

Beth Cuthbertson Scholarship

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Founded in 1950 by Vivian Bullwinkel and Betty Jeffrey, outstanding nurses and survivors of WWII Prisoner-of-War Camps, the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre (ANMC) was established to honour Australian nurses who served in the various theatres of wars or humanitarian operations. As part of its mission to act as “a living memorial” by advancing the nursing profession through education, the ANMC provides and administers scholarships for nurses and midwives undertaking postgraduate study at an Australian university or other accredited higher education institution.

The Beth Cuthbertson Scholarship is generously sponsored by members of the Beth Cuthbertson family.

Sister Mary Elizabeth Cuthbertson was one of the 65 Australian Army Nurses evacuated on the SS Vyner Brooke from Singapore on 12 February 1942 ahead of the invasion by Japanese forces. Two days later the ship was bombed by Japanese planes off the islands of Sumatra and Bangka, Indonesia. There was no word of Beth (as she was always called) until two years later when her father received advice from the Army Nursing Service that she was missing, believe drowned.

It was not until September 1945 that Beth’s family was notified that she was dead. Sister Vivian Bullwinkel told how Beth had survived the bombing of their ship and had swum ashore to Radji Beach, Bangka Island. On 16 February 1942, Beth and 21 other Australian nurses along with one civilian woman were marched into the sea then shot from behind by Japanese soldiers. Vivian Bullwinkel was the sole survivor of the massacre.

The Beth Cuthbertson Scholarship (\$10,000) will be awarded for postgraduate study in 2023.

Study Subject: Related to patient-centred nursing or midwifery practice

Level: Postgraduate – Coursework or Research

Eligibility

- This scholarship provided to support postgraduate study is open to nurses and midwives who hold current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). Preference will be given to applicants practising in a regional or rural area. (Refer eligibility criteria)

Payment Information

The scholarship will be paid in two instalments (March and July) in the year of study. Research students are required to submit an Academic Progress Report demonstrating satisfactory academic progress in June and November. For recipients studying by course work a certified copy of the university transcript is required in July and December.

Application Details

Applications for the scholarship must be submitted by 31 August 2022 using the form available at the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre website: <https://australiannursesmemorialcentre.org.au/>

Enquiries

Email: scholarships@nmc.org.au

Telephone: 0429 602 144

Short-listed applicants should be available for interview in late October or early November 2022.