



AUSTRALIAN NURSES MEMORIAL CENTRE

Welcome to our June 2020 newsletter.

I trust that you have all adapted to life during the COVID-19 pandemic and that you're staying safe and well? Who'd have thought that in the year of the nurse and midwife a pandemic would siege the world! As restrictions are easing, our venue is back being utilized with The Melbourne Chamber Orchestra recommencing rehearsals, which in turn, provides the ANMC with a revenue stream, which is literally music to our ears.



We have had a few enquires for re-commencing venue hire, as the room can fit 30 with social distancing. The remainder of the meeting attendees can join the meeting virtually, which seems to be the new norm. Due to COVID19 our venue bookings were all cancelled. Its certainly nice that this is picking up again.



On the 14th May, myself and Barbara Green, great niece of Sister Evelyn King, attended the ANMC to lay a wreath in memory of the nurses who lost their lives with the sinking of the Centaur on the 14th May 1943. The flag was lowered to half mast, as we remembered the eleven nurses. Lest we forget.

The ANMC board continues to hold our board meetings virtually via the Zoom platform, with a few of us attending in person at the office for the June meeting. Connecting in person is a treat these days.

A few months ago, I asked the Board members to write a piece for the newsletter so that you could learn a little more about them, so in this issue you'll hear from two board members.

Stay safe and well until we can meet again.

Arlene Bennett
President

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Australian Nurses Memorial Centre (ANMC) proudly introduces scholarships for nurses and midwives to support postgraduate study in 2021. Applications open on 1st July until 31st August. Please visit our website for further information on each of the scholarships.

[ANMC Scholarship information for 2021](#)

ANMC Scholarships

- The ANMC Vivian Bullwinkel Award (**value \$15,000**)
- The ANMC Betty Jeffrey Award (**value \$10,000**)
- The ANMC Indigenous Nurse Scholarship (**value \$5,000**)
- The ANMC Mental Health Scholarship (**value \$5,000**)

ANMC and Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women Scholarships

Since 2008 the ANMC has collaborated with the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women as sponsor of annual scholarships to support postgraduate study involving care of the older person or palliative care. Several scholarships (**value \$5,000 to \$10,000**) are available.

The Anne Murray Scholarship for the Study of Dementia Care



This scholarship (**value \$15,000**), in honour of Anne Murray, will be awarded to a nurse practising in Victoria to support the study of dementia care. Anne Murray was a Prince Henry's nurse whose career took her to London's Stoke Mandeville Spinal Injuries Centre. She joined the RAF as an officer – medical evacuations, and worked in Zimbabwe and Johannesburg hospitals. After retiring in 2010 Anne was diagnosed with early frontal lobe dementia and passed away in 2014. This scholarship is generously provided by Anne's dear friend and life partner, Ms Dolores Makris.

Epworth HealthCare Centenary Scholarships

In 2020, the Centenary year of Epworth HealthCare, the ANMC is collaborating with the Epworth Medical Foundation as sponsor of scholarships to be awarded in honour of Ethel Gray, the first Matron of Epworth Hospital. **Three scholarships, each valued at \$10,000**, for study in 2021 will be awarded:

- One to a nurse or midwife practising in Victoria;
- One to an indigenous nurse or midwife practising in Victoria; and
- One to a nurse or midwife practising in regional Victoria.

Epworth HealthCare Centenary Scholarships



When Epworth Hospital first opened in 1920, its founders were so determined that Ethel Gray was the best and only matron to lead the care of its patients that they were willing to wait many months to secure her appointment.



Born in Carlton in 1876, she was one of the most highly-decorated members of the Australian Army Nursing Service. She was mentioned twice in dispatches, was appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and was the only Australian woman to ever receive the Medaille de la Reconnaissance Française.

After the war, Ethel took the post as Matron of the newly-opened Epworth Hospital where she served until her retirement in 1939. She generously donated to the hospital during that time and left a major bequest in her will to continue care for patients after her death. Matron Gray was dearly loved, and is remembered to this day for her tireless championing of both patients and nurses.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION SESSION

On the 1st of August from 2.00-3.30pm the ANMC will host our inaugural Alumni scholarship information session. Dr Kerry Hampton, Alumni Inaugural Chair, will host the session.

- Hear about the various scholarships available.
- Hear from successful applicants as to how the ANMC scholarships have advanced their careers. Dr Maggie Flood who was scholarship recipient in 2014 and 2015 and Priscilla Gates who was awarded the Vivian Bullwinkel Scholarship in 2020.
- Learn about the scholarship categories you can apply for.

Registrations for this event can be made via our website [Scholarship Information Session Registration](#)

GET TO KNOW THE MEMBERS OF THE ANMC BOARD



Assoc Prof Rowan D Story

I have been asked to write a short piece for the ANMC website. I am not super keen to talk about myself, but I always do what our President asks! My links with the ANMC go back many years to a military dinner where I was fortunate to sit opposite Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel AO, MBE, ARRC, ED. I can still remember her calm and quiet dignity.

At that time I did not fully understand the nature of the experiences that she had had. I have been grateful to the ANMC for helping me to gain a much greater understanding of Colonel Bullwinkel's history, and also the history of others, in building and maintaining the Living Memorial.

As well as having many family links to the Nursing profession - Mother, Wife and Sister - I have worked with nurses in the operating theatre and wards for all of professional life as an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. It would be impossible to care for my patients without their help. Having worked professionally in Australia, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam it is clear that the fundamental nature of the Nursing profession is common to many cultures.

