

ABOUT THIS BUILDING

1959: This building was constructed behind the original Tarooma State School in Coolamon Road, now the site of the units beside St Lukes Church. (The school burnt down in 1974)

26th November 1959: Official opening.

21st. August 1986: This building was lifted by crane onto a truck and moved from Coolamon Rd. to its current position.

Local mothers belonging to the Tarooma Child Health Association supported their clinic, raising money for furnishings and to pay telephone and electricity bills. The government provided a qualified Child Health Sister. The frequency of her visits was determined by the number of babies in the suburb.

February 1967: Bushfires destroyed many buildings including the Doctor's surgery and public hall. The clinic became a temporary surgery (rent \$6 per week) for Doctors Wallace and Boughey.

The Child Health Sister continued her weekly consultations in St Lukes church hall until a new surgery was built.

What was 'the clinic'?

The baby boom following WW2 led to increased demand for baby health services. Groups of mothers formed associations to seek government help. **28th. September 1948:** Tarooma Child Welfare Association was formed by 12 mothers. A Child Health Sister (nurse) provided by the State Government started clinics in the old Tarooma public hall.

The Child Health Clinic

What happened at the clinic?

On the day of the Child Health Nurse's visit, mothers parked prams and pushers (strollers) in the outer room, and waited for their turn with their babies and toddlers on the red bench seats in the second room. A box of donated toys kept toddlers amused. A table of second-hand children's clothing and sewing and knitting patterns provided an opportunity to raise money for clinic upkeep.

Babies were weighed and measured, and their growth recorded in their clinic books (pink for girls, blue for boys). Sister gave advice on breast and bottle feeding, health issues, introduction of solids, and when to vaccinate. Vaccinations were provided in the community hall every month or so by a doctor contracted by Kingborough Council.

Approx. 2003: Visits by the nurse ceased. Tarooma and Sandy Bay Child Health Clinics were amalgamated.

2011: This now un-used building was taken over by Kingborough Council and renovated for community use.