

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00122

Wheeler, Annie Margaret

(1867 - 1950)

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| Born | 18671210, Dingo Queensland Australia |
| Died | 19501023, Surfer's Paradise Queensland Australia |
| Occupation | Nurse, Welfare worker |

Summary

Upon the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, Annie Wheeler, a widow from central Queensland living in London, took it upon herself to improve the lines of communication between Queensland soldiers abroad and their loved ones Back home. Taking up residence near the Australian Army Headquarters and the Anzac Buffet in London, she endeavoured to contact all soldiers from central Queensland, be they injured, on leave or at the trenches. By keeping a detailed index card on each soldier, she corresponded with servicemen on the battlefield, forwarded packages and mail, whilst also providing comfort to those in hospital. Becoming known as the 'Mother of Queensland', by 1918 she provided reliable correspondence for over 2300 soldiers. Each fortnight Mrs Wheeler sent home detailed letters which were published in the *Capricornian* and the *Morning Bulletin*.

The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia made her an associate member in 1920. In the same year, she was presented with an O.B.E.

After her death, a memorial plaque was erected at Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens in Brisbane, Queensland.

Published resources

Resource Section

Wheeler, Annie Margaret, O'Hagan, M. D., 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A120508b.htm>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection

OM82-67 Mrs H.G. Wheeler Correspondence ca 1914-ca 1919

Author Details

Lee Butterworth

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