



Australian Women's
Army Service 1941–1947



Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps 1951–1984

AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL

November 2016

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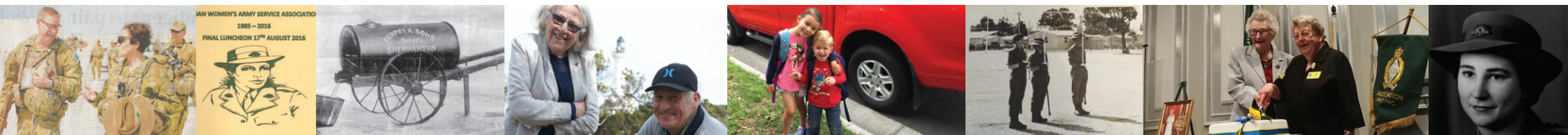
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Table of Contents

04	From the Editor	15	WRAAC Membership	31	Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Find	48	RAAF Museum Point Cook
05	March 2017 Journal Deadline	16	From the WRAAC President	32	Wartime History Sealed with a Kiss	49	From the Vault
06	2016 Calendar of Events	17	Around the Furphy	35	You May Have Missed This	50	Army Girls Entertain Pensioners
07	From the AWAS President	18	Annual General Meeting	36	Another Great Reservist Story	51	Thank you
08	AWAS Association Victoria, Final Luncheon	19	WRAAC 65th Commemorative Year	39	Our Vietnam Nurses		
10	Vale	22	WRAAC 65th Anniversary Luncheon	40	World War 2 and the Rise of Feminisim		
11	Associations Contacts and Addresses	29	Ethel Veronica	44	New Medal Service to Benefit Members		
13	Application for Membership. WRAAC (Victoria) Association Inc.	30	Sick Parade	46	Reserve Forces Day Parade 2016		
		30	Around the WRAAC Pack				



From the Editor



Dear Members,

Welcome to the latest edition of the AWAS/WRAAC Journal for 2016 and trust you are well and truly embracing the spirit of Christmas.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support throughout the year and keep up your great work in the sharing of stories.

Don't forget, if you are contemplating a change of address please let the Association know as we certainly want to keep in touch.

Yours in friendship,

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar

Editor

Apology:

Page 65, September Journal Photo caption, should read;

Alice Draper not; Win Arelette.

Our sincere apologies to both ladies.

Editor.

March 2017 Journal Deadline



*The deadline for all articles to be
included in the next Journal is*

FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

**Articles can be
posted or e-mailed to:**

Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

Postal Address:

87 Westmelton Drive,
Melton West, VIC. 3337

E-mail:

johnntreloar1@bigpond.com

— 2016 — Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
NOVEMBER	
Friday 11th	Remembrance Day: Shrine of Remembrance
Friday 11th	Remembrance Day: Austin Health
Friday 25th	Story Writing & Art Competition (SWAC) Presentation at Austin Health
Saturday 26th	Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Pilgrimage, Shrine of Remembrance
FEBRUARY 2017	
Saturday 11th	WRAAC Social Group luncheon, Orrong Hotel, Armadale. Contact Liz MacLaine 9397 1043 to book
APRIL	
Tuesday 25th	ANZAC Day
MAY	
Sunday 7th	AWAS / WRAAC Shrine Service 10:00am
JULY	
Saturday 22nd	WRAAC Luncheon International Brighton

From the AWAS President

Dear members,

Welcome to our Journal for December 2016 and my last as President of the AWAS Association Victoria. I do hope it finds you well and ready for the festive season with the weather certainly getting warmer as the days lead up to Christmas. Please note, the Journal will continue to be sent to you keeping us up to date with various events and stories.

If you have changed your address, please remember to let WRAAC Association know so they can update their files.

I wish you a happy and holy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Yours in friendship,

Gwenda Walker



AWAS Association Victoria Final Luncheon

Wednesday 17th August 2016, ANZAC House

Melbourne

In many ways, this should have been a sad day, but, in reality, it was far from that. Thirty-seven former members of the Australian Women's Army Service Victoria, joined with family members, Carers and friends to farewell the Association.

President Gwenda Walker, welcomed all present and acknowledged Life members Brenda Johnson and Shirley Cornish who were in attendance.

Gwenda also thanked the Committee for their work over many years and acknowledged Life Members, Betty Davies and Jean Cornford. All in attendance appeared to enjoy the meal and the great service provided by the catering staff, all delivered with a smile.

