We will remember them

There are various ways in which Australian nurses are honoured and remembered, including centres, books and websites, as well as local and national memorials. Some are detailed below.

Designed by Napier Waller, each one of the Hall of Memory’s stained-glass windows represents a defining quality of Australian servicemen and women. One of the windows denotes *Devotion* which is represented by a nurse. The window includes the symbols of the Red Cross, the Australian coat of arms and the sign of charity (the pelican feeding her young from her bleeding breast).

Anne Ferguson, *Australian servicewomen’s memorial* (1999, sculpture, 40.3 x 540 x 720 cm, ART90968)

Napier Waller, *Hall of Memory: south window* (1950, stained glass, ART90410.001)

Rather than incorporate a cenotaph or a representative figure, Anne Ferguson created a platform of coloured stones. It is divided in two by a curved trench which resembles a river, carving its way through a sparse, flat landscape. It invites the viewer into the work and to experience a sense of empathy with the women it commemorates. The insignia of the women's services are displayed subtly around the mosaic. The memorial is intended to give a
feeling of underlying strength and provide a foundation upon which new recognitions can be built.

Robin Moorhouse (in conjunction with MonuMental Design), The Australian service nurses national memorial (1999, cast glass)

Robin Moorhouse, who lived in Rabaul between 1958 and 1963, is believed to have based her design for this memorial on some words in a letter written home by a First World War nurse: “dying soldiers just wished to be held”. The memorial is distinctly horizontal in form, and its interlocking glass walls represent nurturing hands, symbolic of nursing. Etched and cast into the inner glass walls are text and images, in a timeline sequence, portraying the history and contribution of Australian service nursing. The memorial also includes a collage of photographs and extracts from diaries and letters, in original handwriting. Some panels are blank. Why do you think this is so?

Image from (http://www.pngaa.net/Library/NurseMemorial.html)

Activities

1) Research local memorials in your area. Are nurses included in these memorials? How?

2) If you were to design your own memorial to Australian nurses, what form would it take? What symbols would you use? Draw your design, giving reasons for your design choices.