

# Alice loved her work as a nurse

By **LIAM BUTTERWORTH**  
*Liam.Butterworth@capnews.com.au*

IT was a step down memory lane this week for Rockhampton former nurse Alice Loch.

As she stood at the bottom of the stairs, Alice, who's in her mid-90s, recalled the good old days.

She said when she first became a trainee nurse in 1934, antibiotics weren't yet discovered and she'd have to help doctors carry patients up the stairs for surgery at Rockhampton's Mater Hospital.

"I always wanted to be a nurse," she said this week at a celebration for International

Nurses Day.

As a 19-year old living in the Great Depression, Alice started her nursing training by learning how to take temperatures and sponge patients.

She said some treatments had changed dramatically since her days as a trainee.

When treating pneumonia, the patient wasn't allowed to use any energy.

"When the nurses passed their room they gave them a sip of water; we also fed them."

Mrs Loch said many other things have changed on the job and in the city itself.

"There was a lot of

discipline; you had to do as you were told," she said.

Nurses lived at the hospital itself and worked until the job was complete.

"You worked until everything was done, and there was no overtime. You lived for your work.

"But I did really love it."

When prescriptions were required she used to have to wait for the passing tram to bring the supplies from the city centre.

International Nurses Day was celebrated across Rockhampton on Wednesday to commemorate the good work done by nurses around the world.



**CARRY ON:** Former Nurse Alice Loch stands in front of the stairs she used to have to climb while carrying patients up to the theatre at the Mater Hospital.

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