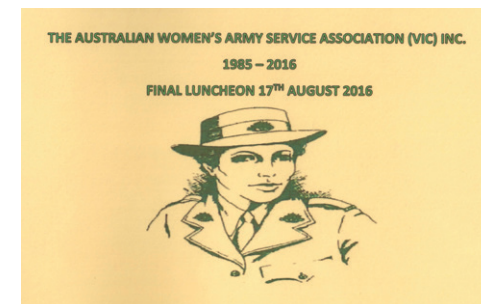
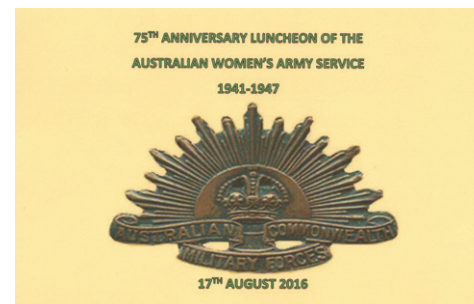
Vice President, Maggie More said the Ode of Remembrance with Life Member Brenda Johnson proposing the Loyal Toast.

Maggie More then offered Grace with Jnr Vice President, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar, MC on the day, proposed the Toast to the Association and Absent Friends.

Members and Guests were invited to speak with many relating the great times spent as members of the AWAS.

Our sincere thanks to our Secretary, Cheryle Brown and daughter Ella for making the keepsake placemats to commemorate the day.

Top right: Placemat front & rear from the final AWAS Luncheon



TEXT TRANSCRIPT OF JUDE'S TOAST.

Today, as we pause and reflect on the past we remember the AWAS Association Victoria with great pride and affection.

Incorporated as an Association in October 1985 the AWAS Association Victoria was originally established during the 1950s.

During that time, small groups of ex-service members under the leadership of Colonel Sybil Irving formed a Reunion Committee and the rest is history with AWAS Associations, Australia wide. Most Associations followed the aims of the original committee to arrange reunions to further the fellowship and interests of ex-service members of the Australian Women's Army

Service (AWAS), Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) and female members of the Australian Military forces.

In Victoria, Elizabeth Lucas was the first President of the Association followed by Jessie Perkins and then Gwenda Walker.

The Victorian AWAS Association is the last AWAS Association in Australia and has been active and vibrant for so many years, due in part to a loyal and dedicated membership.

We remember with respect our friends who are no longer with us and treasure the camaraderie once shared as members of the AWAS. Time certainly has a way of catching up with us, so today I ask you to raise your glass one more time and salute; *The AWAS Association Victoria.*



VALE

Patricia (Wilson) Butterworth WRAACF31950
Passed away;October 5th 2016

Patricia Bright
Australian Army Medical Women's Services

Pauline Ada Worthington AWASVF 397821
Passed away;Thursday 22nd September 2016



LEST WE FORGET

*When someone you love becomes a memory,
Our memory becomes a Treasure.*

OBITUARY

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the Wood Family on the
passing of Jude's Mother, Dorothy (Dottie) in July.

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Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Margaret Jager
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Diane Sherry

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Telephone: 408 553 412

Website: www.wraacvic.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I:
(Mrs, Miss, Ms, Rank)

(Surname)

(Given Names)

Maiden Name (If Applicable): Date of Birth:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone (Home): (Mobile): (Work):

Email Address:

Apply to become a Member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria) Incorporated. In the event of my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Cost of Membership: Annual Membership (\$8.00 per year) Life Membership (\$80.00)

(Circle Type of Membership required) Payment Enclosed: Cheque. Cash. Other.

(Please Circle) - Branch of Service. ARA. CMF. ARES. AWAS. OTHER:

Regt No. WRAAC or Unit/s Served/Serving with Approx. Dates

.....
.....
.....
.....

Nominated By.

Name: Membership No:

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO

Miss. Diane Sherry,
73/2 Gremel Road, Reservoir. Vic. 3073
Telephone: 0408 553 412
Email Address: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au



CONSENT FORM

I consent to the following details relating to myself and my service history being published in the Association Newsletter/Journal and Association website www.wraacvic.com

I understand that this information is for the purpose of advising other members of my joining the Association and with a view to renewing old friendships.

DETAILS TO BE PUBLISHED

Service Number:

Given Names:

Surname:

Maiden Name (If Applicable):

Units Served with Approximate Years Served (Dates)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signed: Date:

ONLY THOSE DETAILS FILLED IN BY THE APPLICANT WILL BE PUBLISHED

DO NOT COMPLETE THE ABOVE FORM if you do not wish to have your details published. Your decision to publish or not will be respected without question

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY: Application Accepted. Yes / No. (Please Circle)

Meeting Date: Receipt No: Dated:

Annual Membership Card No: Date:

Life Membership Card Issued No: Date:

WRAAC Membership

We would like **YOU** to contact any ladies whom you may know who were in the Army (ARA, CMF/ARes) regarding joining the Association.

Please contact our Membership Officer,
Diane Sherry on **0408 553 412** or email **dishe1946@yahoo.com.au**
and she will post out the appropriate form.

