

 **Armistice** 1918-2018  
Australia Remembers

**War Nurses Memorial Park**  
Bourbong & Takalvan Streets, BUNDABERG Qld

# Australian War Nurses Centenary of Armistice Mural

*Artwork by  
Ross Driver*

*Grad Cert Eng Mtce Management AAPS*

Officially 'unveiled' 11 November 2018

by

**The Honourable Keith Pitt MP**

**Federal Member for Hinkler**



REMEMBERING OUR  
**WAR NURSES**





**First World War.**  
Head Sister Constance Keys RRC (AANS) who was one of the four Queensland nurses to sail with the first convoy of ships bound for Egypt in Sep 1914. She served in Egypt and France and was awarded the Royal Red Cross, First Class and Medaille des Epidemies. She did not return to Australia until 1 Nov 1919.



**World War Two.**  
Captain Pearl Mittelheuser (AANS) who died as a Prisoner of War of the Japanese; also depicted is the sinking of SS *Vyner Brook* 12Feb1942 only two survived.  
Sister Vivian Bullwinkel (AANS) was the sole surviving nurse together with a British soldier who later died of wounds. 64 Australian nurses were among the 181 passengers and 47 crew who embarked from Singapore.



**Asian Wars—Vietnam.**  
Flight Officer Rosslyn Richards (RAAFNS) who was a MEDIVAC nurse caring for wounded on aircraft transporting them out of Vietnam; Rosslyn also deployed on Operation Baby Lift in April 1975 immediately prior to the fall of Saigon.





**Peacekeeping Operations—Rwanda.** Lieutenant Alexandra Logan (RAANC) was part of United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda in which Australia provided a large specialist medical contingent that including nurses from all three services that supported the whole UN mission and provided much needed nursing and medical assistance to the local Rwandan community. Australians have been serving as Peacekeepers somewhere in the world every year since 1947 to current day



**Middle East—Afghanistan.** Major Patrick Bates (RAANC) treated injured Australian and Coalition forces as well as civilians at Role 2 health Facility Tarin Kowt. He also provided dignity to two killed Australian Soldiers.



**Peace—** School children at the Bundaberg Cenotaph. *Remembering the Fallen, and Celebrating the Peace.* (left) Warrant Officer Class One Jenny Waldron was part of 67 person contingent deployed on Peacekeeping/ Peacemaking mission in Somalia during 1994 and is depicted handing out biscuits received from home to Somalia orphans in Mogadishu.

# Australian War Nurses Centenary of Armistice Mural

The Australian War Nurses Centenary of Armistice Mural showcases the sacrifice, courage and devotion of nurses who have served in all wars and conflicts at home and abroad, since the Boer War.

The mural was commissioned by the Bundaberg & District Ex Servicewomen's Association to Commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice which ended the First World War, and to celebrate the peace we now enjoy.

The mural has 6 panels each featuring a military nurse from the Bundaberg/Hinkler region who served in the various wars/conflicts from the First World War to the present day.

- The artwork for the mural was produced and gifted by Ross Driver.
- Manufacture and installation undertaken by Bundaberg Quick Signs.
- Assistance provided by Bundaberg Regional Council.
- Funded by: Department of Veterans' Affairs Centenary of Armistice Grant —Hinkler Electorate, and Bundaberg & District Ex Servicewomen's Association Inc.

## Ross Driver Artist

*Behind every fine exacting stroke of the brush is deep thought for the Australian Service Nurse and Australian service men and women they cared for; the sacrifice and the suffering; the humanitarian relief Australians freely provided and the legacy they left behind.*

*Every brush stroke represents Australian footsteps in search of World Peace.*







**Ross Driver  
Artist**



**Brett Sauer  
Bundy Quick Signs**



REMEMBERING OUR  
**WAR NURSES**



## Program 11 November War Nurses Memorial Park

### Launch of the Australian War Nurses Centenary of Armistice Mural



- **Assemble 9.25 am – adjacent to the large tank**
- **9.30 Welcome and introduction, Jenny Waldron, President Ex Servicewomen's Association**
- **Unveiling of mural plaque Hon. Keith Pitt MP**
- **9.40 making of the mural (Leone Wilson OAM)**
- **move to Australian Service Nurses Memorial Wall**
- **Glenda Everton-Brocklesby, Vice President Ex Servicewomen's Association will place a wreath at the memorial wall on behalf of a grateful nation and everyone present.**
- **Invitation to everyone to place a poppy at the memorial wall.**
- **The Ode, Silence, 'Lest we forget'**
- **Thanks for attending, Jenny Waldron**
- **1000 move to ANZAC Park, Quay St for the Bundaberg commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day**

### Opening Address—Jenny Waldron

Distinguished Guests, Nurses, fellow Veterans, Ladies and Gentlemen, this morning in the hours before the country pauses to remember all who died and suffered in the service of our country, the Bundaberg & District Ex Servicewomen's Association is honoured to once again be here at War Nurses Memorial Park to remember the sacrifice and service of our war nurses and to commemorate the Centenary of The Armistice with the official unveiling of the Australian War Nurses Centenary of Armistice Mural.

