



Australian Women's  
Army Service 1941–1947



Women's Royal Australian  
Army Corps 1951–1984

# **AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL**

**August 2016**

## AWAS Association (Vic) Inc.

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# From the Editor

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Dear Members,

Welcome to our fourth edition of the AWAS/WRAAC Journal and our sincere thanks to all for your welcomed feedback and interest. The Journal will continue to gain strength through your input so keep up the good work.

We remind you to check the calendar of events section and make note of special activities you may wish to attend.

As 2016 is the 65th Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) we thought it would be appropriate to include a few articles about former members of the Corps and to learn about their contribution to Australia's overall defence.

Enjoy your Journal and thank you once again for your support and encouragement.

Yours in friendship,

**Jude Pinkerton-Treloar**

*Editor*

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## September 2016 Journal Deadline

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

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**FRIDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER**

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

**Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal**

**Postal Address:**

**Post Office Box 307 SAN REMO VIC 3925**

**E-mail:**

**[johntreloar1@bigpond.com](mailto:johntreloar1@bigpond.com)**

---

# — 2016 — Calendar of Events



DATE	EVENT
<b>AUGUST</b>	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	AWAS Reunion Lunch.
TBA	Vietnam Veterans Day at Austin Health
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Story Writing & Art Competition (SWAC) Launch at Austin Health
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	WRAAC AGM
TBA	WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch at Orrong Hotel
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day Shrine of Remembrance
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day Austin Health
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Story Writing & Art Competition (SWAC) Presentation at Austin Health
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Pilgrimage, Shrine of Remembrance
<b>DECEMBER</b>	—



# From the AWAS President



Dear Members,

Following our Special General Meeting on the 18th March 2016 it was decided that the AWAS Association (Vic) Incorporated would formally wind up following our Reunion Luncheon on Wednesday 17th August 2016.

All monies will be distributed as follows:

In memory of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) an amount of money will be set aside to continue the sponsorship of the Story Writing and Art Competition (SWAC, Austin Health) for several years with the WRAAC Association (Vic) Incorporated to take responsibility for this.

A donation will be made to the RSL and the remainder to be distributed to the WRAAC Association (Vic)

Incorporated to enable them to continue to foster the AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service held each May at the Shrine of Remembrance.

The AWAS Flag held at the Shrine of Remembrance and is raised on rotation approximately every six weeks.

With Plaques situated in the Remembrance Garden at Heidelberg Repat (Austin Health) Victoria and the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne the AWAS will always be there for students of history to study and reflect.

Thank you to membership for your great support and loyalty to the Association.

Yours in friendship,

**Gwenda Walker**



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# Joan Johnstone



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The way so many of us feel at the recent passing of Joan is one of great sadness and a true sense of loss.

Joan was a lady with an abundance of Joie De Vivre that was infectious, she totally understood life was meant to be enjoyed with nothing ever taken for granted.

Joan was involved with many Committees and projects but always had time to nurture a fellow Servicewoman, new to the intricacies of such roles. We all loved that about Joan, her ability to make you feel welcome and special.

We will miss her guidance, her stories and songs and heart-warming poems. Joan loved words and if you were interested she would always have a special little collection for you to peruse.

We will miss you dearest Joan and you will always be remembered with love, pride and respect.

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# AWAS/WRAAC Service

*Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

## SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

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Members, family and friends warmly gathered together on Sunday 15th May to commemorate Australian Servicewomen who served our country in war and peace.

We were honoured to have Major Val Walsh (RAANC) participate in the service with our Patron Captain Iris Petrass reciting the Ode of remembrance. We welcomed our Navy friends with Margaret Hattersley (WRANS Association) placing a wreath on behalf of the Association. Our Land Army girls were not forgotten with Jude Pinkerton-Treloar placing a wreath on their behalf.

Following the service, we met in the Gallery area for welcome refreshments. It was a time to reflect and enjoy the company of very good mates and never forgetting those we have lost.



Our sincere thanks to the Shrine of Remembrance staff for their continuing support of our Association and our AWAS/WRAAC Service.

Next year we will hold the service on the 7th May at 1000hrs.

WRAAC President Margaret Jager designed and made the stunning wreaths for all the Associations.





## YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THIS

*(Articles found in local and interstate newspapers)*

# Army Observer 'Very Lucky'

*70 Years Since WWII Ended*

*A Servicewoman Recalls Her Experiences*

WIN (JOHNSON) ARELETTE

VF509215 AWAS RAA

When 19-year-old Win Arlette arrived at the Queenscliff Military Station during World War II, it was not the warm welcome she expected.

She was one of only 20 women stationed at Point Nepean and was greeted by the captain with the words, "No women have ever stepped foot on this hallowed turf".

But the frosty reception wasn't enough to put the girl from Hamilton off. She said women did a lot of work in the war that you never hear about.



The daughter of a World War I digger, she served in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) for more than four years from 1943-1947.

And with 2015 marking 70 years since the end of World War II, the Sutton Park resident is opening up about her experiences.

Ms Arlette said she took her job at the Queenscliff Military Station seriously, but that didn't mean there weren't a few laughs.

"We guarded the bay entrance from submarines and all shipping movement was cleared by our questioning," she said.

Observation posts needed to be continually manned for 24 hours, and Ms Arlette was one of four women often posted on 12-hour shifts alone.

"I'd knit and repair friends' uniforms to break up the monotony and I even tried to take up smoking," she laughed.

Ms Arlette said she remembers one night the second-in-charge ordered her to the kitchen, where she filled her coat pockets with tins of bully beef.

"Bully beef was a common feature in the army diet. It was packed with preservatives and designed to last a very long time, but these particular tins ended up over the cliff and in the sea, all because the second-in-charge couldn't stand to eat the same meal for one more day."

She said other women worked in the kitchen and drove trucks and cars around the station. "Women did lots of work you don't hear about."

Now 91, Ms Arlette said she remembers her time in the army very fondly and is still in contact with three of the women she worked with at Point Nepean.

"I've formed lifelong friendships through the Army, and for that I feel very lucky."

She also met her late husband, John, through the army and they had two children, Lindy and David.

**Ami Humpage**

MELTON LEADER,  
Tuesday December 15, 2015.



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# Behind Enemy Lines

*Betty (Hurtig) Davies*

VF388762 ASWG HWG

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The eavesdropped enemy messages Betty Davies listened to remain a mystery to her even now, although countless times they would have helped save lives or been crucial in protecting the nation's security.

Japanese Morse code intercepts in World War 11 were taken down by hand, or high speed transmissions were recorded on wax cylinders, at specialist listening stations in Australia and offshore, then sent to the joint Australian-US Central Bureau for decryption and to the now-famous codebreakers at Bletchley Park in the UK.