Welcome New Members

F35937.....Miss Barbara SUNDERLAND.....ARA
1970-71

Life Member.....WRAAC HQ
Liverpool Area NS

F318734.....Ms Margaret STEWART.....ARA
1976-86

Annual Member.....WRAAC
LTU, STU Duntroon Tpt
Instr Army School Tpt
Army Community Svcs PKL

F5/345.....Mrs Ann KEYNES.....ARA
Nee; Cameron.....1958-60
Life Member AHQ Sigs Vic Bks

From the WRAAC President



Dear Members,

As we approach the season of goodwill to all, let's remember our Servicemen and women who will be far away from their loved ones this Christmas and wish them a peaceful tour of duty and a safe journey home. We think of members who serve with Emergency Services and wish for them a truly safe summer period.

To our members who are not enjoying good health at this time, you are always in our thoughts.

On behalf of the Committee we thank you for your ongoing support and value your participation and input.

If you have an article for the Journal, contact the Editor, we know she would love to hear from you!

Enjoy the Christmas and New Year festivities and we look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Yours in friendship,

Margaret (Robinson) Jager

Around the Furphy

SANDAKAN COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE 2017

Sunday 11th March 2017

The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch will conduct its annual Sandakan Commemorative Service on Sunday 11th March 2017 at 11am.

The Service is to honour all servicemen who either returned to their home country or lost their lives whilst Prisoner of War at Sandakan and Kuching in North Borneo or the infamous Sandakan-Ranau "Death Marches"

Our loved ones will never be forgotten.

Lest We Forget

For more information contact:
Bendigo District RSL Sub—
Branch

Telephone: 03 5442 2950

Email rsl@rslclub.com.au



VF 511875 Corporal Cora Evelyn Rose (Vic L of C Records)

Dear friends of the Association, Faye and Colin who reside in Mackay (FNQ) have asked if you remember their mother, Cora.

Cora enlisted on the 6th July 1943 at Hampton, Victoria.

Any information will be passed on to Faye and Colin.



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 8th October 2016

Following the AGM all current members of the committee have been re-elected for another 12 months:

President.....Margaret Jager
Vice President.....Liz MacLaine
Treasurer.....Heather Fry
Secretary.....Margaret Brown
Membership Secretary.....Diane Sherry

Committee Members

Carol King
Jude Pinkerton-Treloar
Brenda Walters

Sub Committee Members

Gai Cooke
Heather Hyatt

The President warmly thanked the Committee for their contribution to the Association.

WRAAC 65th Commemorative Year

Following on from our last Journal commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the formation of the WRAAC we asked Brenda (Ruby) Walters to tell us her CMF/ARES story.

Brenda writes,

I joined the CMF in 1967 and immediately loved attending Parade on a Wednesday night at the Highbury Grove Kew Drill hall.

My friend, Dawn (Fraser) Ciechomski had enlisted in the previous intake to me.

I spent my 18th Birthday on a Recruit camp at the Trials and Proving Ground at Monegeetta. "Monna", was a dusty fly infested part of Victoria, certainly an eye-opener for an 18-year-old.

Recruits slept on camp stretchers in huts with hessian bags sectioning off the toilets.

I remember picking fluff out of the warped floor boards prior to hut inspection each day.



Brenda is third from left in the above photo

We still managed to have fun;

My Sergeants were Jude Pinkerton and Sue Brown.

In 1968 I commenced training at 118 Sig Sqn, 6 Sig Regt at Watsonia

Barrack. (Tele printers and Radio communications)





My first camp, 1969 was spent at Paddington Barracks Sydney

where we were fortunate to be housed at WRAAC School, Mossman. It was a memorable time with magnificent views of Sydney Harbour. We also spent camps at Watsonia Barracks alongside regular Army staff (ARA) all the time we were working with live traffic. "Great training"

Our first weekend Bivouac at Gembrook was in 1968 when females had to wear civvies as we were not allowed to wear jungle greens, that was fortunately changed not long after.

After 5 years, I transferred back to 3 WRAAC CO as an Instructor and during this time I attended an Instructor course at 2 Commando Coy under WO1 Steve Paffat.

What an awesome Instructor, I felt privileged to be taught by him. After 3 WRAAC disbanded I went on to OCTU as an Instructor in Drill and Weapons.

Fantastic experience!

I was discharged in January 1976 as I was starting a family and OCTU required a lot of time away from home. It was the best time of my life as I met wonderful people along the way of which I'm proud to say some still remain wonderful friends to this day.

Note:

I wanted to enlist in the Regular Army but my parents wouldn't sign the papers! I'm certainly not sorry that it turned out the way it did.

I feel that the CMF gave me opportunities that I would never have had otherwise. Brenda attained the rank of W02. Is a Past President of the WRAAC Association Victoria and a current committee member.

Thankyou Brenda, for sharing your story with us.

Sgts Brown and Pinkerton will be thrilled to read this article! Editor



WRAAC 65th Anniversary Luncheon

23rd July 2016



A chilly July day in Melbourne is the perfect excuse to join together and celebrate all that is great about being a former member of the WRAAC.

Once again the welcoming environment of the International Brighton enabled us to reflect on an era that was such a significant part of our lives.

