



AUSTRALIAN NURSES MEMORIAL CENTRE

Winter 2021 Newsletter

ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE 2021

Our annual ANZAC Commemorative Service was held on Sunday 18th of April. We were privileged to have The Reverend Emily Fraser from Christ Church to officiate, together with The Keytones Choir singing the *Captives Hymn* and *Like a River*, made for a moving and poignant service.



Captain Lionel Boxer CD from the RVR Pipes and Drums played the lament on the bagpipes. Arlene Bennett spoke about the comparisons



between the Prisoner of War nurses held in captivity for three and a half years and our recent lockdown. Arlene concluded that we were not really so badly off in reality as we still had almost everything that we needed and we were in the comfort of our homes, as compared to our brave nurses. Air

Commodore Rowan Story AM RFD (Rtd) spoke proudly about the Centenary of the Royal Australian Airforce, the second oldest Airforce in the world, with particular focus on the nursing service and its role within the RAAF, highlighting one of our esteemed members, Jenny Lumsden's contribution to the RAAF in her role as Air Commodore in the RAAF. 20 representatives from organisations and the families of the nurses placed wreaths at the Memorial. This year we initiated the "Collaborative Wreath", which raised \$4,000 with the funds going towards a scholarship. The service was, as always, a reflective and enjoyable event.



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY IN 2022

Applications for Scholarships opened on 1st July and will remain open to 31st of August 2021. This year we are pleased to announce even more scholarships are available. Along with our Vivian Bullwinkel, Betty Jeffrey and other scholarships we have the ANMC Commemorative Scholarship which is valued at up to \$5,000 and has been made possible by the generous donations to the Collaborative Wreath.

The Prince Henry's Affiliates Scholarship is to now be offered on an annual basis thanks to the generous donation made by Miss Marion Kilvert, herself a past trainee of the hospital. The scholarship is to be awarded to a Victorian nurse who wishes to undertake studies in patient centred acute care. The award is made in memory of the fine hospital and training school that Prince Henry's Hospital was and the important role that it played in Victorian health care prior to its closure in 1991. We thank Marion for her continued support of the ANMC as a Life Member and a generous donor.

Mrs Sandra Dent, a retired nurse and local resident, who attends our Commemorative Services, was inspired to offer a scholarship worth \$5,000 in memory of her late husband Mr Michael Dent. We thank Sandra most sincerely for her generous donation to the ANMC so that we can continue to offer more scholarships to nurses annually.

ANMC Scholarships

- Vivian Bullwinkel Award \$15,000
- Betty Jeffrey Award \$10,000
- Indigenous Nurse Scholarship \$5,000
- Mental Health Scholarship \$5,000
- Commemorative Scholarship \$5,000

Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women and ANMC Scholarships

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

The Anne Murray Scholarship for the Study of Dementia Care

This scholarship valued at \$15,000, sponsored by Ms Dolores Makris in honour of Anne Murray, will be awarded to a nurse practising in Victoria to support the study of dementia care.

The Prince Henry's Affiliates Scholarship

This scholarship valued at \$5,000 sponsored by Miss Marion Kilvert will be awarded to a nurse practising in Victoria to support the study of acute care nursing.

The Michael Dent Scholarship

This scholarship valued at \$5,000 sponsored by Mrs Sandra Dent will be awarded to a nurse or midwife practising in Victoria to support the study of patient-centred nursing/midwifery.

Please head to our website to read more information and the edibility criteria for each scholarship.

[**ANMC Scholarships**](#)

~~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

VALE - JOYCE NEWTON OAM 18/1/21

On the 23rd of April Sue Sherson, Helen Pickering and Arlene Bennett attended a memorial service held for Joyce Newton. Joyce had been a member of the Council at the Nurses Memorial Centre for many years and features in the book 'Living Memorial.' Joyce had been the Director of Nursing at PANCH and had been a longtime supporter of the ANMC. She had been a valued member of St Peter's Eastern Hill Church congregation where the service was conducted. In more recent times Joyce had moved to Sydney where she lived in a nursing home close to her niece and her family.

ANZAC SERVICE REPAT AND UNVEILING OF THREE VIETNAM WAR MURALS

Arlene Bennett attended the Repatriation Hospital, Heidelberg on the 23rd of April for their annual ANZAC Service with Colonel Jan McCarthy (Rtd) and Sue Sherson. Following the Service, the three Vietnam War mosaics were unveiled. The nursing mosaic (pictured) features Barbara Black, the only nurse who died in the AANS as a result of the conflict. Barbara's daughter Emma was present on the day.

The buttons on her dress were those of Colonel Jan McCarthy's which is a very fitting gesture. The second part of the mosaic featured the front cover of Sue Sherson's (nee Terry) book, *House of Love*. It was a great tribute to the Army nurses as well as the civilian nurses who served in Vietnam.