Betty, now 92, joined the Australian army as a fresh-faced 18-year-old in August 1942, less than a year after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

As part of the Australian Special Wireless Group, Betty underwent secret training by wireless operators who had just returned from the Middle East, eavesdropping on German communications. "We weren't allowed to talk about it, we were very secret," Betty said.

One intake of ASWG recruits was reportedly told; "Not only do you not exist; you never will have existed..."

There will be no awards, no glory. There will be no medals for this unit." But that wasn't to be. Betty and her comrades were recognised with service medals and, in 2010, received a citation of thanks from former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Buy a badge this Anzac Day and support our Diggers.

SEE ANZACAPPEAL.COM.AU

Article written by **Mark Dunn** for *Herald Sun*, Saturday April 23, 2016



Picture: JAY TOWN

Betty Davies.92, was a decoder of Japanese Morse Code messages during WW2. She is holding her framed medals and a photo of herself in service.





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# Record Tele-pals

*Jen Kelly*

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If teleprinter messages count towards penpal years, Jack from Pascoe Vale has been exchanging letters with his for what must be close to a record.

Jack started work as an army teleprinter operator in Brisbane in 1942 with lines to similar headquarters along the eastern seaboard as far as Melbourne. Many of the teleprinter operators were members of the Australian Women's Army Service — better known as Wassies.

"At the risk of being accused of being facetious, as a general principle the war stopped for us between about 8pm until about 9am," Jack says. "The operators often exchanged pleasantries. A romance even came to fruition between one of our operators and a Melbourne girl, and they got married."

Jack struck up a friendship, one teleprinter message at a time, with a Wassie in Townsville who called herself Elrae — her mother's maiden name reversed.

In September 1943, Jack embarked for service in New Guinea. That ended the teleprinter messages, so the pair began exchanging letters.

While they've met only once, the letters and cards continue to this day as they share the highs and lows of their lives.

"So if one can count teleprinter communication as being a part of pen friendship, we have been communicating for nigh on 74 years — hopefully with a few more still to come!" Jack says.

Article written by Jen Kelly for Black & White section of the Herald Sun, Saturday March 18, 2016

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# Ex-Servicewomen's Pilgrimage

*26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 1100hrs*

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This year we will meet at the Ex-Servicewomen's Cairn at the Shrine of Remembrance for a short service before we gather at the Botanical Hotel for lunch.

As this is not an organised service could you please contact Jude on (03 9874 7915) if you wish to join us.

We always have a great time at the "Bot".

## Story Writing & Art Competition (SWAC) Dates

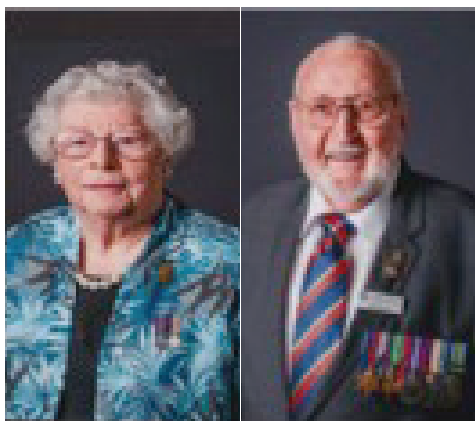
SWAC Launch — Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 12.30pm for 1.00pm  
SWAC PPC — Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 11.30am for 12noon



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# Borneo Veterans

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## Photos.

Ruby (Greenway) Hearne  
and Keith Hearne

Well done to the World War II Veterans who returned to Borneo in June 2015 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Islands population from Japanese occupation. The collective assaults were known as the OBOE series of operations.

The amphibious landings of Australian troops on Borneo were well planned and executed with great professionalism.

Originally there were plans for six OBOE operations but as the Allied offensive grew closer to Japan OBOE Three, Four and Five were cancelled.

This left:

---

OBOE ONE: The invasion of  
Tarakan Island

---

OBOE SIX: The invasion of North  
Borneo at Labaun  
and Brunei

---

OBOE TWO: The invasion of  
Balikpapan

Ruby (Greenway) (1BOD Bandiana) Hearne's husband Keith, a member of the 7th Division A Coy 2/31st Battalion, AIF was one of eight veterans who made the trip and participated in the official ceremonies which included Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

Wreaths and floral tributes were placed in memory of the 590 Australians who lost their lives in the landings.



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## Photo.

Keith Hearne overlooks the beach at Balikpapan where he landed 70 years ago.

# VALE

ANDERSON Hilary (nee Warren) ..... VF515497  
Search Lights 3 BOD ..... 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

BLACKWELL Helen Therese (Terry) (nee Gleeson) ..... F32019  
3 WRAAC & 3 RAAPC ..... 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016

CLARK Nancy (nee Hoffman) ..... VF510183  
3BOD

DUNN Caroline Therese (nee Monckton)  
13 PW Gp AWAS

FARMILO Jean Fuller  
HQ AWAS

GARRATT Elaine  
AWAS

JOHNSTONE Joan (nee Woodhead) ..... VF387885  
2 Aust Army Comd, Army Jnl "Salt" ..... 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

NUNN Lurienne May (nee Norton)  
AWAS

SMITH Norma Daisy (nee Price) .....  
AWAS ..... 6 June 2016

WILSON Aileen Violet (nee Huckel) ..... VF397198  
AWAS



## LEST WE FORGET

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



## WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Margaret Jager  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Diane Sherry

UNIT 73 / 2 GREMEL ROAD  
RESERVOIR. VIC. 3073  
Telephone: 408 553 412

Website: [www.wraacvic.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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: .....

## Welcome New Members

F38205 ..... **Ms Sheila VENNELLS-PRAED** ..... ARA

Nee Vennells ..... CARO Jul 66-Jan 71

Life Member ..... 2 WRAAC Coy Jan-Jun 71

..... DSU Brisbane Jun 71-Jan 75

..... Ares

..... 1 RAAPC Jan 75-Jan 77

..... 2 RAAPC Jan 77-Jan 79

..... 2MP (per Mngt) Jan 79-Feb 80

..... 3 ARRU Feb 80-Jan 85

..... HQ 3 MD (ORPAC) Jan 85

..... Mon UR Feb 93

..... Staff College Jan 95

VF346714 ..... **Mrs Eunice LEONG** ..... AWAS 1942-1945

Nee Chinn ..... LHQ Hvy Wireless

Annual Member

NF409556 ..... **Mrs Nerida MOSLEY** ..... AWAS

Nee Day ..... LHQ Sigs

Annual Member

## 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.



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# Associations

## Contacts and Addresses

---

### **AWAS Association (Vic) Inc.**

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SAN REMO VIC 3925  
*Telephone: 0400 482 992*

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*Telephone: 03 9801 2712*

### **Snr Vice President/Treasurer**

| Maggie More RFD

### **Jnr Vice President**

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*Telephone: 03 9874 7915*

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Helen (Mulholand) Littlejohn  
Pat Nevill  
Pauline (Bartlett) Priestley

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Email: maggie.rat@hotmail.com

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Email: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au

### **Social/Events Sub-Committee**

Liz (Stone) MacLaine  
*Telephone: 03 9397 1043*  
Brenda (Ruby) Walters  
*Telephone: 03 9846 2152*

### **Interstate and Country Representative**

Carol (Hamilton) King  
*Telephone: 02 4233 0956*





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## From the WRAAC President

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Dear Members,

Welcome to our mid-year Journal.