Members and Guests enjoyed the continuous photo display and the traditional Parading of our Banner and Standard, intrinsic to the success of the day.

Our Guest Speaker (Captain. Angela Madden) spoke of the challenges that still confront women in the Defence Force to this very day.

However, we also listened intently to the widening career opportunities available to women striving to make a success of their service in the coming years. There is so much more than we ever dreamed of in this technology based era.

Kelli Brogan sang the National Anthem and a special song she wrote for us in recognition of our 65th Anniversary.



It is a great tribute to the WRAAC and Kelli hopes to have it recorded very soon.

Our sincere thanks were extended to Kelli for her words and music. Our much-loved Chaplain Bill Pugh accompanied by his wife Lesley, offered Grace and words of comfort to all.

It's always special when our much loved AWAS join with us to celebrate an occasion and we warmly welcomed, Eunice (Chinn) Leong, Nerida Mosley, Gwenda Walker (AWAS/WRAAC), Pat Neville (AEME 1 AVP) Freda Murphy (ARA) and Margaret (Mathews) Prowse (ESF Liaison AAPC).

Dorothy (Edwards) Holmquest (AACS) was unable to join us this year but was certainly in our thoughts. The

girls said they had an enjoyable time and intend to join us again next year.

We missed our dear friend, the late Joan Johnstone (2 Aust Army Comd, Army Journal Salt) but were thrilled to welcome her daughters, Lee and Kerrie. It made the day special.

We were also joined by the family of the late Captain Ruth Durance-

Sloss. Ruth's widower, Captain John Sloss was accompanied by Ruth's Niece, Jill Durance.

There are so many special memories of great women.

Throughout the day, background music (always a favourite) courtesy of John Stevens adds to the atmosphere of the occasion.

It was a wonderful day, so let's do it all again next year!





WRAAC Association President, Margaret Jager welcoming guests to the luncheon



Patron; Capt Iris Petrass & WO1 Elizabeth Gibson cutting the cake



Jude Pinkerton-Treloar reading apologies

ETHEL VERONICA (RHONNIE) (NEE QUIRK) PENALUNA



As an Association, we often receive correspondence from former AWAS or WRAAC member's families seeking information regarding a loved one.

As our journal travels, all over Australia perhaps one of our members may remember Rhonnie who appears to have served in Western Australia.

We enjoyed meeting Rhonnie's son, Kenneth at our AWAS /WRAAC Service in May. Kenneth also informed us some of his late Mother's AWAS memorabilia was donated to the War Memorial, Canberra.

Any information regarding Rhonnie will be passed on to Kenneth.



Sick Parade

Our loving thoughts were with Brenda (Ruby) and Rod Walters family as their Granddaughter Isla, underwent surgery in August this year.

Lorraine Onans

Our best wishes to Lorraine following surgery in September.

To all our members who are not feeling well at this time our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you wish to have a chat, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member or our Chaplain Rev. William (Bill) Pugh – Editor

Around the WRAAC Pack

BABY NEWS



Heather (Rankin) Fry and Hugh Fry proudly welcomed a Granddaughter, Lola June to their family.



*The Blanksby Grandchildren.
Haven't they grown up!*



Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Find

We recently received an e-mail from Lynn Hunt regarding the discovery of a large concrete slab (possibly covering an old well) in the area where members of the AWAS quartered during 1943-45. What is most interesting is the “personal touch” left by three AWAS Gunners who have inscribed their names into the wet concrete.

The inscription reads:

Gunner Royals, Gunner Alchin and Gunner Thompson

AWAS XXXXX

Lynn continues to say, such an inscription sparked a bit of curiosity in us! With the assistance of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and the Historical Society in Queenscliff, this is what we have found out so far: The three young female gunners who were on duty at the Point Lonsdale gun emplacements between 1943-1945.

The war memorial has provided a photo of two of the women, Gunner Alchin and Gunner Thompson on duty in the Artillery observation bunker at Point Lonsdale, probably operating a range finding device.

What is incredibly lucky is that the AWM had a photo of two of the three Gunners.

This is an exciting find with Lynn agreeing to keep us informed if any further information comes to hand.

Perhaps you may know of the girls, if so, we will pass on any information to Lynn Hunt. Editor.

On the next page, is the article from The Rip newspaper issue from 1 September 2016

This article can be seen online at (<http://www.therip.com.au/news/wartime-history-sealed-with-a-kiss>)



Wartime History

SEALED WITH A KISS



A large concrete slab carrying the inscription of three Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) gunners, and sealed with five kisses, was found hidden under heavy vegetation, during a recent clean-up of the site.

The scrawled message, dating back to the early 1940s reads:

Gunner Royals, Gunner Alchin and Gunner Thompson. AWAS. XXXXX

Lester Hunt and wife Lynne were walking nearby when the slab was discovered and were immediately aware of its significance.

