

Looking Back... with Molly

When Harold and Peg Shotter arrived in the Walpole district with their son Peter, in 1940, the district was without a doctor or medical centre and those needing medical treatment had to travel



to Denmark... a distance of more than 100 miles. Dr Burnside had left when the 1939 fire destroyed his property and was still in Jarrahdale.

The arrival of Peg Shotter - a trained nurse - was welcomed with open arms by the settlers. Sister Shotter was a foundation member of the CWA when it was formed in 1940 and suggested raising funds for a First Aid outfit. She acted as official First Aider for the Voluntary Defence Corps (VDC) Walpole Platoon when it was formed and taught rudimentary First Aid to its 30+ members. Walpole did not have an ambulance at that time and Sister Shotter persuaded the Denmark St John Ambulance to bring its vehicle to be shown at a VDC meeting, which it did.

It wasn't long before Sister Shotter gained official status as District Nurse for the Walpole-Nornalup District, and during the war years she suggested that the CWA provide food and fruit for the children as many of them had poor health and school sores. This service was instigated by the CWA and the group were still paying freight for apples in 1948.

In 1948 an outbreak of Diphtheria caused the death of two children. Dr Burnside, (whose return to the district was welcomed) and Sister Shotter conducted immunisation clinics and together provided necessary medical services. The couple fought strongly for the provision of an ambulance in the district. Their efforts and community meetings resulted in the formation of The Walpole Branch of the St John Ambulance Association. Sister Shotter held classes in First Aid for volunteer drivers of the first ambulance which was purchased in 1956.

At that time there was no telephone service to North Walpole. Messages were delivered to Sister Shotter by neighbours and she travelled by horse and cart to those in need.

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From page 8...

A series of safeguards

The Government argued the amendments did not impact the operation or the integrity of the bill, which had more than 100 safeguards in place.

Under the scheme, to be eligible a person would have to be terminally ill with a condition that is causing intolerable suffering and is likely to cause death within six months, or 12 months for a neurodegenerative condition.

A person would have to make two verbal requests and one written request. Those requests would have to be signed off by two doctors who are independent of each other.

The choice of lethal medication would be a clinical decision from an approved list of drugs.

Self-administration would be the preferred method, but in a departure from the Victorian regime, a patient could choose for a medical practitioner to administer the drug.

In Victoria, a doctor can only administer the drug if a patient is physically incapable.

~ abc.net.au

30 SECOND CHALLENGE

In an emergency you might have as little as 30 seconds to gather all your safety equipment.
Take the challenge!

Thought for the day

“Turn your face to the sun and the shadow falls behind you.”

~Jan Goldstein

From page 9...

It was many years before she had a car and with 300 residents in the district by 1960, she was always busy.

Sister Shotter also provided Infant Health Clinics from 1949 through to 1974. These were held in a shop until a room became available in the new CWA Restroom in 1952. A Child Health Centre (the Vista Centre) was built in Vista Street in 1962. This amazing lady retired at the age of 67 but was still available to provide practical help and advice to young mothers. She and Harold moved to a property a little closer to town and they lived there after her retirement. She died from cancer in 1985 aged 78 years.

Sister Shotter is remembered with affection by those for whom she cared for some 35 years. Shotter Lane was named in her memory in 2012.

I remember her with gratitude and love for her help with my little ones at the Clinic in the 1950s and 60s.

Sincere appreciation to the Walpole Nornalup and Districts Historic Society for the information and photograph.

This is the final Looking Back for 2019. My sincere good wishes for Christmas and 2020.

~ Molly Smith

Boating deaths at all-time high in WA

Boating deaths in WA are at an all-time high following three recent tragedies and 15 fatalities in the last 15 months.

Marine authorities are warning skippers not to be complacent and highlighting that in an emergency on the water 30 seconds could be all the time skippers and passengers have to grab life-saving safety equipment.

The Department of Transport (DoT) is advocating all skippers take the *30 Second Challenge* to ensure they're ready for an emergency and save lives on the water this boating season.

DoT implemented the *30 Second Challenge*, which tests if people can gather flares, EPIRB, make a radio call and don a lifejacket in 30 seconds, after detailed analysis of incident data showed improved accessibility to safety equipment could limit lives lost on the water.

DoT Director of Waterways Safety Chris Mather said in August and September alone there were three deaths, bringing to 15 the number of boating fatalities in WA for the past 15 months compared with only five deaths for the 15 months prior.

“Tragically over the past three financial years 26 people have died while boating in WA compared with 14 for the previous three years,” Mr Mather said.

“It is strongly recommended people wear a lifejacket while boating as 26 of those 40 deaths (65 per cent) in the past six years may have been prevented if the person had been wearing a lifejacket when they entered the water.

“Skippers need to be responsible, taking time to complete the recommended voyage preparation guidelines every time they head out on to the water. Unfortunately, skippers who fail to do this put their safety and that of those on board at risk.

“Spending time this spring preparing for a safe summer of boating could save your life.”

People can visit

www.transport.wa.gov.au/30secondchallenge to find out how to take the challenge.

Walpole Weekly

Only 1 issue left for 2019!

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