

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE4264

Finlayson, Jean

Occupation Deaconess, Nurse

Summary

Jean Finlayson was a Presbyterian deaconess and nurse, trained in Melbourne, Victoria. She travelled to Oodnadatta in South Australia in 1914 to take up the position of nursing sister for the Australian Inland Mission.

Once there, she decide to move Alice Springs in the Northern Territory, where the need for medical help was even more acute than it was in Alice Springs. Once a replacement was found for her, she set out on the 520 k journey by buggy in August 1915.

She established herself in a slab cabin called Myrtle Villa, which also became known as 'Sister's Hospital'. As well as attending to the medical needs of anyone within a 150 km radius, Jean also conducted Sunday School and the town's first regular (ecumenical) church services. Both were conducted in the Prison Warder's room at the rear of the Sturt Town Gaol.

Jean Finlayson left for Sydney in 1916 to nurse her ill mother, but not before establishing a relationship as a dedicated, compassionate nurse and friend to the central Australian community.

Published resources

Book

Flynn's Outback Angels: Casting the Mantle - 1901 to World War II, Rudolph, Ivan, 2001

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

Alannah Croom

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