"During WW2 there were 15 Army Defence buildings on the Reserve plus the concrete searchlight and gun emplacements that many of us still walk past. What is not well known is

that there were Australian Women's Army Service (later Australian Women's Army Corps) personnel quartered on the east side of the road to the Lighthouse," said Mr Hunt.

"These young women served as gunners and signallers as part of a unit called the AWAS Coastal Artillery Specialists.

"The Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve has once again unearthed some special insights into the past. The Reserve has always been known by amateur and professional historians and generations of locals to perhaps secretly harbour a treasure trove of relics from its long past."

Mr Hunt suspects the slab may have covered a well in the vicinity.

The Australian War Museum and Queenscliffe Historical Society have helped to identify the trio, stationed at the Point Lonsdale gun emplacements between 1943- 1945.

"The Australian War Museum in Canberra has provided a photo of two of the women, Gunner Alchin and Gunner Thompson on duty in the artillery observation bunker, probably operating a range finding device," said Mr Hunt.

"Gunner Alchin's service record has also been found. She was born in 1925, enlisted in 1943, making her 18 years of age when she was stationed at the Lighthouse Reserve."

Details of the find have also been sent to the Heritage Council of Victoria and could assist with a local campaign to have the reserve heritage listed.

Heritage Victoria has cautioned any similar finds made on the reserve are protected under the Heritage Act and cannot be disturbed without official consent.



Local historian Jocelyn Grant and Lester Hunt at the site of the war-time inscription discovered near Point Lonsdale lighthouse



“For me it’s that personal ‘moment in time’ that these women left behind and the fact that were actual gunners in the gun emplacements that got my attention.

“If one or more of these women could be interviewed, well, that would be ‘icing on the cake,” Mr Hunt said.

The National Heritage List includes locations that are of outstanding significance to the nation.

They are measured against nine criteria including natural or cultural history, potential to yield significant information and a special association with the life or works of a person or group significant in Australia’s history.

The Queenscliffe Council is currently investigating a request from prominent locals and historians for the site’s inclusion after the federal government indicated its support.

You May Have Missed This

The WRAAC Girls love anything to do with the Land Army and certainly enjoyed this article from the Melbourne Herald —Sun, 18th May 2016.

Service a driving ambition

HERE’S a woman who knew her place — behind the wheel and under the bonnet, that is.

Inez Allen (pictured) passed her driving test at the Exhibition Buildings in 1934 as an 18-year-old after learning to drive in her brother’s Ford.

“Mum and Dad married in 1939 and when war broke out Dad joined the RAAF but Mum, as a married woman, couldn’t join any of the armed services,” her daughter, Jacki, says.

“Therefore, when the Australian Women’s Land Army was formed she was one of the first in.

“Her driving skills were put to good use driving trucks,

tractors and anything else with a motor. She could also pull a motor engine down for servicing and maintenance and ride a motorbike.”

Jacki shared her trailblazing mum’s story after our tale on Liela Dohle, who on Sunday celebrated 100 remarkable years including a pioneering role as a bus driver throughout WWII.

Inez qualified for the Civilian Service Medal when it was introduced in 1994 —

but refused to apply for it because she said her husband had done much more than her.

Inez died aged 81 in 1997 — still the proud holder of a current driver’s licence.



Our best wishes to President Nance Ormsby and Members Australian Women’s Land Army Association Victoria.

Thanks again to Maxine (Hawkeye) Pettingill for alerting us to the article. Editor.



Another Great Reservist Story

*From tough desk job to
calling the shots in Middle East*

One of Australia's most senior public servants who runs the Department of Human Services, including Centrelink's massive operations, has been serving for three months as second in command of Australia's forces in the Middle East.

Kathryn Campbell is a Brigadier in the Army Reserve and was picked for the key operational role by Army Chief Angus Campbell.

She's the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 633, which covers Australian forces in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Brigadier Campbell, who took leave without pay from the department for three months, told The Australian from Kabul that as a public servant, she could bring a different way of thinking to the Australian Defence Force while learning a lot from the military to make



her a better bureaucrat.

She now commands the Army Reserve 5th Brigade, the first woman to command a brigade in the Australian Army.

Brigadier Campbell attended the recent graduation of a class from the Afghan Army's Officer Academy, which included seven proud young women.



"Having women in the Australian Army they can see in senior positions is very promising," she said.

Iraqi soldiers asked her if she was a mother as well as a one-star General. "I said, yes I was," Brigadier Campbell said.

"They were a bit worried about where the children were and I said they were safely in Australia with their father".

The Iraqis were very entertained by that.

"They were a bit confused about how you could be a woman and a one-star

General but it's good for us to provide examples."

Lieutenant General Campbell, no relation, said Brigadier Campbell was both a distinguished public servant and a very capable leader and commander in the ADF.

"She's done a superb job over there", he said.

In her day job, Brigadier Campbell's department has 35,000 staff in 400 locations delivering Centrelink services, Medicare and child support.