We have been busy since the first journal of this year was sent out. First was our Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on the 24th April. What a wonderful sunny day and lots of help to turn sausages. Our patron Iris Petrass was there to serve sausages with Maxine Pettingill, Diane Sherry collecting

money, Brenda Walters, Marg Brown, Heather Fry, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar and myself taking turns to cook the sausages. Well done ladies.

Then it was Anzac Day, was a little cold to start but fined up to march with about 19 ladies marching and all had a cuppa after the march. Well done.

Next came our AWAS / WRAAC Shrine service with about 30 people in attendance. We had a gentleman, Ken Penaluna, who came to represent his mother who was an AWAS from WA. He was so excited to be able to talk to our ladies. When he left he said, "I will see you next year".

So a good day was had by all.

Yours in friendship,

**Margaret (Robinson) Jager**

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## WRAAC Association (VIC) Inc. *Annual General Meeting*

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**SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

*The Annual General Meeting will be held at 1100 hours on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at the Shrine of Remembrance. Check in at reception and you will be directed to the meeting area. All Committee positions are declared vacant. (See nomination form overleaf)*

*Unfortunately, we are unable to serve refreshments following the AGM due to restrictions imposed by the Shrine.*

*For seating numbers please contact  
Margaret Brown by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016*

**TELEPHONE 03 94673976**  
*or email [maggie.rat@hotmail.com](mailto:maggie.rat@hotmail.com)  
if you intend to join us.*

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WRAAC  
ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC

# Annual General Meeting

*Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016*

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

MELBOURNE

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## NOMINATION FORM

---

PLEASE PRINT

I (your name)..... being a financial member of the  
Association, nominate.....

For the position of .....  
..... On the committee

SIGNED

Proposer.....

Seconder.....Print Name.....

I ACCEPT THE NOMINATION

(Signature) ..... Print Name.....

Returns are to be sent to the Secretary, Margaret Brown, 10 Ledbury Cres Bundoora 3083  
Victoria by Friday 30th September 2016

Only financial Member's may nominate, second, or be nominated

SECRETARY'S USE ONLY

Date received .....

All Financial Yes / No

**Margaret Brown**

*Secretary*

---

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# The WRAAC Years

1951–1984

*65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Formation of  
The Womens Royal Australian Army Corps*

CANBERRA



February 2016 was the 65th Anniversary of the formation of the WRAAC and thanks to all concerned it was celebrated with pride and respect as we also remembered those who are no longer with us.

History reflects the past and as former members of the WRAAC we know our past is blessed with an honourable foundation.

The women who served with the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) 1941-1947 provided the

catalyst for another generation of Australian women to serve their country as proudly as they did. We acknowledge their significant contribution and thank them for their service. To future Servicewomen we say, treasure the camaraderie and goodwill that is a significant core strength of serving Australia and look to the women who have served before you and acknowledge their contribution.



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# WRAAC 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## CANBERRA

*Lyn (Work) Board ARA member writes.*

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Well it was five years in the organising, but I'm sure that everyone who attended the WRAAC 65th Anniversary celebrations thought it was worth it all.

I arrived at the Car-o-tel in Watson, Canberra, late afternoon on Friday 12th February all ready for a great weekend catch up with old friends and making new ones.

I hadn't visited Canberra for many years and was surprised to see how little it had changed. Still managed to get lost every time we went anywhere though as did lots of other people to judge by comments I kept hearing all weekend.

Our first function was the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. A very moving ceremony where WO1 Michelle Griffith read the story of Sister Mary McGlade who was killed in 1942 at Banka Island, Indonesia. A wreath for all WRAAC who have passed away was laid at the base of the Pool of Reflection. A lot of members took the opportunity to place poppies on the Roll of Honour while they were there.

We had time afterwards to tour the Anzac Memorials if so inclined but a group of us headed off to the Mercure Hotel for a cool drink and to catch up with old friends.

We all met again at Anzac Hall at the AWM for a Meet and Greet. We registered at the door and were given a bag of goodies which included, among other things, a Rising Sun badge, a pewter WRAAC badge which can be worn as a brooch and a pewter key ring incorporating the WRAAC badge among other things.

It was great to meet up with old friends and thank goodness for our name badges as some people had changed a lot in the time since we last met. I really enjoyed catching up with members of the 99/65 WRAAC Recruit Course, some of whom I hadn't seen since we marched out of WRAAC School to our first postings and trade courses.

After sitting up half the night reminiscing, it was a late start the next day and our group went back to visit the War Memorial and have a proper look around. The War Memorial is a very impressive place and there is always something different to see whenever you visit.



We took the opportunity to visit the Servicewomen's Memorial which was not quite finished the last time I was there. Others visited the Royal Australian Mint and some took the chance to cruise on Lake Burley Griffin.

The highlight of the weekend was the Sapphire Dinner at the QT Hotel. No luck with the raffles unfortunately but I really enjoyed listening to the guest speakers – Maj Gen Liz Cossan and Brig Jane Spalding who spoke of the role of women in the ADF today.







Certainly very different from my days. Lovely meal and excellent company with lots of tall tales being told.

Another late night but up early on Sunday morning and off to the church service at the Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul at RMC Duntroon. The church service was conducted by Chaplain Catie Inches-Ogden who is Principal Chaplain, Anglican.

There was a shuttle bus operating so we were able to visit some of the historic areas of Duntroon, and there were lots of photos taken at the Kathleen Best Memorial Gates

which are located at the entrance to the Commandants Residence. The museum was also very interesting with quite a bit of WRAAC memorabilia on display.

Then it was off to lunch at RMC Golf Club. Lunch was in two sittings and we were advised that those who attended the early sitting would have to vacate the premises promptly so that the later sitting would not be delayed. We booked for the later sitting and unfortunately I think the caterers had miscalculated and there was hardly anything left for us. The only sour note in the whole weekend.

Our group decided to go out to dinner and ended up at the Mercure Hotel where we found several other groups with the same idea so there was more laughter and reminiscing.