The two other mosaics in the Vietnam series were the one of a soldier which featured the 'dog tags' and a gun embedded into the body of the mosaic. The soldier whose 'dog tags' were used was present on the day. The third mosaic represent the units who served in Vietnam and it had the ballot balls which had been used to select the conscripts in the mosaic also.

The Australian Nurses Memorial Centre is proud to have contributed to and supported this important nurses' mosaic memorial.

Following the unveiling of the mosaics, flowers were placed in the memorial garden on the nurses' memorial at the 'Repat'.



14th of MAY

On the 14th of May the ANMC commemorates two significant events. We commemorate the sinking of the AHS CENTAUR during the conflict of World War 2 and we also remember Betty Jeffrey, the first administrator of the ANMC, as the 14th May is her birthday.

On the morning of the 14th of May 1943 at approximately 0400hours the AHS CENTAUR was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. The clearly marked, clearly lit hospital ship sank in a few minutes. It was outbound for New Guinea to collect wounded soldiers. So many of the crew were sleeping and many went down with the ship. Of the 12 nurses on board only Sister Ellen Savage would survive. Only 64 of the 332 Crew and staff of the newly refurbished AHS Centaur would survive this enemy attack. Those who survived hung onto floating boards and debris from the ship and floated in the water for excess of 30 hours until they were rescued by the USS MUGFORD. Ellen Savage was injured but she managed to assist those who were injured and helped to keep the morale up amongst fellow survivors. For these heroic acts she was awarded the George Medal.

CENTAUR EXHIBITION AND LAST POST SERVICE

On Sunday the 16th of May a group of Centaur Survivors families met at the Shrine of Remembrance to have a private tour of the AHS Centaur Exhibition. We met with Dr Madonna Grehan, historian and former ANMC Board member, Dean Bowen, artist and the curator of the exhibition Neil Sharkey who gave an overview of events on the 14th of May 1943. Dean Bowen had collaborated with Ayumi Sasaki to develop the art installation.

[dean-bowens-imagining-centaur](#)

The afternoon concluded with the Last Post service being held on the forecourt where wreaths were laid on behalf of the families and friends of those who perished.



OUT AND ABOUT with Arlene Bennett

The ANMC President, Arlene Bennett has been keeping busy speaking at a variety of places. Arlene travelled to Morwell to speak at the Probus Club, and presented via Zoom to the Global Nurses and Midwives Rotary Club, sharing the story of the WWII nurses who left Singapore on the SS Vyner Brooke. The massacre of the 21 nurses and the survival of Vivian Bullwinkel was a very sobering topic for discussion as was the subsequent incarceration of the remaining nurses. Arlene explained how the ANMC was developed and what we do today remains part of their legacy.

As part of the History and Heritage Committee's work, Judy Campbell and Arlene Bennett travelled to Maffra on the 21st of June, a significant date, as it would have been Irene 'Rene' Singleton's 113th birthday. Rene Singleton trained at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Rene left Singapore with 64 of her fellow AANS nurses on the SS Vyner Brooke. She made it ashore in Muntok and was a POW for the next three years. Sadly, she died on the 20th of February 1945 in Muntok of Beriberi. She died never knowing that her 2 older brothers had been killed in North Africa two years previously. Approximately 35 members of the Maffra community attended the talk in the Maffra Library including 5 members of her family. The library has a plaque in memory of Irene Singleton which it displays alongside another nurse who died during World War I



In the lead up to our trip away Arlene spoke with ABC Gippsland Radio about Irene Singleton

OUR NEW PATRON

We are delighted and honoured to announce that Emeritus Professor Judith Parker AM has taken up the role of Patron of the ANMC.

From her initial training at the Melbourne School of Nursing through to Head of Foundation and Chair of the School of Nursing at The University of Melbourne, she comes to the ANMC with a wealth of knowledge and experience of nursing and a strong desire to support nurses of the future.

“I am excited to have been appointed Patron of the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre and look forward to supporting future generations of nurses in their clinical and scholarly pursuits. Meeting current members and past and current scholarship recipients and to contributing to the purpose and strength of the organisation are my priorities” she said.



The ANMC will organise a function towards the end of 2021, when we hope to be out of restrictions, for members and friends to join us to meet Judith and hear her story.

Thank you everyone for your ongoing interest and support of the ANMC and Welcome Judy!

ANMC ALUMNI

We are seeking expressions of interest from past scholarship recipients to assist with establishing an Alumni steering committee. Should this be of interest to you, please contact Liz Allwood, Centre Manager via email admin@nmc.org.au

Annual Membership Renewals

A quick reminder that Annual Membership renewals are due –

Please visit our website to renew

[ANMC Membership Renewal 2021-2022](#)

alternatively, you can pay \$55.00 via EFT to ANMC

Bsb 083-419

Account 515556999

Please reference your name

Save the date:

ANMC AGM 25th October 2021

Stay well and stay safe.

