Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4055

Schlink, Franziska

(1910 - 1965)

Born	19100101, Albury New South Wales Australia
Died	19650101, Wodonga New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Doctor

Summary

Franziska Schlink served the Broken Hill community as a General Practitioner from 1936 through to the 1950s. She was one of the few women allowed to go underground when she demanded access to treat miners who were injured or unwell.

Details

Franziska Schlink was the daughter of Albert Joseph and Mabel Ann Schlink. Like her brothers Carl and John, Franziska completed a medical degree and she began work at the Royal Melbourne Hospital before moving to the Ballarat Base Hospital, the Royal Perth Hospital, and finally the Broken Hill and District Hospital in 1936. As one of the town's first women doctors she had to withstand a hostile reception from resident surgeons Samuel Barnett and Wilhelm Dorsch, but she and Dorsch went on to become firm friends. From 1951, Dr Schlink moved into private practice with Dr Brian Funder and Dr Edmond Thomas Walsh.

Franziska Schlink was president of the Broken Hill branch of the Australian Medical Association. A heavy smoker, she contracted lung cancer and after many years of service in Broken Hill returned to Wodonga, where her father had once owned a general store. She died at the age of 55.

Published resources

Book
Some Outstanding Women of Broken Hill and District, Camilleri, Jenny, 2002

Site Exhibition
Unbroken Spirit: Women in Broken Hill, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2009,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/bh/bh-home.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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