My first consultant post was as the first Oral Surgeon at the Queen Victoria Medical Centre in Melbourne. Coincidentally this was where my Mother, a Nursing sister, met my Father, a Doctor during the Second World War. The Queen Vic then moved to Clayton, and with the addition shortly after of Prince Henrys, became Monash Medical Centre (MMC). The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit at MMC started out as a unit of one person. By the time I left MMC some 20 years later the unit had grown to be fully functioning unit with an established place in the national training scheme for the specialty. The experience gained in the Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic at MMC led to a long association with the National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Our annual surgical missions, since 1998, have been sadly stopped for 2020 by the Covid19 pandemic. We hope to re-commence when we can.

Another interest has been military service. I was commissioned into the Australian Army Reserve in May of 1979 and served on attachment to the British Army when I was doing post-graduate surgical training in Edinburgh in 1981/1982. This was the height of the Cold War and the very real threat was the USSR and Warsaw Pact Forces. After 8 years in the Army Reserve I transferred to the Royal Australian Air Force Health Branch and have been there ever since. I was posted as Director General Health Reserves - Air Force, on promotion to Air Commodore, in 2011. I was responsible for the raise, train, sustain function for 450 doctors, nurses and other health professionals in the Air Force Reserve. An interest in professional regulation led to 9 years on the Dental Board of Victoria and a term as President of the Board. I found the legal aspects of the disciplinary role of the Board extremely interesting. I studied law after leaving the Board and was admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria. I currently teach law and ethics at the University of Melbourne and at La Trobe University and sit as a Member of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Assoc Prof Rowan D Story AM, RFD, MDSc, BSc, LLB, GDLP, FRACDS, FDSRCPS, GAICD.

David Balcombe

David was introduced to the ANMC by his wife Judy who developed a passion for the cause of the nurses because of a family connection. Her



grandfather was a civilian internee on Bangka Island and arrived in much the same way as the nurses did, from a bombed ship from Singapore en-route to Australia.

The story of the nurses Radji beach and the life of other nurses' imprisonment was an exceptionally compelling story. After the centre conducted its strategic review David was invited to join the board because of the range of additional skills he had. While he jokingly says he does not know whether he is thankful or not for the introduction to ANMC, David does enjoy the challenges of the Board and wholehearted supports the mission of ANMC.

His professional background is as a Chartered Accountant and a career as a Partner at Ernst & Young. He was at EY for a bit over 40 years and was his only job except for a few

vacation roles. David's second longest job was as Treasurer of 2nd Clifton Hill Scouts for 13 years. He moved there along with his children Lauren and Simon as they joined scouts after also being the Treasurer at the Kindergarten his children went to. Who was that person who "volunteered" him for Treasurer at the Kindergarten.

At EY David started as an auditor and had a number of roles at the firm but for the last 8 years had a role where he was in charge of an internal quality and risk management team across Asia -Pacific, which brought him in contact with a wide variety of people and cultures across that very interesting geography and challenging business issues. There was some time for adventure and relaxation in places such as Fiji, China, Mongolia and Myanmar. However, one country in his patch was The Maldives but sadly for some reason EY never seemed to organise an important business meeting there.

After EY David decided on a second career as a financial counsellor working out of Uniting in Broadmeadows and Brunswick. He great satisfaction in using the financial skills gained as a Chartered Accountant for the benefit of those who are suffering significant financial stress.

As well as being a member of the ANMC Board he is a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee of AHPRA and a Board Member and Treasurer (there he goes again) of Financial Counselling Victoria Inc.

David's family comprises Judy, a GP, Lauren a nurse at The Alfred and Simon, a student, Arnold the aloof cat and Buddy the rescue dog Cocker Spaniel they have had for 2 years, which everyone else said they would definitely look after. But guess what happened! He is a lovely and loyal dog.

In his leisure time he spends time at the family shack at McCrae, a bit of bike riding, cooking, and looking after Buddy.

DINNER CANCELLED 😞

We are disappointed to advise that we made the decision to cancel our 70th Anniversary Dinner and the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of POW Nurses which was scheduled for 19th September 2020. We know that the nurses who survived in the POW camps would understand our caution.

This celebratory event will be rescheduled sometime in 2021. We will keep you posted.

From the archives -

It was Annie Sage's suggestion that the formation of auxiliaries could help the Centre financially. The outcome was the establishment in 1955 of two auxiliaries: one to provide financial aid to the Centre known as the Betty Jeffrey Auxiliary and the Vivian Bullwinkel Auxiliary which provided voluntary help. Mrs Jessie Degenhardt, a foundation member of the Geelong Hospital Nurses' League which gave much support during the appeal, was the first Chairman of the Betty Jeffrey Auxiliary, and Miss J.M. Bray, Honorary Secretary. In its first year the Betty Jeffrey Auxiliary raised 250 pounds for the Centre. They kicked off their fund-raising by imposing a membership fee of two shillings a head. One of the Auxiliary's biggest functions was the Jumble Sale, first held in September 1957. It was so successful that it became an annual event, but it required an enormous amount of organisation. Many of the fund-raising ideas were not sophisticated, but ideas such as the apron appeal, in an era when aprons were more generally worn by Australian women, were very successful. Auxiliary members made over 600 aprons in 1958 which were sent of all members of the Memorial Centre with an appealing verse asking them to measure their waist and send two pennies for every inch. Members kept a money box on their dressing table for small change and in only a few weeks twenty-five pounds and eleven shillings had been raised.



Sept 1957 Betty Jeffrey Auxiliary held the first jumble sale which was so successful it became an annual event.

Pictured: Sophie Brodie, Dot Heider, Hiva Bristol and Betty Jeffrey.

Let's hope we can hold our annual Christmas fair fundraiser in November!

(excerpt from Victoria's Living Memorial, History of the Nurses Memorial Centre 1948-1990)

Thank you to the many members that have donated and renewed their annual memberships. We appreciate your support.

[ANMC Donate Every little bit helps](#)

Thank you for reading.