The Australian Women's Register

Entry ID: Person AWE0668

Durdin, Dorothy (Joan)

(1922 - 2025)

Born	19220516, Adelaide South Australia Australia
Died	20250212, Adelaide South Australia Australia
Occupation	Educator, Historian, Nurse

Summary

Joan Durdin, author of *They Became Nurses: A History of Nursing in South Australia, 1836-1980* (1991) and *Eleven Thousand Nurses: A History of Nursing Education at the Royal Adelaide Hospital 1889-1993* (1999), was a nurse educator and historian who contributed much to the advancement of nursing through the development of advanced education in the higher education sector. In addition to her ten years' teaching at Royal Adelaide Hospital she spent six years as a nurse educator in Papua New Guinea. She conducted extensive oral history interviews for the Royal Adelaide Hospital Heritage and History Committee, 1991-1998. Durdin received an Honorary Doctorate from Flinders University in 1994, was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1985 and is commemorated by the Joan Durdin Oration, an annual event initiated and sponsored by the Department of Clinical Nursing at the University of Adelaide.

Published resources

Resource

Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003, http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book

Eleven thousand nurses: a history of nursing education at Royal Adelaide Hospital 1889-1993, Durdin, Joan, 1999

Eleven thousand nurses: a history of nursing education at the Royal Adelaide Hospital 1889-1993, Durdin, Joan, 1999

They Became Nurses: A History of Nursing in South Australia, 1836-1980, Durdin, Joan, 1991

Thesis

Learning to be a Nurse 1879-1920: Early Steps in the Professionalisation of Nursing in South Australia, Durdin, J.D.

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia

Interview with Marlienne Thomson [sound recording] Interviewer: Joan Durdin

Author Details

Helen Morgan

Created 28 January 2004 **Last modified** 3 April 2025