‘It’s a very challenging role and we touch the lives of most Australian’s” she said.

In the Middle East, Australia’s forces included many women at different stages of their lives and careers, including young women on their first deployment and mothers who were balancing having children at home, she said.

Their presence brings home to governments and to local defence forces that women can play key roles in their national security organisations.

Brigadier Campbell said her parallel careers had complemented each other. “I’ve found it very useful in my public service career to have that leadership and command training that the military provides, to always see people as a key determinant of achieving objectives” she said.

“My military experience gave me at a very young age a focus on leadership and working with people and decision making that I may have not got from my public service career.

“To provide leadership to the department, I think the skills I learned in the military have been incredibly important”

“Some public servants might say I’m a bit too directive because I’m in the Army. Military people might say I’m a bit too consultative because I’m in the public service.”

“I think I’m somewhere in the middle”

Article By: Brendan Nicholson

Defence Editor

The Australian, Monday August 1 2016.

Our Vietnam Nurses

Compelling Australian stories of heroism, friendship and lives changed forever

A great read. I must confess, could not wait to gain a copy of this book, Vietnam Nurses by Annabelle Brayley.

The author, a trained civilian Nurse certainly captured the very essence of life as a Nurse in war torn Vietnam without the usual “True Romance” agenda portrayed in some of the more recent books about service women.

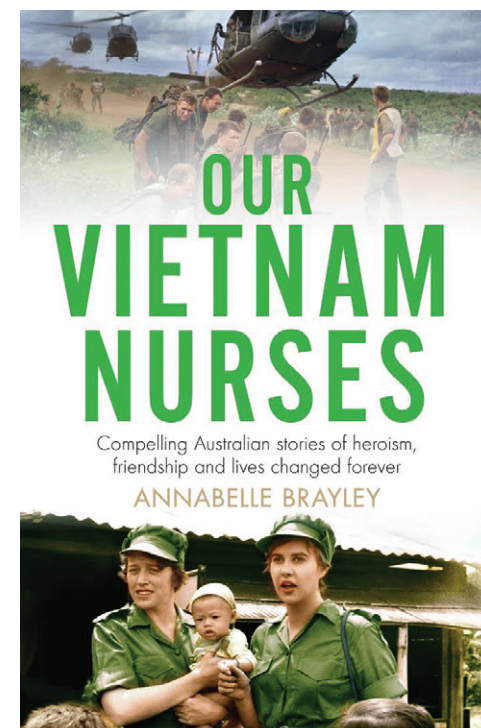
It’s certainly compelling reading and well done to all who participated in telling their stories.

Our Vietnam Nurses

by Annabelle Brayley.

Published by Penguin:
Michael Joseph.

Check out Big W and Target for your copy.



WORLD WAR 2 AND THE RISE OF FEMINISM



After watching the film, “*Suffragette*”, I started to think, was it World War 2 that gave rise to modern feminism in Australia or was it our 1960s sisters who came up with the idea to burn our bras and turn our backs on the classic stereo type roles of a previous generation.

In 1902 Australian women, had won the right to vote following a much more peaceful campaign than their British sisters.

During World War 2 Australian women engaged in all aspects of life that was previously male dominated. This was met with opposition from a section of the Australian public who inferred women would behave like men if they dared to engage in unwomanly activities.

Wearing pants, what is the world coming to!

It appears some of the most stringent opposition to Australian women gaining equality in the pre-war years was from our fellow sisters, obviously not daring to challenge the status quo.

Letters to Australian newspapers of the era suggest women should stay at home and have babies, this was prevalent following the second world war when young former servicewomen attempted to assimilate in to fulltime employment.

It was extremely difficult for many women seeking to gain meaningful career opportunities post World War 2 with returning men expecting to resume the traditional role of breadwinner. Australian women had gained knowledge and confidence whilst serving their country in various highly skilled positions. The war had in

many ways produced a new exciting generation of women who could drive trams, buses, trains, pilot aircraft, run factories and still look pretty darn good in overalls.

Returning Servicemen found Australia very different to the one they left with Australian women not wanting to relinquish their newly found independence acquired during “The War Years”!

It is a fact, at times women had to give up a job to a man and then take a lesser position within the company or work place.

Men had to work to get the country moving again, this would have possibly been in the minds of returning men as they fought in distant lands.

Women could not possibly fit into that calculation in the late 40s!

Not all women wished to continue to pursue paid employment, marriage and having a family was fulfilling and important to them and ultimately Australia.

But to those who wanted both, it was a challenge!

Therefore, one must applaud Ronnie who passed away recently at 102.

Ronnie was a dear friend of Heather Fry’s late Auntie Dot, and we all loved to hear what the girls were up to next. *Ronnie’s eulogy tells it all.*

RONNIE’S UN CAREER

It is my honour and pleasure as a former fellow UN staff member to speak briefly about our dear Ronnie’s very long and illustrious UN career. I first got in touch with her ten years ago when I was trying to document the stories of Aussie Women in the UN, and in Ronnie I unearthed ‘gold’- and we developed a close relationship mostly by phone from Canberra but also on occasional visits up north.

