

Looking Back...with Molly

How did it come about that a young Irish nursing trainee would eventually play such a vital part in the lives of the early settlers of Groups 116, 138 and 139?

This is the story of Sister Jane Anderson, born in Belfast in 1898...

During the 1920s a young nursing trainee who had pledged her life to God and taken on a nursing career to further serve her cause, looked for something to read whilst on a spell of night duty. An article in a Church magazine caught her interest. 'Nurses and Deaconesses required for the Australian Bush.'

Jane Anderson realised that this could be her way to serve God. When her training was complete, she applied to the Colonial and Continental Church Society for a position. She was accepted, and in 1928 arrived in Denmark. From here she often visited the group settlement areas by truck and once stayed for a month in a caravan with a friend. This gave her the opportunity to meet many of the settlers.



*Photo: Sister Anderson in the garden of the Mission House.
Courtesy of Don Burton, Curator of photos, Walpole
Nornalup and Districts Historical Society*

She discovered an empty house in the 116 Group area and with the agreement of the Church Society she established a Mission House where she could live, visit the sick and render necessary medical aid throughout the group settlements. *More on page 12...*



walpole pharmacy

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Sale

**Sale ends June 30th. Discount is off
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The Walpole Hotel Motel

What's On

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Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm

Bar Snacks at 5:30pm

Wednesdays Happy Hour 5pm - 7pm



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Restaurant Open 7 days -

Lunch 12pm - 2pm

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www.walpolehotelmotel.com.au

Phone: 9840 1023

Walpole CRC Trainee Job Description:

Skills

- ⇒ Good team player
- ⇒ Sound English and Maths abilities
- ⇒ Able to accept and follow direction
- ⇒ Excellent communication and relationship building skills
- ⇒ Sound values of equality, integrity, loyalty, respect, confidentiality and trust.
- ⇒ Basic computer skills are desirable

Duties

- ⇒ As directed by Managers
- ⇒ Ascertain customers' requirements and direct to staff and/or volunteers to attend
- ⇒ Answer phone calls in accordance with procedure
- ⇒ Take payments of services entering transactions in excel spreadsheet and money in cash drawer
- ⇒ Enter and maintain the cash recording sheets
- ⇒ Complete the bank deposit book and bank the deposit
- ⇒ Assist with Walpole Weekly Billing
- ⇒ Assist with Walpole Community Directory and Walpole Weekly as directed
- ⇒ Coordinate and assist with WASO broadcasts, videoconferences and recordings
- ⇒ Assist when needed in all forthcoming bookings and events that may need organisation such as catering, room arrangement, hall hire, special arrangements and technical support
- ⇒ Trainee Studies as per modules
- ⇒ Maintain membership with other NFP Community Group/s

Sister Jane Anderson

From page 7...

Sister Anderson was joined by Deaconess Fleck as a spiritual influence and the two women became a symbol of security to district settlers who welcomed the wonderful service they offered. They were a familiar sight on the rough bush tracks as they went on their rounds in their horse and cart. Church services were organised as well as visits to the schools.

Occasionally school visits were made with the manager of the groups in his car (the only vehicle in the district). However, after a year of service by the two women, a car was obtained for use at the Mission House. It must be remembered also that the two women were responsible for all household chores including making bread and soap.

By 1932, with the Walpole settlement well under way, Sister Anderson found that the distances were too great to carry out their work successfully. A Cottage Hospital was opened in Nornalup. Sister Anderson resided there but Deaconess Fleck was transferred to Sydney. Sister Bazett occupied the Mission House for a time and worked throughout the district. She stayed in the Cottage Hospital when in that area and assisted Sister Anderson.

The story of Sister Anderson's work at the Cottage Hospital will make interesting reading.

~Molly Smith, local historian

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