As readers will no doubt have noticed, progress on the new Jindalee Hotel has been roaring ahead during the past weeks.

All will agree that it is already becoming a landmark in the Centenary Project. Despite current problems in the building industry, the contractors, Watkins Limited, have been able to maintain their construction schedule and it is still hopeful that the taps will be turned on by Christmas this year. For a project of this size, the construction time would normally be much longer.

Certain of the design features are already becoming more noticeable in keeping with the architect's intention of seeking to make the complex look like a very large, luxurious country house — with plenty of exposed natural timber. The famous Marble Bar from the old Criterion Hotel and the imported Windsor style private bar décor are already being fitted. Earthworks for the expansive car park are also well under way.

The next issue of the Jindaleeader will announce firm arrangements for opening dates and other major attractions.

Westlake Shopping Centre

A neighbourhood shopping centre will be developed at Westlake, by Mr. Steve Wigan, who formerly owned the Curramundi Road complex at Jindalee.

On contemporary lines, it will initially feature ten shops, and this first stage is due for completion early next year.

The feature of the development will be its overall air-conditioning.

At a later stage, the centre will be expanded to accommodate extensive professional services.

IN RETROSPECT

Remarks by former Prime Minister, Sir Arthur Fadden in our last issue touched off another reminiscence.

On presenting to the Lord Mayor the scissors which he had just used to open the Centenary Bridge, Sir Arthur Fadden reflected:

"This pair of scissors . . . reminds me of an occasion when Lady Fadden and myself were in New Delhi — at your expense of course, as far as I was concerned — she paid her own — but that was the last occasion where I was the recipient of such generosity from the people of Australia. But be that as it may, I was privileged to hand over, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government of Australia, under the Colombo Plan, railway carriages and a train in New Delhi, and Lady Fadden was honoured by being asked to perform the opening ceremony of cutting the ribbon across the line.

Well — they gave her a pair of gold scissors, and impressed upon her in the presentation that they were hers. Being left-handed like myself, she took off her glove, put the glove down, picked up the scissors, cut the ribbon, put down the scissors, picked up the glove, put it on — and we've never seen the scissors since.

There was great consternation all round the ridges — the police, security service and everybody — and the only conclusion that I could come to was that, as India is famous for sword swallowers, somebody swallowed the scissors."