On Monday morning we headed to the National Portrait Gallery where we wandered around and particularly enjoyed an exhibition entitled "Women in Focus" which had painted portraits and photographs of many well-known Australian women as well as some not so well known. Our guest speaker was Angus Trumble, Director of the National Portrait Gallery who gave us a talk on the Gallery's collection.

He obviously loves his job and the gallery as this was obvious in the way he spoke. A delicious lunch followed and then, sadly, it was time to say goodbye. The Organising Committee for the anniversary was thanked and there were lots of calls for another gathering in the not too distant future (before we are all too old to travel). Unfortunately, no decision was made on when or where.

After many goodbyes and promises to keep in touch, our group wandered across to the National Gallery of Australia to have a look at the Tom Roberts Exhibition before heading back to Car-o-tel to pack bags and get ready for the trip home.

*Thanks Lyn for your article, we all agree it was a wonderful weekend.*  
— Editor

### **Comments overheard during the Four days in Canberra 2016**

- Proud to be WRAAC
- This has been so well organised.
- The organising committee did a great job.
- How long did you serve?
- Awesome!
- Is that!!!!!!
- You look so good!
- Trailblazers, us!
- Well done to the AWAS.



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# Australian Ex-Servicewomen's Memorial

## CANBERRA

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The questions are still relevant as they were in 2000 at the Australian Ex-Service Women's Memorial situated in the Australian War Memorial Gardens Canberra.

There is at times, water flowing through a snake like gutter that hypothetically represents a river of tears. Plants have also grown around the perimeter of the memorial.

What else can one say?



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## Sick Parade

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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*

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# Major-General Cosson

*Guest Speaker at the WRAAC 65<sup>th</sup> Sapphire Dinner*

13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

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Australia's first female General, Major-General Cosson's work in defence logistics has contributed to peace operations in Cambodia, East Timor, and Bougainville. Liz Cosson joined the Australian Army in 1979 as an officer cadet and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps, serving various appointments as a supply and administrative officer in her early career.

In 1991 she was appointed to a position at the Royal Australian Air Force Logistics Command where she was responsible for the logistics support to army aviation aircraft. For her work in improving the availability of the Black Hawk helicopter fleet and supporting the fleet deployment to Cambodia, she received a commendation from the Air Officer Commanding Logistics.

From 1995 Major General Cosson's appointments within Land Command included a regimental post with the 11th Brigade, and a logistics staff officer post at Headquarters Land Command where her responsibilities included logistics planning in support of the 1999 operations in East Timor.

In November 1999 Liz Cosson deployed as the Chief of Staff of the Peace Monitoring Group, Bougainville and for this work was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2001 Australia Day Honours List. On her return from Bougainville she served with Defence Corporate Support before being seconded to the Joint Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade in the House of Representatives.



In 2002, Major General Cosson commenced a three-year appointment in strategic logistics planning with responsibility for logistics policy and developing concepts to improve logistics information systems. Promoted to Brigadier in December 2005, she was posted as Director General Regions and Bases, Defence Support Group to manage integrated service delivery to Defence bases across Australia.

In November 2007 Liz Cosson was promoted to Major General and appointed Head of National Operations, Defence Support Group.

A graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College at Queenscliff (1994) and the Defence Strategic Studies Course (2005), Liz Cosson holds a Graduate Diploma in Management Studies, a Bachelor of Social Sciences and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies. She is married to James Baker, also currently serving in the Australian Army.

Liz retired from full time military service on 29 November 2010. After her military career, Liz commenced her career with the Australian Public Service. She is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the Department of Health.



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# Brigadier Jane Spalding

*Guest Speaker at the WRAAC 65<sup>th</sup> Sapphire Dinner*

13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

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Jane Spalding is a Brigadier in the Australian Regular Army. Jane is a graduate of the Australian Army Command and Staff College, Royal Military College of Science (UK) and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies and holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Science (Human Resource Development) and Master's degrees in Military Studies, Defence Studies and Strategic Studies. Jane is currently Chief of Staff Army Headquarters.

Detailed Biography;

Brigadier Spalding enlisted into the Army Reserve in 1981 and transferred to the Australian Regular Army in 1983, graduating as a second lieutenant from the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps School later that year.

She was allocated to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (RAAOC) and posted to 21st Supply Battalion in Sydney where she undertook regimental duties. Brigadier Spalding completed the ammunition technical officers course in 1985 and ammunition postings to Bandiana, Wallangarra and Adelaide followed. In January 1991, she was appointed as the aide-de-camp to the Governor-General.

Postings to the Australian Defence Force Academy as a divisional officer and the Royal Military College of Science in the United Kingdom followed, prior to her assuming command of the Proof and Experimental Establishment, Graytown in Victoria.



Brigadier Spalding attended the Australian Army Command and Staff College in 1998 and was subsequently posted to HQ 7th Brigade as the deputy quartermaster and adjutant general (DQ). On promotion to lieutenant colonel in 2001, Brigadier Spalding was posted as the deputy director capability development – personnel within the defence personnel executive (DPE).

She deployed to East Timor as the SO1 personnel and logistics on the Australian National Command Element in 2002.

During 2004-05, Brigadier Spalding commanded the Army School of Logistic Operations, Army Logistic Training Centre, which included performing the duties of deputy head of corps, RAAOC. In 2006, Brigadier Spalding was posted as a member of the directing staff at Australian Command and Staff College. She was subsequently posted on promotion to colonel as Director Joint Preparedness Management. She was posted to Army Headquarters (AHQ) in January 2009 as the director combat and combat support development – Army prior to undertaking a project within defence force recruiting.

Brigadier Spalding completed the defence strategic studies course in 2010 and was posted as director strategic reform program – Army in AHQ in December 2010. Brigadier Spalding was promoted in December 2011 and assumed the appointment of director general explosive ordnance within joint logistics command. Brigadier Spalding is a graduate of the company director's course and is currently Chief of Staff Army Headquarters.



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# Reflection

*Lt Colonel Bev Blanksby AM RFD ED*

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As we reflect on the 10th Anniversary of the passing of Lt Colonel Bev Blanksby AM RFD ED we thought members would be interested in this enlightening article published in the Herald Sun, August 14th 2005.

— *Lest We Forget* —



For better or worse, why shouldn't women serve in front-line units and take combat roles?

Their training and fitness is tested the same way as men and obviously their suitability – mentally and physically – is scrutinised the same. So why not take this step, because it will happen eventually.

During my 35 years in the Australian Army the issue of women carrying or not carrying weapons and serving in the front line and combat units was a hot topic.

About 20 years ago, at a recruiting conference, we spoke of making no distinction on duties for women and men because, down the track,



we would need to take as many as possible of either gender who were mentally and physically able to serve in combat units.

So here we are again, because of recruiting shortages, still talking about combat roles for women.

