



Looking Back.....with Molly

(continuing the story of Sister Jane Anderson)

In June 1932, Sister Jane Anderson closed the door of the Church of England Mission House in Hazelvale for the last time in preparation for the move to Nornalup to establish a Cottage Hospital. Deaconess Fleck had moved to Sydney and was replaced by Sister Bazett. A Nornalup resident generously made a house available for the Sisters and the Cottage Hospital was officially opened in July 1932.

Here the Sisters' care covered a wide spectrum including accident cases from timber camps, new babies, tonsillitis, and at one time an isolation ward was set up for the treatment of diphtheria. The Sisters depended greatly on the doctor in Nornalup at the time.

Doctor Burnside also operated a dairy farm in the district and often attended urgent cases still clad in his overalls and rubber boots!

Long hours and constant work took their toll and finally ill health forced the two Sisters to return to Ireland in May 1934. The eventual parting was sad for all concerned.

Years later the district showed its love, respect and

appreciation for Sister Anderson by having her name included on the Pioneer Womens Roll of Honour in Kings Park and the bell installed in the tower in Walpole in 2014 bears her name.

Note: A more detailed account of the Mission House and the Cottage Hospital is with the Walpole Nornalup and Districts Historical Association.(ie. Including names and treatment of settlement pioneers at the little Hospital.)

Just prior to compiling the article in 1980, I wrote to Sister Anderson for information and in her reply to my letter she said she had only just destroyed her records of births at the Cottage Hospital.

I was just a little too late for that gem of information.....

The photo is mine and shows (left to right) Sister Anderson, Sister Bazett and an assistant Peggy Voce. In the background is a patient.

~Molly Smith

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