

Sister Elizabeth (Betty) Johnson Rose Garden

At the southern end of the central Ballarat Botanical Gardens is the Betty Johnson Rose Garden in the shape of a cross. Betty Johnson was born in Ballarat, and trained at the (then) Ballarat Base Hospital from 1939 to 1942 and carried on her training as a Midwife. Subsequently she travelled to England and studied at the Great Ormond St. Hospital in London. She had special training concerning the various milk formulae for problems of infant feeding at the time. This was particularly important on her return to Ballarat when she became Sister in Charge at the Ballarat Base hospital paediatric ward dealing with normal paediatric problems and also the difficulties involved with rearing aboriginal and disadvantaged children. These children were often admitted to the ward to get them properly organised. Subsequently she worked with Janet Low in the Children's Protection Society, and her work in this field was commemorated by the establishment of the Rose Garden recognising her particular passion for roses.