It is time to make a decision – and it won't be easy.

It is difficult enough to think about our men and nursing/medical women in POW camps and those who died because of war. Now we have to contemplate women being approved or committed to combat support and roles as front-line soldiers.

Since Vietnam we have watched the horrors of war on television. We saw our brave women and men in East Timor, all carrying weapons. Surely if you carry a weapon, the Government is aware of the need to use it. Where is the front line? If women are firing weapons, is it right to ban them from combat duties?

Times have changed. Most of our population has not experienced life without television and certainly did not sit around the radio on a Sunday night listening to the Lux play. It was wood fires then, not ducted heating; hot-water bottles, not electric blankets. We must change too.

Would it help or hinder recruiting numbers and retain our soldiers? If the Government approved women in front-line units, but not in combat roles.

This has been, pondered for decades: now it is time for answers.

Last Tuesday I was privileged to attend a lunch with more than 100 women who served with the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II.



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We were remembering the formation of the AWAS on August 13, 1941. Before then the Australian Government did not approve of women serving in the army other than the nursing and medical.

But 64 years ago there was a shortage of manpower and the War Cabinet agreed to women being recruited by the AWAS to allow more men to serve in our combat units.

Women did not receive equal pay and they were usually required to leave when they married.

Women were involved in the war effort and served Australia well. They were in artillery units manning the fixed defences of Australia's coast, with the signal corps, and in the highly sensitive and secretive work of the intelligence corps.

In the early years, women were not permitted to go overseas. It is now a contentious subject because that has made most of the AWAS ineligible for the Government's Gold Card.

However, in 1945 the Government granted special approval for hundreds of the AWAS to serve outside Australia in New Guinea, even sailing on the MV Duntroon to reach that destination in 1945.

When I joined the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps as a reserve soldier in the late 1950s there was no equal pay, no approval to be enlisted into "male" units.

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There was progress, I saw equal pay approved, although some allowances were barred to women because we were still not allowed to carry and fire weapons.

The reserve women were allowed to remain in the army after they married, though when I married in the early 1960s, my husband, had to write a letter to my commanding officer giving his permission for me to remain serving. This despite Don being a junior rank to me.

When my son was born in 1972, I held a senior rank, but was required by law to retire. Over the next two years I lobbied about that and eventually, in 1974 – proclaimed as Women's Year – the Government allowed married women with dependent children to serve.

Women started serving in more traditional "male" units and finally women were enlisted into male units – albeit not in combat. They now use weapons and do the same training and fitness tests.

Life is all about time and change – be it progress or regress. Well, it is time for change and time women were given the green light to take on full front-line duties.

Bev Blanksby served in the Australian Army for 35 years and is a life governor of the Shrine of Remembrance. She served in all ranks from private to Lieutenant Colonel. Her roles include Officer Commanding of 3 WRAAC Coy and Commanding Officer of Army Reserve Recruiting (Victoria).





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# Showgrounds 1970

*SGT Heather Fry (Rankin)*

## 3 WRAAC COY DRIVING DISPLAY

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In the early months of 1970 I received a phone call at home from Maggie More enquiring if I, perchance, had watched the Edinburgh Tattoo on the television, and if so, did I catch the driving display. I agreed enthusiastically 'yes' to both questions as I thought the performance was absolutely brilliant by the soldiers involved.

I then quickly realised the true purpose of the phone call, 3 WRAAC Coy were going to be involved in a display later in the year at the showgrounds and a driving exhibition was going to be incorporated in that display. I was to be the driver.

Our display incorporated the driving of a Landrover (minus canopy) towing a trailer through a serpentine course, through an arch way with a 2 inch

(5 cm) clearance either side of the vehicle (external rear view mirrors on either side of the vehicle were removed), back the trailer into a designated parking bay and then drive forward out of that bay, turn hard left and proceed through a flaming hoop to the finish line.

I had never backed a trailer before. Many hours of training paid dividends but not without many blistered hands and painful elbows from knocking my 'funny bone' on the vehicle door as I would turn the steering wheel vigorously from one direction to the other. Training venues were sometimes difficult to acquire, we started at Sandringham depot, but churned the ground up so much we risked bogging the vehicles.

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We then used the Sturt Street depot, South Melbourne, but this did not allow us enough room to set up the complete course and our final training was completed at the Swan Street depot, Burnley. Two other male teams were competing with us and friendly rivalry developed very early and we were all very eager to do our best.

I was extremely fortunate that I had Sue Reid as my co-driver; her support and guidance never waned. All through the training her advice was always forth coming and indeed most welcomed. Through the serpentine she would call out when to turn and when backing the trailer was her cry of 'STOP' was always spot on.

Our display was to commence from a standing start, the drivers and co-drivers were positioned at a starting line and on the given command were to sprint to the vehicles, mount the vehicles, start the vehicle and then commence to proceed through the course. As timing was so important, Sue and I had developed our starting technique down to the last second, we shared the procedure for the initial starting of the vehicle,

as the driver I would depress the clutch and slightly depress the accelerator but the starting of the vehicle, engaging first gear and releasing the hand brake was shared by both of us and we had this down pat. In the latter part of training the ground crew were brought in and their role was to set up the course as quickly as possible. This was a very important role; if the course was not set to perfection the end result of the display would have been a disaster. Timing and precision was the key to the whole display.

The day finally arrived. We had a full dress rehearsal and to our delight and somewhat surprise our team came in first. All through training I never considered that we would come first, I thought maybe second but even third would not be a disappointment. Between the rehearsal and the actual performance quite a few army personnel were coming past and saying they had bet some money on the WRAAC team.

The nerves were now really taking over. Betting! Money! What a lot of responsibility was on our shoulders.



My pleas of 'don't bet on us' appeared to fall on deaf ears. The day seemed to be turning into a haze; I just wanted tomorrow to come very quickly. We all went off 'somewhere' to lunch, someone asked if I wanted a drink. Quickly regaining some sort of composure I stated that as I was driving I could not possibly have a drink. I heard someone say, "If you don't have a drink you won't be able to drive".

I must have looked as bad as I felt, my shoulders were aching, my arms and legs didn't feel like they were coordinating with each other and don't bother talking to me as my heart was making such a thumping noise inside my chest I couldn't hear properly either. I had the drink. It worked wonders. Arms and legs got their act together and the heart settled down thus hearing was restored.

The moment was finally upon us. All that training, all that teamwork is now going to come together in front of all these people. On the starting line I wondered if my legs were even going to move, they did, and on the given

command, Sue and I were quickly sprinting to our vehicle, every second was important. On reaching the vehicle, I jumped in but Sue missed the door handle and was a few seconds late getting into the vehicle.

