

## **BETTY JEFFREY**

The Betty Jeffrey Award – Betty Jeffrey, OAM (1908-2000) is honoured through this Award as one of the ANMC's founders. In 1941 Betty joined the Australian Army Nursing Service. She was posted to the 2/10th Australian General Hospital, Malacca in Malaya and later to Singapore. Betty was evacuated from Singapore also on the SS 'Vyner Brooke' which was bombed by the Japanese. Betty spent two and a half days in the water, eventually reaching the mangroves at Bangka Island. She was taken prisoner, spending three and a half years in captivity. Betty managed to keep a diary of her experiences as a prisoner of war which was published as 'White Coolies'.

After returning home to Melbourne and spending two years in hospital, Betty travelled around Victoria in 1947 with Vivian Bullwinkel to raise funds in order to establish a Nurses Memorial Centre in Melbourne; a place for nurses to meet and further their education. This was a promise she had made in the prison camp: that upon their return, the nurses would create a living memorial to those who did not return. Betty became the Nurses Memorial Centre's first Administrator in 1949 when it opened, and later its Patron.

The ANMC Scholarship applications open 1st July until 31st August.

