

determination made it happen.

# '63 dispute over credit for hospital

In November 1963 there was an argument in Moorabbin Council as to who should get the credit for the latest decision, at that stage, to go ahead with a 30-bed hospital.

The clash was between former councillors Ken Hodgson and Reg Butler. Both represented the north ward.

Cr. Hodgson said it was the members of the Hospital Provisional Committee who induced the government's final approval of the hospital. "They had never abandoned hope of obtaining a hospital on the selected

site," he told council. He said the committee had been ably backed by Mr. R.H. Suggett MLA and Mr. J.A. Rafferty, MLA who influenced the government to change its policy.

Cr. Butler differed. He said the whole credit of getting the hospital should go to Mrs. N. Allen, a trained nurse of East Benteigh "who set in motion a concerted effort to bring pressure to bear on the authorities to reverse the decision to spend \$90,000 on renovations and additions to the old building in Anne Street and concentrate on a new building in Centre Road," he said.

He referred to the petition of 5000 names gathered by a group of people who opposed the Centre Road site being used for any other purpose than a hospital. This petition was finally presented to parliament.

Left: Article from Page 38 Souvenir Edition, Moorabbin News, Sunday, October 19th 1975.

Right: Article from Page 11, Souvenir Edition, Moorabbin News, Sunday October 19th 1975.

## and a little help from above?

If prayer does move mountains the role of Rose Kennedy in the construction of the hospital should be recognised.

"Every time I read a black headline about the hospital I would say a Hail Mary and throw a St. Joseph's medal onto the site," she would say during the frustrating years of the sixties.

Rose, who lives in Centre Rd. and is one of the pioneering Kennedy families of East Benteigh was in her eighties during these times.

Her interpretation of a black headline was one which deferred the hospital again; and there were plenty of these.

"When I was on the bus going along Centre Rd. I would start a Hail Mary as soon as we got to the hospital site fence and have it finished at the corner of Gardeners Rd."

How many holy medals had she thrown onto the land? "Can't remember now ... it was quite a few."

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### FINALLY: (JUST FOR A LAUGH!)

### "The Dead Parrot"

A woman arrived at the vet with her parrot lying "claws-up" at the bottom of the cage. The vet pronounced the bird dead.

"Are you positive?" she cried. "Couldn't he just have fainted?"

The vet sighed, left the surgery and returned with a Labrador dog. The dog stood on its hind legs, sniffed the parrot, turned to the vet and shook its head. The vet led it away and returned with a tabby cat, which leapt onto the table, looked at the parrot and shook its head.

"I'm afraid your parrot is **definitely** dead," said the vet handing her the bill. "Four hundred dollars!" gasped the woman. "Just to tell me my parrot is dead!"

"Well," he said, "if you'd accepted my opinion, it would have been \$50. **But with the lab report and cat scan, it's \$400.**"