

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0473

## Christie, Joan Lora

(1918 - 2001)

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**Born** 4 November, 1918, Dubbo New South Wales Australia

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**Died** 31 December, 2001, Dubbo New South Wales Australia

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**Occupation** Educator, Local government councillor, Servicewoman

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### Summary

Joan Christie was promoted to the rank of Major during the Second World War. In 1943 she worked in New Guinea supervising members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service.

Joan is acknowledged as the driving force behind the establishment of both the Orana Community TAFE College and the Dubbo campus of Charles Sturt University.

### Details

Major Joan Christie was selected to act as an Assistant Commandant to go to the Middle East with a second draft of Voluntary Aids in 1941. The operation was cancelled due to Japanese military activity in the South West Pacific area.

Based at 113 Australian General Hospital as a Company Commander Joan Christie became a full-time Voluntary Aid in November 1941. She transferred to the Australian Army Medical Women's Service ( A.A.M.W.S.) when it was formed in December 1942, and was promoted to the rank of Major on the 1st March 1943. That same month she was appointed Deputy to Lt Col. Kathleen Best who was, at the time, the Adjutant-General of the Women's Services.

Having relinquished her command at 113 A.G.H. in March 1943, Major Christie went to New Guinea in charge of the first draft of A.A.M.W.S. in December 1943, and shortly after her arrival she was appointed Assistant Controller, South West Pacific Area. She was responsible for over 400 women in the Pacific region.

When she returned from New Guinea in 1944 Major Christie resumed her command at 113 A.G.H. In May 1946 she represented the A.A.M.W.S. as part of the Australian contingent in the Victory Pageant.

She married in 1947 and raised four children, along with having an active life in the local community, serving as a local councillor. She was a great supporter of adult education and the Technical and Further Education system.

## Events

### **1966 - 1980**

Co-founder and Chairperson, Dubbo Educational Association

### **1972 - 1972**

Member, National Urban & Regional Development Authority | Cities Commission

### **1968 - 1980**

Inaugural Member, Council of Mitchell College of Advanced Education

### **1971 - 1977**

Alderman, Dubbo City Council

### **1973 - 1974**

Member, Open University Committee – Karmel Report

### **1974 - 1980**

Deputy Chair, Management Board, Orana Educational Association

### **1975 - 1977**

Member, Macquarie Regional Library Committee

### **1975 - 1979**

Member, Board of Continuing Education, University of New England

### **1978 - 1983**

Member, TAFE Council NSW

### **1979 - 1983**

Member, Board of Adult Education NSW

### **1984 - 1984**

'Joan Flint Park' (adjacent to Dubbo TAFE College) named by Dubbo City Council

### **1989 - 1989**

Awarded the Inaugural National TAFE Gold Medal | Mayoral Civic Reception, Dubbo

### **1990 - 1990**

Joan Flint Building' – Opening at Orana Community College, Dubbo campus

### **1994 - 1994**

Awarded Doctorate of the University (honoris causa), Charles Sturt University

### **2001 - 2001**

Died in Dubbo

### **1972 - 1979**

Deputy Chairperson, Council of Mitchell College of Advanced Education

### **1979 - 1979**

Chairperson, Council of Mitchell College of Advanced Education

### **1918 - 1918**

Born to Wilfred and Beatrix Christie in Dubbo

### **1934 - 1935**

Captain of Coolabah House, Dubbo High School

### **1935 - 1935**

Captain and Dux of Dubbo High School

### **1940 - 1940**

Ladies Doubles Hardcourt Tennis Champion, NSW

### **1939 - 1940**

Co-founder and Commandant, Dubbo Voluntary Aid Detachment, No. 226



**1941 - 1942**

Officer-in-Charge, Australian Army Medical Womens Service, 113 AGH

**1943 - 1943**

Aide-de-Camp to Lady Zara Gowrie, wife of Governor General of Australia

**1943 - 1943**

Officer-In-Charge, AAMWS, New Guinea force

**1943 - 1943**

Assistant Controller, AAMWS, South West Pacific Area

**1943 - 1943**

Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Women's Service, Australian Army

**1944 - 1944**

Officer-In-Charge, AAMWS 113 AGH Concord Repatriation Hospital

**1946 - 1946**

Representative AAMWS Officer, London Victory March, June 1946

**1947 - 1947**

Married Robert Ellice-Flint, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Dubbo

**1947 - 2001**

Mother of four boys – Gordon '47-, Ken '49-'52, Wilfred '53-, David '55-'79

**1965 - 1980**

Member, Dubbo Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Committee

**1980 - 1983**

Chairperson, Orana Community College Council

**1984 - 1984**

Awarded Medal of the Order of Australia – for services to Education & Community

**Published resources****Resource Section**

CHRISTIE, JOAN LORA, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,  
<http://www.wv2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=186379>

**Edited Book**

Who's Who in Australia, 1947, Chisholm, Alec H, 1947

**Book**

From blue to khaki: The enlisted voluntary aids and others who became members of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service and served from 1941-1951, Mount-Batten, Betty J, 1995

**Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### **Australian War Memorial, Research Centre**

[Honours and Awards - Recommendations for New Year Honours List 1946](#)

[Lieutenant G. Mainwaring, war artist, painting Major Joan Christie, AWAS, on board HMAS Shropshire](#)

[Swimming carnival](#)

[Members of the Australian Victory Contingent on a visit to Berlin, in front of Frederick the Great's Palace, 'Sans Souci', Potsdam](#)

[Members of the Australian Victory Contingent on a visit to Berlin](#)

[Winners of the nurses and Australian Army Medical Women's Service \(AAMWS\) championships chat together after their victories](#)

[Squadron Officer Doris Carter, Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force; Squadron Leader P. Swan DFC; Flight Lieutenant J. Hooke DFC, RAAF, and Major Joan L. Christie of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service](#)

### **National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra**

[CHRISTIE JOAN LORA : Service Number - NX76591 : Date of birth - 04 Nov 1918 : Place of birth - DUBBO NSW : Place of enlistment - NSW : Next of Kin - CHRISTIE WILFRED](#)

### **National Archives of Australia, Melbourne Office**

[Army Medical & Dental Corps. Nurses and Specialists \[Applications for a Commission in the A.A.M.C. Voluntary Aid Detachments \(V.A.D.\)\] - J L Christie \[Box 69\]](#)

### **Author Details**

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