



# THE **BULLWINKEL** PROJECT **APPEAL 2023**

YOUR IMPACT, SUPPORTING AUSTRALIAN NURSES

NEWSLETTER UPDATE WINTER 2023



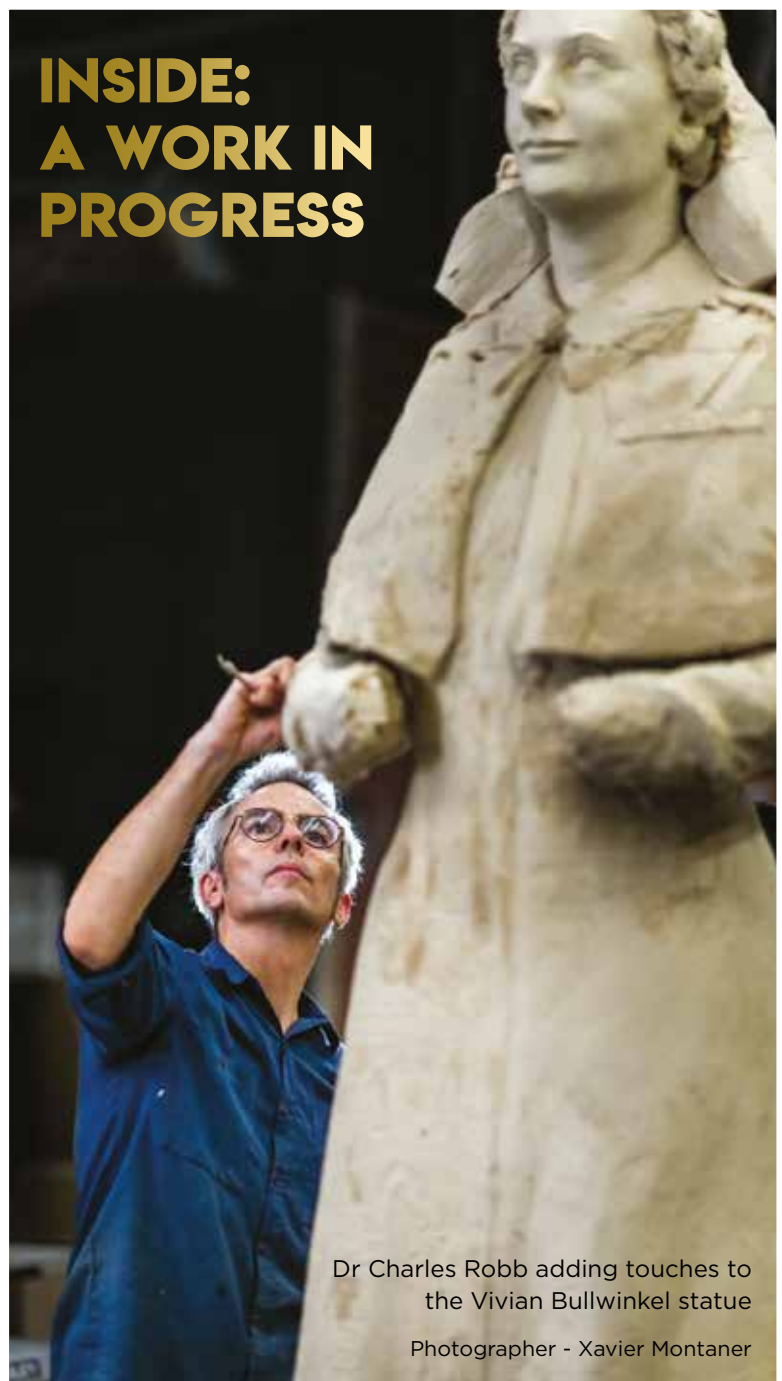
## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As the CEO of the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) Foundation, I would like to share with you an update on The Bullwinkel Project. We are all aware the past few years have not been easy for anyone. However, since 2019 when The Bullwinkel Project began the ACN Foundation has received an incredible amount of support from the community, government, the corporate sector and ACN members.

I am proud to share with you the sculpture of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel AO, MBE, ARRC, ED, FNM, FRCNA will be unveiled in August 2023. We will also announce the date of the opening of the Bullwinkel Scholarships in memory of nurses who lost their lives at Bangka Island.

Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward  
RN, MMgt, FACN, FCHSM, Wharton Fellow, GAICD  
Chief Executive Officer

## INSIDE: A WORK IN PROGRESS



Dr Charles Robb adding touches to the Vivian Bullwinkel statue

Photographer - Xavier Montaner

# A WORK IN PROGRESS

## THE VIVIAN BULLWINKEL SCULPTURE

ACN CEO Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN met with artist Dr Charles Robb in Brisbane in March to view the progress of the sculpture of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel AO, MBE, ARRC, ED, FNM, FRCNA, the only nurse to survive the Bangka Island massacre during World War II.