Was this going to be a bad omen — of course not, we quickly gained our composure and off we went, through the serpentine course, (didn't clip any of the witches' hats) through the arch, (didn't knock that — if we did it would have fallen down upon us) backed the trailer into the parking bay (didn't go outside that marked boundaries) and came out through the flaming hoop and over the finish line — into SECOND POSITION. The feeling of relief was enormous. We were also, no doubt, very proud. Proud to have the opportunity to represent 3 WRAAC Coy in this manner and to be part of such an efficient team.

We were advised later that we had actually WON the competition as the team that was first over the line clipped one of the witches hats on the serpentine course therefore being relegated to second place and the WRAAC team was placed first.



This driving display highlights the value of teamwork. The result could not have been achieved if it wasn't for the excellent effort of the ground crew who set up the course perfectly and also of the never-ending support of Sue Reid, our co-driver.

**Photo.**

Showgrounds 1970 Driving Display  
Assembly Area. 3 WRAAC COY  
Driver — Sgt Heather Rankin

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# Diane Joy Sherry

F32233 WO1

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I was born on 7th October, 1946 in Thornbury, Vic. To Keith and Nancy Sherry, the eldest of 5 children (I have 4 brothers).

I had originally been going to join the Navy when I was younger but then learnt that they did not play cricket. As I had been playing competitively since I was 13 I did not want to give it up. By the time I joined the CMF I had already represented Victorian Cricket twice at the junior level, and been working since I was 16 after leaving school at the end 4th form.

On my third try (because of weight problems) I was enlisted into the CMF at 3 WRAAC Coy, Kew on 29th November, 1970, at the age of 24. I then did my first camp at Benalla in March 1971.



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Promoted to LCpl on 1st Jan 1972 and posted to the Pay Office at 3 WRAAC Coy assisting then WO2 Elizabeth Gibson. I think our office was in the Officers Mess.

I was then promoted to Cpl on 4th October, 1972. I went on to do promotion subjects for Sgt between May and July 1973 and was promoted Sgt on 4th October, 1973.

I attended a driver's course at 7 Tpt Sqn in 1974 with 4 other girls and 3 of them ended up marrying their instructors. Carol (Hamilton) King, Judy (Brooks) Kennedy and Heather (McKay) Sherry my now sister-in law.

Qualifications for Warrant Officer subjects then followed between Dec 74 and May 75.

When 3 WRAAC Coy was disbanded in 1976 I was already instructing on a driver's course at 15 Tpt Sqn with my good friend Cheryle (Howes) Brown. I was posted to 3 RAAPC Det on 1st April 1976 but had to finish the course first. We had a great time on the course with a 2 week travelling camp escorted by MP's who went ahead and stopped traffic for the convoy.

I had taken my super-8 camera and was standing up in the turret taking movies of the convoy in front of me and I then turned around to take shots of the following vehicles and did not see the branch that whacked me over the head. Everyone thought it was funny but I had a bad headache for days after.

I am not being biased when I say that the girls on the course did better than the guys. I remember Debbie Downie getting under a bogged truck and fixing the shear pin while the guys stood around watching. It certainly impressed all the instructors, male and female.

When I finally arrived at 3 RAAPC even though I was qualified for Warrant Officer I had to go back to T/Sgt until I qualified in RAAPC Corps Subject. After substantiating as Sgt RAAPC I was appointed the Unit Pay Rep (UPR) on 3rd Feb 1977 & was then promoted to S/Sgt RAAPC. Then followed a further course to qualify for WO in Pay Corps, and was I promoted WO2 RAAPC on 8th Mar 1978.

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After several postings within the unit as UPR, Pay & Cash Office Instructor etc. I was promoted to WO1 on 31st Aug 1982 and appointed the DSM of the Unit.

What I must explain at this time is that WO1 Gibson had previously been posted to 3 RAAPC when 3 WRAAC was disbanded.

We were lucky in our postings because Pay Corps had (I think 13) postings on the establishment that had to be filled by females of all ranks. I don't think that girls in other units had this kind of opportunity.

I then became chief clerk of the Unit working with some great staff. When I took over, the records of service for members of the Unit were so far behind that we all decided we would make it our objective to bring them up to date. I think it took over 12 months and some 2500+ RO's to finish. I was so proud of everyone when we completed this task.

I became the RAAPC representative with ORPAC (Other Ranks Planning & Career Management) for senior NCO's. A couple of years later I was posted to Victoria Barracks in the Honours & Awards section checking applications for medals. The CO of this unit was the late Lt Col Beverly Blanksby who had also previously been the Chairman of ORPAC.

At this stage you may like to know of some things I remember about my years of service. When I was with 3 RAAPC we did several range shoots, which I usually enjoyed. One year we did a weekend on the range at HMAS Cerberus. I forgot who was away but it was decided that I was to be the safety officer on the pop up range. I had never done this before so the Navy WO in charge of the range went through the procedures with me. He said not to worry as he would be up in the tower behind me and would "watch my back". This was LIVE ammunition. There were 10 targets with a student and instructor on each station.

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Every 100 meters the targets would pop up and the soldiers would fire at the target. My job as safety officer was to stand behind the firing line and keep an eye on everyone (look up and down the row) to make sure they were doing the right thing.

Everyone hit the first mound correctly and fired at their targets when instructed. The order was then to rise and walk towards the next mound, hit the ground and fire at the target. Nine out of the ten soldiers and instructors did the correct thing but the instructor on the left hand side station started to instruct his soldier to fire. Luckily for me I was looking at that end of the line and shouted "Stop, Stop, Stop" at the same time as the Navy WO in the tower.

I literally wet my pants when I thought what might have happened, I was shaking like a leaf. The Navy WO then stopped the shoot, came down from the tower and congratulated me on the way I had conducted the shoot. He asked me how many times I had been safety officer and I told him that this was my first and only time and I never wanted to do it again.

For my Army service I was awarded the Reserve Force Medal with First Clasp and the Australian Defence Medal. My Army career came to an end and I was discharged at my own request on 1st Sep 1992.

In my civilian life I retired this January and was with the same employer my entire working life which was one-week shy of 53 years. People who know me will tell you that I am a sports nut. Over the years I have competed in athletics, swimming, diving, hockey, squash, golf and of course cricket which I played from the age of 13 till I retired at 37. I also took part at age 52 in cricket at a Masters Games in Melbourne and took the best catch of my whole career. Of course nobody had it on video so I missed out on the replay.

I would encourage you all to think about your own story and write it down. I am sure our Editor would love to hear from you.





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# The Fall of Singapore Commemorative Service

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Committee member Brenda (Ruby) and husband Rod Walters were fortunate to be in Singapore in February this year (2016) to participate in the Commemoration Service to remember the fall of Singapore to the Japanese on the 15th February 1942.

