



AUSTRALIAN NURSES MEMORIAL CENTRE

Winter 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre's newsletter.

Board Update

As a valued member of the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre community, we would like to update you on changes that have recently occurred on the Board of Directors.

Mrs Arlene Bennett stepped down from the position of President and resigned from her position on the Board of Directors, effective 14 May 2022. We thank Arlene for her tireless contribution to the Centre. We are extremely pleased that she will continue to share her expertise and serve on the History and Heritage Committee.

Dr Elizabeth Lavender resigned her position of Vice President to take up the role of President, effective 15 May 2022, she will undertake this role until nominations are called for, and elections held at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Ms Barbara Green has been appointed Vice President, effective 15 May 2022. Ms Green will also hold the position until the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Mr David Balcombe remains in the position of Treasurer

The Board recently went through the process of calling for expressions of interest and interviews for three vacant Board positions. The successful candidates are Dr Jessica Biles, Mrs Susan Hogan and Mr Geoffrey Robinson NSC. The new Directors are warmly welcomed as is Emeritus Professor Maxine Duke who has re-joined the Board. Short biographies of the new Directors will be included in the Spring Newsletter.

Message from the incoming President – Dr Elizabeth Lavender

It is with regret that I note Arlene Bennet's retirement from the Board. Arlene was absolutely dedicated to remembering and telling the stories of our founders. We look forward to her continuing contribution to the Centre as a member of the History and Heritage Committee.

I take over as President with the goal of working with the Board to further enhance the work of the Centre. This includes continuing to strengthen governance, raising funds for new scholarships and promoting the extraordinary story of our founders. In particular we intend to develop deeper relationships with our past scholarship recipients and harness their amazing depth of knowledge and skills to further the goals of the Centre. The Board welcomes feedback and ideas from members at any time.

Message from the outgoing President – Ms Arlene Bennett

After much deliberation I have decided to step down as President of the ANMC and retire from the Board. I did not take this decision lightly but after so much loss in my personal life I felt that stepping down was the only option open to me. I will remain on the History and Heritage Committee and as a Life Member I will undoubtedly see many of you at functions in the future. My last day was officially the 14 May – the 79th anniversary of the sinking of the AHS Centaur. I laid flowers at the memorial in memory of those who lost their lives on the 14 May 1943. It was also the first administrator of the ANMC, Betty Jeffrey's birthday on the 14th so I laid flowers for her also.

I wish the new Board well and hope that they are successful in their future endeavours and that they remember the nurses for whom the ANMC was established.



ANZAC Ceremony 2022

The ANZAC Commemorative Service was held on the 24 April this year. This year was the 80th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. I told the story of the last 65 Australian Army nurses evacuated from Singapore on the 12 February 1942. Photographs of the fallen nurses were placed around the garden. The SS Vyner Brooke travelled by night avoiding the Japanese but their luck ran out on the 14th February. The ship was bombed, and it sunk quickly. Twelve nurses would die at or around the time of the sinking. Twenty-one nurses were massacred on Radji Beach, Banka Island. Only Vivian Bullwinkel would survive the massacre. A further 31 would be captured along the coast of Banka Island and Vivian ultimately joined them in the prisoner of war camp. This would be the beginning of three and a half years in captivity where they suffered from malnutrition, beri-beri, malaria, dengue fever and various other diseases. A further eight nurses would die during captivity. Finally, on the 16th September 1945 the nurses would be rescued and they flew to Singapore. Matron Annie Sage and Sister Jean Floyd came with the rescue party. We were very honoured to have Sister Jean Floyd's son in attendance at the ceremony.

The Captives Hymn was sung by the Keytones Choir. A hymn that had been written by Margaret Dryburgh who was a missionary in the camps. It was sung each Sunday at church in the camps. Margaret Dryburgh died in Belalau, the final camp on Sumatra. Students Ahelee Rahman and Alexandra Conroy-Ryan from Melbourne Girls Grammar School eloquently read out the names of all the nurses who perished as well as the twenty-four nurses who were repatriated to Australia.

Family members of the nurses laid wreaths to commemorate them. Our Patron, Emeritus Professor, Judith Parker laid the collaborative wreath on behalf of all who donated to the wreath.



*ANMC Patron
Emeritus Professor Judith Parker AM*



Nursing students – Monash University

Dr Judith Campbell, a member of the ANMC History and Heritage Committee, was the guest speaker. Judy spoke about the people that she and I have been fortunate to meet in Muntok, Banka Island and those who we have met such as families of the nurses who were lost as well as the nurses who survived the camps. She mentioned the purchase of an ambulance which was fundraised for the Red Cross in Muntok by so many people including the ANMC. The ambulance has been used extensively throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reverend Emily Fraser led us in prayer throughout the service and we thank her for doing so. It was such a fitting memorial to the Founders of the ANMC as well as the nurses who perished during World War II.

By Arlene Bennett

80th Anniversary Radji Beach and Banka Island

16 February 2022 marked the 80th anniversary of the Bangka Island massacre of 21 Australian nurses. Commemorations for this event were unable to proceed as they had in previous years. It was a Zoom event which involved people from all around the world. The Ambassador and staff from the Australian Embassy in Jakarta were in Muntok for the service. The Singapore High Commissioner and staff attended. There were relatives of the fallen nurses and Mr John Bullwinkel, Vivian Bullwinkel's nephew in attendance. The service was one with many speakers from many countries. I was asked to speak about Vivian Bullwinkel and the nurses who perished at the hands of the Japanese. I thank the Friends of Bangka Island for the opportunity to do so.