Ronnie joined the UN at a time of extraordinary social and political change – just after the end of the Second World War, when major rehabilitation and relief for affected countries were being implemented and the beginning of the processes of de-colonialization of many countries.

Ronnie was part of all that, starting off in Sydney, 1945 with UNICEF/UNTAB; then moving onto Shanghai in 1946-9 with UNRRA (a very grim period in Chinese history, FAO, Rome, 6 mths.; UNICEF Sydney, 1954; UNDP Indonesia, 1957-63 UNDP Kenya, 1963-66; UNDP, Nigeria 1966-69 (promoted to the professional level, from admin.); UNDP, Tanzania 1969-72; with her final; posting being New Delhi, 1972-75 in what was probably the largest UN office in the world at the time. Her three-decade long UN career would have been even longer if she hadn't come home to be with her sister Mary after she was caught in the Darwin cyclone.

Ronnie experienced some dramatic historical moments during her UN years, such as having to leave Shanghai hurriedly as Mao marched in; being present in Jakarta as the Dutch handed over to Indonesia and attending the ceremony in Nairobi the rainy night the British flag came down and the newly independent Kenyan flag was raised. Her appreciation of the need to help refugees was probably inspired from the terrible scenes of human and physical devastation that

she saw in her immediate post war years in Shanghai.

The range of countries Ronnie worked in was par for the course in the UN but what made her career remarkable was that she rose from being a secretary to become UNDP Deputy Representative in New Delhi. It was extraordinary to cross from the administrative into the professional stream, that was very unusual in the UN system and especially so being female, for they were few and far between in senior positions, even in recently years.

And I was surprised to find when perusing her stack of old passports that she was only five feet tall! She really must have been something of a little Aussie dynamo, and from what I gather, very much respected for her administrative and personal skills – and treated as if she was at least six feet tall!

She herself said to me only last month that she had had a very interesting life – as if she was concluding an inventory with some sense of satisfaction, and I was happy to reassure her that this was indeed very much so.

There are many more stories which could be told but I will restrict my comments to two more thoughts about her long life: one was even though she became very frail her long term memory was maintained and she was often very 'with it' – which wasn't always apparent to others who presumed that just because she was 'ancient', she was just another poor old thing and to be treated as such – rather than as an intelligent human being with a definite personality and to be treated and respected as such. It is a reminder to us all not to judge a book by its cover when the wrinkles have taken over!

The other thought is that the UN Pension Fund must surely be now campaigning to ensure that other UN retirees like myself do not emulate Ronnie's longevity – for if we do, we will surely break the bank! They were probably thinking that we were forging her Certificate of Entitlement each year!

We salute Ronnie as she goes off on her very last posting – to the great 'UN in the Sky' – and being a very social person I am sure she is enjoying a great cocktail party up there with her old colleagues, with whom she has now finally caught up!

Vale Ronnie

Thank you, Heather, for sharing Ronnie's amazing life with us once again.

Editor



New Medal Service to Benefit Members



More and more veterans and families are asking for quality replicas of Service medals. Military Shop are pleased to introduce a new service that allows members of organisations to order replicas (from all eras of service) directly. Many families with a link to service - both 100 years ago and today - are having replica medal sets created as special gifts for children and grandchildren so that each generation can share in their family's proud story of service. While original medals will always be prized, these outstanding replicas are created to the exacting standards of originals and will be a treasured heirloom.

Quality replicas are also increasingly being worn by veterans to reduce wear and tear on valuable originals. Original medals that are lost or

damaged can be difficult to replace. We are letting our members know about this special offer

Members can now order replica medals directly from the company website <http://www.militaryshop.com.au> where you can copy the Medals Order Form to complete. The current Fundraising Catalogue 12 contains a list of Common Medal Groups. The order form also allows Custom Groups to be built.

They have medals experts on hand to assist you and they are one of a select few companies officially authorised by Government House Canberra to produce fine quality replicas of medals within the Australian Honours



and Awards system.

VIEW ALL MEDALS ONLINE at www.militaryshop.com.au

NEED HELP: Call the medals experts on (02) 6123 2950 or e-mail (sales@militaryshop.com.au)

SPECIAL OFFER: Members ordering mounted replica medals through our organisation can also get a beautiful Jarrah medal box laser engraved with the current Navy, Army or Air Force insignia for only \$45.00 (Normally \$75.00 each).

RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE 2016

Sunday 3rd July 2016

This year Reserve Forces Day commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the raising of the 3rd Division under the command of Major General John Monash.

Several hundred onlookers cheered on former and current Reservists of the Army, Navy and Air Force as they marched from Government House Drive to the forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

Our beautiful City certainly provided a perfect morning weatherwise to compliment the Commemorative service. This year the Hon. Tim Fischer AC hosted the Parade.

