Entry type: Organisation
Entry ID: AWE0446

Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC)

(1948 -)

Born	19481101
Occupation	Armed services organisation

Summary

The Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps was formed from the Royal Australian Army Nursing Service and the Australian Army Medical Women's Service. Since being established members of the service have served in many theatres of war and other operations including Vietnam, the 1991 Gulf War, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bougainville and East Timor.

Events

1952 - 1952
A Corps Badge with the motto Pro Humanitate – for Humanity was introduced.

1904 - 1914
A Lady Superintendent and Matron appointed to all states

1916 - 1916
A Matron-in-Chief appointed to administer the service and advise the Director General of Medical Services (which controlled the Service) on service matters.

1914 - 1918
A total of 2139 sisters served overseas and another 423 served in Australia. 25 sisters died and 388 were decorated for their service which included 5 CBE, 10 OBE, 42 RRC and 23 foreign awards

1939 - 1945
A total of 3477 joined the Service with 71 members losing their lives (23 battle casualties and 18 died as a result of accident or illness). 137 decorations were awarded including two George medals.

1949 - 1949
Approval given to appoint female officers and enlist female Other Ranks into the Regular Army, to provide nursing staff for an overseas General Hospital and Camp Hospitals in Australia.

1958 - 1958
Approval was granted for the adoption of a corps flag for the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

1983 - 1983
Approval was granted for the traditional colours of grey and scarlet to be used for all Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps embellishments.

2003 - 2003
Ceremony, including a wreath-laying service and parade from the Nurses Memorial on Anzac Parade to the Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial, held to celebrate the centenary of the RAANC and the RAAMC.

1957 - 1957
Colonel A M Sage, CBE, RRC, FNM, was appointed as the first Honorary Colonel and Representative Honorary Colonel to the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

1997 - 1997
Head of Corps abolished.

2001 - 2001
Head of Corps re-appointed

1948 - 1948
In recognition of the service given in two world wars the title Royal was designated to the Service – now called Royal Australian Army Nursing Service.

1967 - 1971
In total 43 Officers served in Vietnam.

1955 - 1969
Members served in Malaya

1992 - 2001
Nursing Officers participated in all United Nations Deployments.

1990 - 1990
Nursing Officers sent as part of Australia's commitment to the United Nations force to the Gulf War.

1966 - 1969
Nursing sisters sent to Papua New Guinea to care for the wives and families of the indigenous servicemen.

1945 - 1945
Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel of the Australian Army Nursing Service.

1903 - 1948
The Australian Army Nursing Service Reserve, which formed the basis of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps established.

1943 - 1943
The Australian Army Nursing Service, formerly an auxiliary service, was incorporated as part of the Australian Military Forces.

1970 - 1970
The first Alice Appleford award was presented. The award is present annually by the Ex-AAMWS to a non-commissioned member for proficiency in service.

1979 - 1979
The first issue of the Corps Magazine "Grey and Scarlet" published. It is currently published annually.

1899 - 1902
The first nursing sisters to serve with Australian troops were those who travelled with the Colonial Military Forces to the South African (Boer War).

1902 - 1902
The General Order giving effect to an improved organisation for nurses was written in 1902 and promulgated on the 1st July 1903.

1936 - 1936
The Matron-in-Chief and Principal matrons from each state were sent to England with the Coronation contingent.

1951 - 1951
The Service was designated a Corps – now called the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC). In the same year the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) was disbanded.

Published resources

Book
The Australian Army: A History of its Organisation 1901-2001, Palazzo, Albert, 2001

Just wanted to be there : Australian Service Nurses 1899-1999, Reid, Richard, 1999

Resource Section
Australian Servicewomen's Memorial, Southwell-Keely, Michael, 1999,
http://www.skp.com.au/memorials/pages/00018.htm

Journal Article
Vale - Barbara Edwina Audrey Starrett (nee Maxwell) Colonel and Last Director of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, 1991

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre
Margaret Young, Australian Red Cross Field Force Officer, and F35071 Janice Christina Ann (Jan) McCarthy, Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC), nursing sister, hanging out the washing outside "Fort Petticoat"

Group portrait of officers of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC) and one officer of the Australian Red Cross (ARC), standing in front of the nurse's quarters located at the British Military Hospital, 28th Infantry Brigade, Terendak Garrison

Portrait of Sister Betty Crocker, Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC)

Six Sisters of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC) wave farewell from the gangplank of MV New Australia on embarkation for service in Malaya.

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