Brenda writes about the historic war sites. — Fort Siloso was one of three forts that were built on Sentosa Island and is now the only preserved fort.

During WW2, the Japanese invaded Singapore from the north through Peninsula Malaya and the guns of Fort Siloso were turned inwards to support ground troops. It was converted into a military museum in 1974 and is well worth a visit. It has many detailed and informative displays including over 245 photographs, documents and film clips. It was used as a prisoner of war camp during the Japanese occupation.

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# Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony

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*58/32 Infantry Battalion Association*

11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

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It is said Pompey gained his nick name from the famous VFL footballer, Fred “Pompey” Elliot.

“Pompey” will always be remembered for his great leadership and total loyalty to his men.

Following the service, Maggie More, Cheryle (Howes) Brown and Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar joined with members, family and friends of the Association at the friendly East Keilor, RSL.

A great day was had by all in attendance.

Each year members gather to commemorate the 58th Infantry Battalion (The Essendon Rifles) raised in 1913 under the command of the esteemed Major General Harold “Pompey” Elliott CB CMG DSO DCM.



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# A Family Heartbreak

*Lest We Forget*

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Following the fall of Singapore article my thoughts drifted back to early childhood and the sadness that encompassed the years following the end of World War Two.

Our family, like families world-wide are still haunted by the loss of a loved one whilst a POW. Our boy, Harold, was a beautiful caring young man, dearly loved by his family and a young girl named Valda who was to become his wife. I have been told they were “a perfect couple”.

Harold joined the Army in 1938 (CMF/ Militia) and took to it like a duck to water, eager for promotion, equipped with a sense of what was morally right in the world. He was 20 years and 11 months old. By 1940 he is now a Sgt with 3MT Depot and at times, Driver to Major General Thomas Blamey. The war is really taking its



toll on manpower and Harold is with 22 Brigade Group Ordnance Field Park, a real soldier now!

On the 22nd November 1941 he disembarked “Fortress” Singapore and on the 31st December is now acting S/Sergeant.

Prior to leaving Australia, Harold called in to say goodbye to his Grandmother and said “don’t worry Nan, the war will be over soon and I’ll be back home!” Such optimism, and why not!

In 1943 Harold is reported missing and then confirmed as a POW.

The long wait is on for the family as occasionally there is a card from Harold saying he is well and his family cling to that hope. It would appear to have been a favourite trick of the Japanese to get someone else to sign a greeting card, always inflict maximum pain on your enemy.

In 1945 the war is over with no word of Harold.

Every day is the same with family waiting and hoping, looking at every ship that returns to Melbourne. His caring Grandmother, and Valda, never gave up on seeing their boy again. The family totally understood it would take a long time to repatriate the sick and wounded and return them safely home to Australia.

One day Valda spots a familiar face, a good mate of Harold’s disembarking from yet another hospital ship, they ask “where’s Harold” and he replies tearfully “he’s dead”.

Just like that, dead.

One can only imagine the pain and heartbreak experienced as they came to terms with the loss of their loved one. I wish I could say our family recovered from this but I can’t, the sadness has never left us and continues today.

We recently discovered Harold died of illness (Dysentery and Pneumonia) on the 1st September 1943 (Siam) with his remains interned at the Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Thanbyuzayat, Myanmar. There were 15,395 captured Australians as a result of the fall of Singapore and of those taken prisoner one third died.

Harold’s service records tell us his remains were first discovered in a communal grave at Kami, Sourrai with a reburial at Thanbyuzayat.

Another beautiful soul lost to the atrocities of the notorious Burma–Thailand Railway.

As a postscript to this article, Valda remarried and had a child, a son.

His loving Grandmother, our beautiful Great Grandmother mourned him for the remainder of her life.

*Lest We Forget — Judith and Marilyn*







# My Dad

*By Brenda (Ruby) Walters*

In October last year, my Dad, Raymond Ruby attended the Rye RSL to have his portrait done as part of the Australian institute of Professional Photographers project to photograph surviving WW2 veterans.

The portraits of hundreds of veterans have been gifted to the RSL and Australian War Memorial and will be exhibited in Canberra.

Dad enlisted in the Australian Military Forces in August 1942 (after a failed attempt to enlist when he was 17) and did his training at Puckapunyal. When he turned 19, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces so that he could serve overseas.

He then trained at the 7 Div training facility at Tenterfield on 303's and Bren guns. He was then sent to Port Moresby and on to the Ramu Valley.

He returned to Australia for a short leave (when he became engaged to my Mum Olive) then was sent to Mareeba Queensland to do jungle training.

He was then sent to Morotai and Balikpapan in Borneo the last division to invade the South Pacific. When peace was declared he was sent on to Macassar in the Celebes to guard Japanese prisoners of war.

He returned home to Australia in March 1946 and was discharged from the army in August 1946 just before his marriage to Olive.



He has always kept us amused with his tales of his time in the army and he has only ever spoken of the positive memories he has and also of the great mateship he enjoyed with his fellow comrades. He will be 92 on the 9th of June.





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# Correspondence

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Dear Cheryle,

I was delighted to read about Eunice Chin, in the AWAS letter I received in the mail recently, as I was at Alice Springs working there at HQ at the time, and I remember Eunice, as she used to play the piano, and was one of the clever "Sig. girls"... We all lived at the AWAS Barracks at the time.

There were seven of us all came up from Melbourne in the November, 1943, (all typists), and though we had never met before, we remained close friends for the rest of our lives.

Sadly - one by one - they have all passed away, and I am the only one left still alive and enjoying my life.

We used to have an "Exservicewomen's Association in Swan Hill, but there are not enough of us left to continue as association and have meetings, but those who are left still keep in touch, and get together at all the special times.

I am lucky to have good health, and many friends who enjoy meeting at the various things we are still in - "The Day Centre", OWA, and church, and other things we do...

I am lucky living just across from the old Murray River where many birds come. and go.

All the best to Eunice and all Ex-servicewomen who are still enjoying life - and to those who are not so well.

