



Burwood & District  
Historical Society Inc.

## Sister Ryan Australian Army Nursing Service



Mary (Mollie) Josephine Ryan's service in World War I is commemorated on the War Memorial in Burwood Park [above]. She enlisted at the age of 31 on 14 June 1916 and served in the AANS at No.4 A.G.H. Randwick for three months. On 2 September 1916 she enlisted in the A.M.C. to serve abroad. Her next of kin is recorded as her mother, Mrs Winifred Mary Ryan, 'Frampton', Burwood Road, Burwood.

I, Mollie Josephine Ryan do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

\* And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife three-fifths wife and children

Date June 14th 1916 Mollie Josephine Ryan  
Signature of person enlisted.

\*This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

She embarked on the S.S. 'Kashgar'. She was posted to G. Freeman Thomas Hospital, Bombay, India, on 26 September 1916 and transferred to Deccan War Hospital, Poona on 5 May 1917 and then to Station Hospital, Belgaum on 12 December 1917. She was promoted to Sister while in India on 1 October 1918 and transferred to England on 25 November 1918. She returned to Australia from England on 15 November 1919 on board the 'Ypiringa' and disembarked on 9 January 1920 and was discharged on 2 March 1920.

Some 560 AANS members served in India in 1916-19, representing 20 per cent of the approximately 2,270 Australian nurses who served overseas during the war.

The Australian Army Nursing Service, which was actually a reserve, was established on 1 July 1902. The Service was staffed by volunteer civilian nurses who would be available for duty during times of national emergency. Members of the Service served in both the World Wars, staffing medical facilities in Australia and overseas. In 1949 the Service became part of the Australian Regular Army and is now known as the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC).

Mollie Josephine Ryan was awarded the following medals:

