

**School 108 was the last school of general nurses to leave the NDSN, this month, completing almost 40 years of nurse training in the central and northern Victorian region.**

All general nurses in the area will now be trained in colleges.

The NDSN was Australia's first independent school of nursing and began in 1950 in an historic Bendigo mansion known as Lister House.

According to historian, Frank Cusack's 'Lister House, the story of the Northern District School of Nursing', published in 1976, the school has had a chequered and, at times, stormy history.

In August 1951, the school was certified as a training school for registered nurses, in conjunction with nine regional hospitals. These were Castlemaine, Kyneton, Bendigo, Mildura, Swan Hill, Echuca, St Arnaud, Dunolly and Ouyen.

Later, Kyneton and Dunolly trainees were absorbed into Bendigo, and Ouyen trainees became affiliated with Mildura.

In latter years, the school has accepted students from hospitals in Castlemaine, Maryborough, Bendigo, Echuca, Swan Hill and Mildura.

Students from the smaller hospitals gained a portion of their clinical experience in the larger, base hospitals at Bendigo and Mildura. All students attended Lister House for set study blocks throughout their three years of training.

For almost 40 years, the NDSN has trained general nurses in a unique setting. With the move to college-based training, Lister House will close, but leaves many memories for those who trained there.

### **FEATURE**

A feature of the NDSN was the staff of highly trained and experienced tutors.

Just two years ago, the school boasted round a dozen tutors. By the time this goes to print there will be none.

Most were forced to seek other jobs, some within the new college system; some with hospitals. Others have opted for early retirement.

The last tutor to leave Lister House was Mary Ryan.

Mary has been at Lister House for over 10 years and spent her last two weeks there waiting for the results of school 108