Sincerely Yours,

VF511876 AWAS (Life Member)

**Daisy Holmes (nee Roberts)**

(now I am 96½)

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*Dear Daisy,*

*Thank you so much for your welcome letter, we always look forward to hearing from you. Please extend our best wishes to all at the Swan Hill RSL Club, as we reflect on the many happy times shared.*

*Yours in friendship,*

*Editor.*

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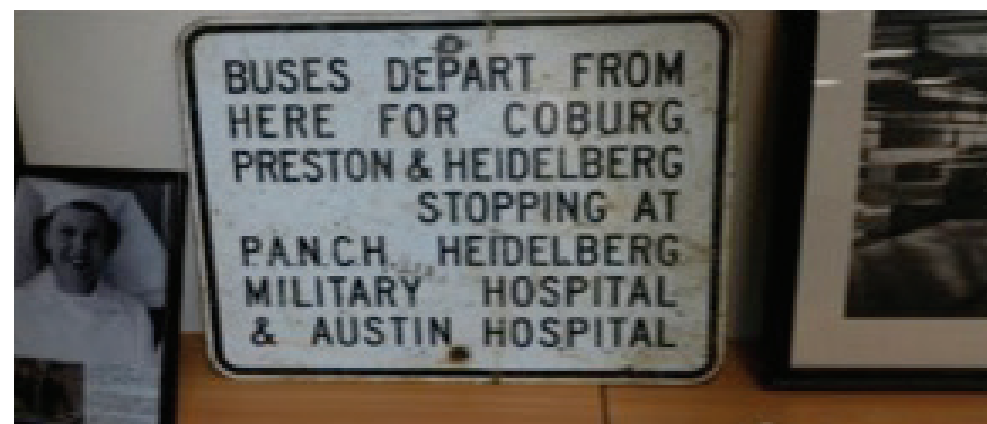
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# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*of the*

## HEIDELBERG REPATRIATION HOSPITAL

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To the sound of the classic tune "As Time goes by" guests were welcomed to join together in the Acacia room at Heidelberg to reflect on the past and embrace the future of this great Hospital.

The Austin's energetic DVA Liason Officer, Robert Winther was warmly acknowledged for his great work at the hospital as he too was celebrating a milestone, 50 years of service at the Repat. Well done Robert.

Our much loved Verna (Russell) Phillips AWAS (LHQ & War Graves and President of the War Widows & Widowed Mothers Association) and Jean (Grenda) Parry (2/7 AGH, 115 AGH) were warmly acknowledged for their service to the hospital.

Congratulations to all at the Repat and especially the wonderful caring staff who look after our Veterans with such compassion and care.



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# ANZAC Observance

*22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016*

AUSTIN HEALTH

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A huge crowd gathered in the Remembrance Garden at Austin Health (Heidelberg) to commemorate those we have lost and to give thanks for all we enjoy as Australians. On behalf of the AWAS Association Jude Pinkerton-Treloar placed a sheath of Singapore orchids at the AWAS Plaque.

WRAAC Association President, Margaret Jager placed a sheath of flowers at the WRAAC Plaque during the moving wreath laying ceremony. The Remembrance garden is a fitting tribute to our servicemen and women. Following the service, we gathered in the Acacia Room for refreshments.

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# Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser

*24<sup>th</sup> April 2016*

BOX HILL

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Another successful fundraiser was held at Bunnings Warehouse, Middleborough Road, Box Hill with a total of \$1,050.84 raised for the Association. That's a lot of sausages and onions.

It was a great day weatherwise with the team enjoying time together, embracing the wonderful friendship we continue to share.

Thank you to Bunnings Warehouse for your community spirit and goodwill in assisting the various Clubs and Associations in this fundraising activity.

We apologise to members for the short notice given regarding the Sausage Sizzle this year but it was out of our control.

See you next year.



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# ANZAC Day Commemoration March

*25<sup>th</sup> April 2016*

## ANZAC DAY REFLECTION 2016

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A warm sunny Melbourne morning greeted marchers as they proudly attempted to step off from their respective designated march off points. However, to many of us the step off was anything but smooth as it was more akin to running to catch a bus or tram at peak time. It was a shambles and pretty much up to the standard set last year.

Once again we seemed to miss out on any music however there appeared two Bands competing against each other towards the middle of the march. It would appear that the March Marshalls were also a little in the dark as exasperated relatives were sent here and there to find a loved one's assembly point. We received many complaints regarding this issue as it was obvious not all Marshalls were on the same page.



It was noted, many prospective marchers could not cross roads to join their respective groups as Police had it all blocked off with no provision to manoeuvre, that was disappointing for a few of our girls who failed to join us.

*We all look forward to an organised march next year. — Editor.*

### Photos.

1. WRAAC lead by Association President Margaret (Robinson) Jager stepping it out.
2. Camaraderie in abundance.
3. AWAS Association Victoria President Gwenda Walker together with Helen Littlejohn and Win (Johnson) Arlette
4. Keith Hearne, Leader WWII AIF ANZAC Day Melbourne





# VALE



VF387885 Joan Dorothea Johnstone  
2nd Army Comd ARMY Jnl "Salt"  
25th December — 17th March 2016

It is with sadness we report the passing of Past AWAS Secretary and Committee member Joan (Woodhead Ellerington) Johnstone.

Joan was an integral member of the AWAS Association Victoria and contributed so much to the overall goodwill it has enjoyed for so many years.

To Joan's family and friends we extend our sincere condolences and thank you for sharing her with us.

Following a moving celebration of Joan's amazing life members of the WRAAC Association formed a Guard of Honour to farewell a dear friend.

F32019 Lt Colonel Helen Therese (Terry) (Gleeson) Blackwell  
24th March 2016

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Terry a former member of 3 WRAAC Co. and 3 RAAPC Unit.

Our sincere condolences to David and daughters, Kylie and Jacqueline.

VX 51628 BRIG Keith Vincent Rossi AM OBE RFD ED (Retd)

Passed away January 20th 2016. He will be sadly missed.

## LEST WE FORGET

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



## VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH



### Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony Thursday 18th August 2016 Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance

- 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.
- 50th Anniversary deployment of the 1st Australian Task Force to Vietnam.

- |                   |                                                                  |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • 0930 - 1030 hrs | <b>Gunfire Breakfast</b><br><i>Behind Police Memorial.</i>       |
| • 1030 hrs        | Marchers Form up at<br>Police Memorial, St Kilda Rd              |
| • 1100 hrs        | March Step Off followed by<br>Official Commemoration<br>Service. |
| • 1215 hrs        | Formalities conclude - "Brew<br>Truck" behind Shrine Flags.      |

**Enquiries to VVAA Vic State Office**  
**VV Day Coordinator**  
**Maurie Benson**  
**Telephone 0417 588 886**  
**Email: [office@vvaavic.org.au](mailto:office@vvaavic.org.au)**

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY is a day for all to remember and commemorate lives lost during Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War 1962 - 1975 and those who continue to suffer as a result of the War.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan will be commemorated with a special VV Day service at the Melbourne Shrine. All Vietnam veterans, families and friends are invited to attend.

*Lest we Forget*



***Honour the Dead but Fight Like Hell for the Living***



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# Coming Home

*Lest We Forget*

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Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends of Service Personnel repatriated home from Vietnam and Malaysia after so many years.

*Lest We Forget*

**Photos — courtesy ABC News.**

Returning veterans, led from aircraft by Principal Chaplain Catie Inches-Ogden.

