural Clinical School works in partnership with clinicians, Murrumbidgee Local Health District and Calvary Health Care Riverina, and the University of NSW to ensure that medical students receive the best education and rural experience.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1926

Calvary Health Care Riverina is a mission based charity providing compassionate, high quality care to the people of the Riverina since 1926.

- General Medical and Surgical
- Maternity Unit
- Special Care Nursery
- Coronary and Intensive Care
- Cancer Care Centre
- Orthopaedics
- Urology
- Day Procedures
- Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation

Providing your choice of doctor and hospital.
For further information about our services, admission, transfer or health fund coverage call our Patient Services Manager on 6923 2313.



Calvary Hospital
Wagga Wagga
6925 3055

Calvary Day
Procedure Centre
6925 4700

Calvary Alcohol
and Drugs Unit
6925 4744