By Arlene Bennett

80th Anniversary of the sinking of the Hospital Ship Centaur



A Last Post Service was held on Sunday 15 May 2022 to remember those who were lost with the sinking of the Hospital Ship the Centaur. Arlene Bennett and Barbara Green attended the service and laid a wreath on behalf of the ANMC. The service was conducted at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

Vale

Rosemary Norman 22 July 1933 – 2 May 2021



The Australian Nurses Memorial Centre pays tribute to Rosemary Havill Norman for her lifelong dedication to nursing and commitment to further education for nurses and midwives.

Rosemary graduated from the Melbourne School of Nursing in 1954 before completing a staffing year at the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) followed by midwifery training at the Royal Women's Hospital. She returned to the RMH to work in various clinical areas for more than a decade before beginning her teaching career at the hospital. To develop her career

Rosemary completed a Diploma in Nursing Education in 1963 and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in 1980. She progressed to educator positions at the College of Nursing and later at the Royal District Nursing Service where she engaged in research to improve practice. Rosemary eventually retired in the late 1980s to continue contributing to society in volunteer education roles.

As an only child Rosemary was devoted to her parents, caring for them as they became frail in their later years. Seeking to perpetuate the legacy of her late father, Reginald 'Babe' Havill Norman, she established the Rosemary Norman Foundation in 2008 with aims including support for doctoral studies in nursing and midwifery. The Foundation has since awarded the 'Babe' Norman Scholarship to assist a number of candidates complete their PhD research into aspects of professional practice in nursing or midwifery as well as other grants to facilitate further research.

Rosemary's commitment to assisting the further education of nurses and midwives through the award of scholarships is widely respected in the profession and deeply appreciated by the scholarship recipients who have benefited from her generosity.

By Dr Beverley Wood

It is with sadness that the Centre notes the passing of **Miss Joyce Buckland**, life member since 1953, on the 19th May 2022 aged 90 years. Past member, **Miss Margaret Watson** died in June 2022 and long-time supporter **Bruce Bird LCDR RAN Retired** passed away on 25th April 2022.

Scholarships for 2023 Study

The 2023 round of Scholarships have been advertised, please feel free to disseminate this information to anyone who may be interested in applying. There have been a number of recent changes to both the ANMC Scholarships, and the awards administered on behalf of other organisations and individuals. The current scholarships, values and funding sources are outlined below.

ANMC Scholarships for 2023 Study

Award	Value	Current Funding Sources
Vivian Bullwinkel Award	\$20,000	ANMC: \$10,000 Mr John Bullwinkel: \$10,000
Betty Jeffrey Award	\$15,000	ANMC: \$15,000
Indigenous Nurse Scholarship	\$5,000	ANMC: \$5,000
Mental Health Scholarship	\$5,000	ANMC: \$5,000

Administered Scholarships for 2023 Study

Award	Value	Funding Sources
ANMC & Australian Legion of Ex Service Men & Women Scholarship	TBA	Victorian Veterans Council for Australian Legion
Prince Henry's Affiliates	\$5,000	Prince Henry's Affiliates: \$5,000
Anne Murray Scholarship for Study of Dementia Care	\$6,000	Ms Dolores Makris: \$6,000
Michael Dent Scholarship	\$5,000	Mrs Sandy Dent: \$5,000
Beth Cuthbertson Scholarship	\$10,000	Family members of Beth Cuthbertson \$10,000

Updates and Future Scholarships

Please visit the ANMC website for regular updates to scholarships and scholarship offerings.

By Dr Beverley Wood Scholarship Committee

Australian Nurses Memorial Centre Scholarships – My story

As a graduate of apprenticeship style hospital-based courses for registration as a nurse and midwife, I needed to upgrade my qualifications in an era when there was a push for professionalisation of nurses through higher education. In 1985 I commenced a Bachelor of Applied Science (Advanced Nursing) at Melbourne's Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences where I learned about for example, applied human bioscience, advanced nursing, clinical teaching, educational psychology and nursing research which were entirely new subjects for me. I started to realise how much more I needed to learn.

For the first year of the Bachelor's degree, I was enrolled as a part-time student while working as a midwife at a community hospital but I was stretched to the limit. As my academic results were better than I expected, I then rather bravely contemplated completing the final year as a full-time student enrolment while wondering how I would manage to do this. After spotting an advertisement about the availability of scholarships by the then 'Nurses Memorial Centre,' and after a great deal of procrastination, I cautiously submitted an application. I was overjoyed when notified of my success and deeply grateful for the privilege of a scholarship. It meant so much! I meant I could reduce my working hours and dedicate more time to my studies and complete the degree sooner rather than later.

In 1988, following successful completion of my Bachelor's degree, I was employed as a midwifery educator for a hospital-based course until its transfer to the university sector a few years later. In the meantime, I enrolled in a Master of Education at The University of Melbourne and then a Doctorate of Education to advance my capability as an educator and researcher. My plan was to prepare myself for a future as an academic and in 1996 I applied to the Nurses Memorial Centre for a scholarship and once again, I was successful. In 2001, I completed my degree and was by then, employed in the university sector.

My academic responsibilities over the years encompassed teaching and learning activities for both undergraduate and postgraduate students (Nursing and Midwifery), course coordination roles in both disciplines, research activities and supervision roles for Masters and Doctoral students. My journey into an academic career pathway was something I did not foresee way back when I was a student nurse but anything is possible especially when scholarships are available. I am forever grateful to the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre for the financial support and the confidence boost it gave me to be considered as a worthy scholarship recipient.

By Dr Diane Phillips

Retired nurse/midwife/academic

February 2022

The ANMC 72nd AGM

The 72nd Annual General Meeting will be held Monday 7th November 6:00pm start
We envisage this will be a hybrid event, both in person and via Zoom.

Col Jan McCartney (Retd)



Laying of wreaths



Any queries please feel free to contact Liz in the office 0429 602 144