The mural was commissioned by our Association and we were assisted by technical experts from the Bundaberg Regional Council, Bundaberg Quick Signs and of course the creative talents of local artist Ross Driver. And of course the nurses who shared their photos and stories for the mural. We also acknowledge the funding assistance provided by *Department of Veterans' Affairs Centenary of Armistice Grant program - Hinkler Electorate* that enabled our Association to undertake this community project; that we hope will provide a lasting tribute to all War Nurses and is a fitting way to commemorate the Centenary of Armistice.

Panel 5 of the Australian War Nurses Centenary of Armistice Mural shows Major Patrick Bates, RAANC at work in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, we received the following from Patrick too late to include in the program or in our official signage. I would like to read his words now:

***Tarin Kowt 2009 seems like a lifetime ago.***

***The complexity of the mission in Afghanistan was matched by the traumatic injuries sustained by Australian and Coalition forces as well as the local civilians who were treated at the Role 2 health Facility in Tarin Kowt.***

***"TK" was a hustling Coalition base that acted as the hub for operations.***

***Operations that involved Australian soldiers risking their lives and being exposed to both physical and mental dangers that many have seen and heard in the past. For several months this was my life.***

***Treating the wounded, seriously disfigured by IED's or other kinetic weapons.***

***Looking after the sick who would often struggle on through not wanting to let down their mates.***

***And providing the two Australian soldiers that were killed with dignity and ensuring that they were returned home for their final farewell.***

***Serving as a nurse in the Army has been an honour whilst now being part of the legacy associated with serving on operations as an Australian Army Nurse will always be a privilege that I will cherish.***

The words of Major Bates could just as easily have been attributed to a nurse from the First World War – it is just the technology that has changed over the century.

Although the guns fell silent today 100 years ago, which led to the eventual end of the First World War in June 1919 with the Signing of the Treaty of Versailles, the battle to help thousands of damaged and ill veterans continued for years. This work was done by mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, families and friends and communities; and of course by both military and civilian nurses and other medical experts in our hospitals. It has been thus after every war, conflict or operation, and this vital nursing and supportive care continues throughout Australia today, with veterans from Second World War through to Current Day conflicts.



### Mural elaborations—Leone Wilson OAM

Ross Driver was not able to join us today as he is in Gayndah to judge RSL paintings and exhibit paintings portraying hardships and heroes from the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion. Ross sends his apologies.

The mural you see before you is made up of watercolours created by Ross Driver. I had the opportunity to watch as Ross meticulously add a blush of colour to the poppies that appear on panel 6. The painting was around A3 in size and the brush one of the finest I have seen. As he added a touch of red, he commented “I worry that I do justice to our service men and women”. Ross gifted countless hours to this project; I have no doubt that every brush stroke has been laid with reverence.

Converting the six paintings onto the large skin and installing that onto the tank was a task which fell to Brett Sauer of Bundy Quick Signs. Once more I had the opportunity to watch the work being done by Brett as he added the wording and poppies to the computer image. Brett’s skill and pride in what he was doing was obvious and this too has become part of what we see today.

Special mention must be made of Rosslyn Richards, Alexandra Logan and Patrick Bates who agreed to our request to be featured on the panels, Vietnam through to Middle East.

Also, Jenny Waldron who appears on the Peace painting. For Jenny to be included is very fitting as the mural and so much of what you see in this War Nurses Memorial Park can be attributed to Jenny’s vision and determination.

## 11 November 2018



*Keith Pitt MP, Jenny Waldron (Pres) Michael Walker (Air Force), Les Nichols (Navy)*



*Australian Service Women's Roll of Honour and Commemorative Roll 1899-2016*



### The unveiling





***Hon. Keith Pitt MP, President Jenny Waldron  
Assisted by cadets of T.S. Bundaberg, Australian Naval Cadets***



***Poppy ceremony—Australian Service Nurses Memorial Wall***













**Flanked by cadets from Australian Naval Cadet Unit T.S. Bundaberg, association members: Elaine Holt, Jenny Waldron (President), Ethel Bourke, Leone Wilson OAM (Secretary), Raelene Fryer, Shirley Watson, Jeannie Roberts, Janet Rasmussen and Jenny Chester.**







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**Middle East—Afghanistan.** Major Patrick Bates (RAANC)



**Peace.** School children at the Bundaberg Cenotaph. *Remembering the Fallen, and Celebrating the Peace.* Warrant Officer Class One Jennifer Waldron handing out biscuits to children in Somalia.

**Officially Unveiled on 11 November 2018 by Honourable Keith Pitt MP, Federal Member for Hinkler**

Artist: Mr Ross Driver

Funded by the Bundaberg & District Ex Servicewomen's Association with assistance from a Department of Veterans' Affairs Centenary of Armistice Grant – Hinkler Electorate.

*Further information on the service of Australian Nurses is located on five story-boards positioned near the War Nurses Memorial Pavilion in this park.*



**Above is a reprint of the wording contained on the pictured sign**