

Vivian Bullwinkel

The prestigious Vivian Bullwinkel Award to honour one of the ANMC founders, is generously supported by her nephew Mr John Bullwinkel.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel AO, MBE, ARRC, ED (1915–2000) joined the Australian Army Nursing Service in 1941 and was sent to Singapore before it fell to Japanese forces. The Australian nurses were evacuated on the SS 'Vyner Brooke' which was then bombed by the Japanese. Survivors clambered onto lifeboats, some being lost at sea, and others came to shore at Bangka Island. Vivian was the sole survivor of the subsequent massacre on Radji Beach and survived more than three years of internment in a Japanese prisoner of war camp

Vivian went on to a distinguished career. She became a pioneer in the nursing profession, devoted to improving the welfare and education of nurses. Vivian served on the council of the Australian War Memorial, and later as president of the Australian College of Nursing. She never forgot those local Malaysian women who fed her and Kingsley, a soldier survivor of the SS Vyner Brooke. In their honour, she set up a program for women from that region to train as nurses in Australia. Vivian also became Director of Nursing at the prestigious Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital in Melbourne.

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