The sculpture being crafted will be a life-size portrait of Vivian Bullwinkel in a standing pose in a working summer uniform. Vivian will be placed to one side of her bronze pedestal, revealing a rippling surface in which twenty-one inlaid silver discs reflect the 21 nurses who were massacred at Bangka Island and the main constellations of the night sky as it would have appeared on 16 February 1942.



**DONATE TO THE  
BULLWINKEL PROJECT**



Above: Progress image  
Credit: Australian War Memorial

Left: Small prototypes of the Vivian Bullwinkel sculpture

## OUR FOUNDING SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our Founding Sponsors. The ACN Foundation would like to thank all donors. Every donation contributes to ensuring the success of this important project.

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# VIVIAN WAS NOT ALONE ON THAT FATEFUL DAY....

While Lieutenant Colonel Bullwinkel is well-known for her bravery and resilience in surviving the massacre and prison camps of WWII, she was not the only nurse present that day. Twenty-one nurses died at Bangka Island as part of the massacre, all with different backgrounds, lives and families they left behind.

As part of our ongoing commitment to recognising nursing leadership and sacrifice, the ACN Foundation commemorates the nurses who died in the Bangka Island massacre.

Healthcare workers are a protected class in war and are crucial in healing the sick and injured. It is not just healing soldiers wounded in battle; nurses are critical in maintaining day to day health of army personnel, including vaccinations, training injuries and ailments such as the flu.

Later this year, the ACN Foundation will open applications for The Bullwinkel Project Scholarships in the names of the nurses who died at Bangka Island to ensure we remember and honour their leadership, courage, bravery and personal sacrifice forever more.

## SISTER JOYCE ADA BRIDGE

### AGE AT DEATH: 34

Sister Joyce Ada Bridge was born in July 1907 in Scone, NSW.

She was well-known as a 'typical country girl' who took pride in her work as a nurse, often noted by family, friends and colleagues to always have a smile on her face. Dancing was a passion of hers, having been noted to enjoy local dances across her hometown. As she got older, she was known to enjoy various active sports, including tennis, swimming, and golf when she was not working. After moving to Sydney, she trained at St Luke's Hospital as a nurse and graduated in 1934. Upon graduation, she moved into private nursing at Toshack's Nursing Club until she enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service in April 1941. In September 1941 she travelled to Singapore and was posted with the 2/13th Australian General Hospital. She had a brief three-week stint with the 2/10th Australian General Hospital before returning to the 2/13th. Upon her return after the war, Lieutenant Colonel Bullwinkel wrote about Sister Bridge, saying "...our respect, esteem and affection grew daily for Joyce's commitment, skills and dedication. Joyce faced every crisis with cheerfulness and fortitude."



**LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH NURSE AND THEIR LIFE.**

**BALFOUR-OGILVY,**  
Elaine Lenore SX10596

**BEARD,**  
Alma May WX11175

**BRIDGE,**  
Ada Joyce NX76284

**CASSON,**  
Florence Rebecca SX13418

**CUTHBERTSON,**  
Mary Elizabeth VX38746

**DRUMMOND,**  
Irene Melville (Matron) SX10594

**ELMES,**  
Dorothy Gwendoline Howard  
NX70526

**FAIRWEATHER,**  
Lorna Florence SX13431

**FARMANER,**  
Peggy Everett WX3438

**HALLIGAN,**  
Clarice Isobel VX47776

**HARRIS,**  
Nancy NX76285

**HODGSON,**  
Minnie Ivy WX11174

**KEATS,**  
Ellen Louisa SX11647

**KERR,**  
Janet NX76279

**MCGLADE,**  
Mary Eleanor NX76275

**NEUSS,**  
Kathleen Margaret NX70527

**SALMON,**  
Florence Aubin NX70991

**STEWART,**  
Esther Sarah Jean NX70936

**TAIT,**  
Mona Margaret Anderson NX76281

**WIGHT,**  
Rosetta Joan VX61329

**WILMOTT,**  
Bessie WX3439



*Thank you to Rupert Porter for bringing these nurses to life through your art.*



# BULLWINKEL PROJECT FEATURED IN WOMAN'S DAY

Vivian and The Bullwinkel Project were featured in Woman's Day to commemorate ANZAC Day in April 2023.

**Real Life**

## AN INCREDIBLE TALE OF SACRIFICE & SURVIVAL

Australian nurse Vivian Bullwinkel will be the first woman honoured at the Australian War Memorial

**Anzac Heroine**

**SURVIVAL AT ALL COST**

**'She was a beacon of hope for women'**

**LIFE OF SERVICE**

SEE THE WOMAN'S DAY ARTICLE ON THE ACN FOUNDATION WEBSITE



The ACN Foundation raised much needed funds for The Bullwinkel Project at the ACN 10 Year Anniversary Ball in November 2022. All of the silent auction and raffle items were kindly donated.

Above: Silent auction at the Gala

Right: Guests learning about the victims of the Bangka Island massacre



## FUNDRAISING FOR THE BULLWINKEL PROJECT AT THE ACN 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY GALA BALL