It was pleasing to read the message from the Patron in Chief His Excellency Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor General and Commander in Chief. (Copy of this message on the next page: Editor)



An official guest at the parade and Commemorative Service was the Great Grandson of General Sir John Monash, Michael Bennett who was presented with an engraved World War 1 Commemorative Direct Descendant Medallion.

General Monash, a great Australian was instrumental in establishing the Shrine of Remembrance.

Well done to all concerned another successful RFD Parade.



His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Reserve Forces Day - 2016

Reservists have always been critical to Australia's military. From the Boer War, to the shores of Gallipoli and beyond, militias and reservists have heeded the call and served Australia.

On Reserve Forces Day we commemorate the contribution our reservists have made—and continue to make—to our defence force and to safety and security of our nation.

As reservists you are unique, you demonstrate the commitment and resolve required to be part of the ADF and you bring skills and expertise that makes the ADF better, stronger and more diverse. Yet you do all this while maintaining another life and another career outside the military—your determination to serve in uniform and contribute to our nation is beyond compare.

As you gather here today, reservists are working and playing a vital role in operations around the world, and here at home, reservists stand ready to help in emergencies or when natural disasters strike.

On behalf of all Australians I recognise the contribution that reservists—past and present—have made to our nation. I applaud the Reserve Forces Day Council for its work in ensuring reservists are accorded the praise and respect they so clearly deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Peter Cosgrove'.



RAAF Museum Point Cook



Photo: Courtesy RAAF Museum; Point Cook.

If you are interested in our RAAF history and like to learn more about the aircraft formation of Winjeel & CT-4A flypast over the Reserve Forces Day Commemoration on Sunday 3rd July 2016 we suggest you visit the RAAF Museum, Point Cook.

It is located at historic Point Cook RAAF Base, the birthplace of the Royal Australian Air Force, the RAAF museum houses the largest collection of military aircraft and related artefacts in Australia. Ranging from the Australian Flying Corps operating during World War 1 to the present day.

Admission to the RAAF Museum is free, however photo ID is required for visitors over 16 years old to get into Point Cook RAAF Base.

The museum is open from 10am to 3pm Tuesday to Friday and from 10am to 5pm on weekends and public holidays (except Good Friday and Christmas Day)

www.airforce.gov.au/raafmuseum

Pictured above: The Bristol Boxkite replica pictured here was built at the RAAF Museum & successfully completed flight testing on Wednesday 11 September 2013.

From the Vault

When I first joined the WRAAC (CMF) in 1962 apart from our general training we were encouraged to participate in community activities. It was a great learning experience for a 19-year-old to meet and greet the wonderful Senior Citizens residing in local areas.

It was also enlightening to a young soldier that many of the men and women we met participated in the first and second world wars and always willing to share their stories.

The tasks WRAAC members were involved in comprised of collecting and distributing briquettes and wood to needy pensioners and hosting an Annual Christmas party.

The Christmas Party was a highlight for so many people as it was such a happy day and certainly a must “go to” for many of the local residents. There was always a delicious Christmas lunch (prepared by the Catering Wing) followed by entertainment sometimes provided by members of the WRAAC, always funny and bright.

We would then have a “surprise” visit by Father Christmas willing to distribute a bag of goodies for our guests to take home.

Our Training Depot at Kew would receive invitations from Community groups inviting WRAAC members to attend their local functions as a thank you to the Army.

This was quite an experience as there was always Ballroom dancing involved and as a guest one had to join in.

I actually learnt the ‘Spring Waltz’ one Saturday afternoon at the Collingwood Town Hall, a far cry from the Beatles and my 60s dance moves.

As a member of the WRAAC, I was so proud to represent the Corps at any function and will be forever grateful to the Leadership of that time as they were able to look ahead and nurture a sense of community spirit to the young women in their charge.

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar



Army Girls Entertain Pensioners



Members of the 3rd Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Company at Kew, Vic., were hosts to sixty pensioners from around Melbourne at a Christmas party on December 4. The girls collected the pensioners in their own cars and treated them to an afternoon at the training depot. At the party each of the pensioners received a Christmas parcel containing groceries.

Mrs. Claxton and Mrs. Costin receive their Christmas parcels from Private Carol Young of Liverpool Road, Kilsyth (left), and Private Judy Wood, of Gillard Street, Burwood. In civilian life, Private Young is a receptionist and Private Wood is a ladies' hairdresser.



Photo & text above from Times-Gazette, January 12th 1966: Ed.

Thank You



The Association has received a considerable amount of well wishes and congratulations regarding our Journal.

A lot of ladies have told us they had a fantastic time and have great memories of their service, but we need the details and photos to be able to publish a story about your time in the service, in our Journal.

I would like to pass on our sincere thanks for your input.

A special thanks to Jude our Editor.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you for your most welcome feedback and we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Keep the feedback coming.

Margaret Jager

