

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Cultural Artefact

**Entry ID:** AWE0121

## Australian Servicewomen's Memorial

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**Occupation** Commemoration

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### Summary

The Australian Servicewomen's Memorial was dedicated by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon. Bruce Scott MP, on 27 March 1999. The Memorial, designed by Sydney sculptor, Anne Ferguson, commemorates all women who served, suffered and died in the defence of Australia.

## Details

In November 1997 Sydney sculptor, Anne Ferguson, won a competition for her design of the Australian Servicewomen's Memorial. Other work in Canberra by the artist is the marble finials for the staircase at Parliament House. Ferguson has also worked with sculptor Peter Corlett to create a black granite carving of the Returned Soldier's League Memorial at the Australian War Memorial.

The Australian Servicewomen's Memorial commemorates all women who served, suffered and died in the defence of Australia. The flat mosaic sculpture represents a carpet laid by women. Set on a concrete slab is a square mosaic of granite stones which were gathered from all over Australia. A feature of the sculpture is the winding river that divides the mosaic into the pre and post 1945 periods.

The insignia of the various divisions in which women have served, from World War II through to 1999 (when the Memorial was dedicated), are incised into the stone borders of the work. The lettering and insignia face inwards encouraging people to walk on the memorial. It is located under a grove of trees in the sculpture garden beside the Australian War Memorial's administration building.

### Plaque on concrete slab in front of memorial, south east corner

#### Pre-1945

Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service  
Women's Royal Australian Naval Service  
Australian Army Nursing Service  
Australian Women's Army Service  
Voluntary Aid Detachments  
Australian Army Medical Women's Service  
Royal Australian Air Force Medical Service  
Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service  
Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force

*Insignia of Royal Australian Navy*

*Insignia of Australian Commonwealth Military Forces*

*Insignia of Royal Australian Air Force*

### Western Border, from south west corner

#### Post-1945

Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service  
Women's Royal Australian Naval Service  
Royal Australian Navy  
Australian Army Nursing Service  
Royal Australian Army Nursing Service  
Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps  
Women's Royal Australian Army Corps  
Australian Army  
Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service  
Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force  
Royal Australian Air Force

*Insignia of Royal Australian Navy*

*Insignia of The Australian Army*

*Insignia of Royal Australian Air Force [1]*

[1] <http://www.skp.com.au/memorials/pages/00018.htm> accessed 2003-04-08

## Published resources

### Resource Section

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

### Journal Article

Symbols in stone, Brennab, Betsy, 1985

### Newspaper Article

In honour of our women, Robinson, Peter, 1998

Poetic memorial under fire, Smee, Sebastian, 1999

### Site Exhibition

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

## Archival resources

### Australian War Memorial, Research Centre

[Australian servicewomen's memorial](#)

[Design for Australian Servicewomen's memorial](#)

### Author Details

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