

My name is Doris Margaret Kubisch, I was born at the Eudunda Hospital on the 2nd. of October 1939. I grew up at Stonefield, a small farming community situated about half way between the Barossa Valley and Blanchetown on the River Murray. Stonefield had been settled by German settlers many years before, and German was still the main language spoken in that area, so much so that most of the children in the 1940's learnt to communicate in English only when they commenced their education. It was in 1951 that my family moved to the Kapunda region, and till then the primary school I attended had an average of 9 to 10 students in the whole school, at Kapunda there were 24 students in the class, so that was quite a change. I left school at the end of the year when I turned 14, having finished year 9. I then went working on various farms around the area, helping in the kitchen, milking cows etc. for relatives and other families who needed help, either when they were ill, or immediately before and after childbirth.

In 1957 I commenced work as a domestic at the Kapunda Hospital, this was the first time I had worked for 8 hours a day, so I was able to assist my parents on their farm whenever I had some spare time. I then applied to do my nursing training at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and commenced there in January 1960. In May 1963 I graduated as a registered nurse, and continued working at the Royal Adelaide Hospital as a Staff Nurse. I had thought about moving interstate to train as a midwife, but the death of my father, and my sister and brother-in-law within a short period of time

devastated my mother, so I commenced my midwifery training at the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital in Adelaide in September 1964.

My mother was by this time living in Kapunda, and keeping house for my brothers, so I decided to follow my ambition which was to work at the Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission in Central Australia. I certainly did not intend to work there for any length of time, or ever be in charge of the health services there, but that is exactly what happened. After 9 1/2 years I transferred to Papunya for 3 years, after which I returned to Hermannsburg and continued to work there till the end of 1987 when I set up the 'Remote Women's Health Service' which included the Alice Springs and Barclay region, I was at that time working for the N. T. Department of Health. For 3 years I travelled vast distances, and at the end of that time about 40% of the remote area women had been screened. I then applied for a position as a relief nurse, and worked on various communities, and I resigned from my position in Sept. 1992, returning to Kapunda to live.

I was unable to find any employment in South Australia after I had taken all my annual leave, and long service leave, and in March 1994 the Lutheran Church called me to be the School Nurse at Yirara College in Alice Springs, where I am still working at present.

5th August 1998.