



Australian Women's  
Army Service 1941-1947



Women's Royal Australian  
Army Corps 1951-1984

# **AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL**

**AUG 19**

## WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

10 Ledbury Crescent  
BUNDOORA VIC 3083  
Telephone : 0419 371 474  
Website : [www.wraacvic.com](http://www.wraacvic.com)



State President	Carol King
State Past President	Margaret Jager
State Vice President	Liz Maclaine
State Secretary	Margaret Brown

### More Media Group Pty Ltd

Level 2, 85 Queen St, Melbourne, Vic 3000  
GPO Box 839, Melbourne, Vic 3001  
Phone: 1300 781 580 | F: 1300 781 590  
Email: [admin@moremediagroup.com.au](mailto:admin@moremediagroup.com.au)



**DISCLAIMER:** MORE MEDIA GROUP PTY LTD ("Publisher") advises that the contents of this publication are at the sole discretion of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Vic) Inc. and the publication is offered for information purposes only. The publication has been formulated in good faith and the Publisher believes its contents to be accurate, however, the contents do not amount to a recommendation (either expressly or by implication) and should not be relied upon in lieu of specific professional advice. The Publisher disclaims all responsibility for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any reader relying upon the information contained in the publication whether that loss or damage is caused by any fault or negligence on the part of the publisher, its directors and employees.

**COPYRIGHT:** All content appearing in this publication is subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without the consent of the author/owner, the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Vic) Inc. All advertisements appearing in this publication are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced except with the consent of the owner of the copyright. **ADVERTISING:** Advertisements in this journal are solicited from organisations and businesses on the understanding that no special considerations other than those normally accepted in respect of commercial dealings, will be given to any advertiser.

PROUDLY DESIGNED & PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA



# Table of Contents

03	From the Editor	27	Vale
04	July 2019 Journal Deadline	39	WRAAC Social Group Luncheon
05	Calendar of Events	41	Associations Contacts and Addresses
06	From the President		
08	WRAAC Membership	40	Happy Birthday Liz
11	Shrine Of Remembrance Melbourne	42	58/32 Infantry Battalion Association Annual Luncheon
14	Never Give Up	46	ANZAC Day 2019
18	Memories shared by Ann Keynes	48	Anzac Day Observance 2019
20	Wraac Association Community Report		

# From the Editor

Dear members,

Welcome to our July - August Journal and once again thank you for your feedback regarding "Bill the Bastard" and our Melbourne Tattoo articles.

We do have a member who participated in the 1958 Southern Command Tattoo and true to her word Ann (Cameron) Keynes has sent us her story for all to enjoy.

In this edition we have a wonderful article sent to us by a much-loved WRAAC Association

member, Sheryl English.

She writes about her son Steven and we thank her sincerely for sharing her story with us.

We also reflect on the loss of three dear friends with very close ties to the WRAAC Association (Victoria) as we pause to remember their service to Australia.

We all have a story to tell so please share yours with us.

Yours in friendship,

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM

## *Please Help:*

The WRAAC Association has been approached by Mrs Ella Burton, daughter of our much loved member, the late Cheryle Brown, for any photos or stories you may have of her mother during her many years of Army service. Ella is putting together a book of memories for Cheryle's grandchildren and would really appreciate your help.

Please contact the Association for further details.

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM



# July 2019 Journal Deadline

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

**FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

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

Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

**Postal Address:**  
87 Westmelton Drive,  
Melton West, VIC. 3337

**E-mail:**  
johntreloar1@bigpond.com

## — 2019 — Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
<b>JULY 2019</b>	
Saturday 20th	WRAAC 43rd Anniversary Reunion Luncheon at Brighton Savoy Hotel
<b>AUGUST 2019</b>	
Friday 16th	Vietnam Veterans Day Observance 2019 at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital at 10.30am
<b>NOVEMBER 2019</b>	
Friday 8th	Austin Health Armistice Commemoration Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital At 10.45am
Monday 11th	Remembrance Day at Shrine of Remembrance
Saturday 23rd	Council of Ex-Servicewomen gathering at the Cairn at 11:30am Followed by lunch at the Botanical Hotel at 12pm Contact Association for further details
Saturday 30th	Christmas Lunch - Duckboard Function Centre Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital 11:30am

# From the WRAAC President



Dear Members,

Welcome to our July/August Journal with the sincere hope you are coping with the cooler weather.

Thank you to our members who were able to attend the Melbourne ANZAC Day Commemorative March as it was so good to see Luise joining us this year.

Luise, lives in Brisbane and made the trip to Melbourne to be with us. Well done young lady.

We also welcomed our regional member Kathy Murnane accompanied by her daughter,

proudly marching together on this significant day.

Our members are all over this great country and often attend ANZAC services locally and we thank for your contribution.

The Association would like you to forward photos of the commemoration services you may have attended or participated in this year so we can share your day in our next Journal.

The AWAS/WRAAC Shrine service in May was a special day with between 70-80 people in attendance.

Students from the Killara Primary School Choir sang "Lest We forget" which left several of our members in tears following this beautiful rendition.

To hear this song suggest you go to <https://iwvpa.net/reynoldsm/lest-we-.php>

The students were then invited to participate in the wreath laying ceremony by placing a wreath alongside the AWAS and WRAAC tribute thus making them feel so much part of the service.

At the conclusion of the service all in attendance were asked to join members for morning tea and the opportunity to thank Killara Primary School staff, students and their families for their outstanding contribution.

On a sad note, the WRAAC Association mourn the passing of Jean Parry (VAD/AAMWS), Nance Ormsby (AWLA) and Lt Colonel Don Blanksby RFD ED (President 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association) with Committee members attending the respective

services on behalf of all members.

My sincere thanks to our hardworking committee who carry out all tasks with care and compassion, my heartfelt thanks to you all.

Yours in friendship

*Carol (Hamilton) King*

# 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.

*Annual Membership for 2019 / 2020  
membership year are now due.*

If you are an Annual Member and have not paid your fees yet;  
please do so as soon as possible.

If you have any membership queries,  
or are unsure whether your membership is paid,  
please contact our Membership Officer.



## WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Carol King  
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: .....

# AWAS/WRAAC SERVICE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE MELBOURNE

5TH MAY 2019



Maj. Maggie More and Margaret Jager

*A slightly chilly Melbourne morning greeted 70-80 members and guests as they arrived at the Shrine of Remembrance to commemorate the Australian Womens Army Service (AWAS 1941-1947) and the Womens Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC 1951-1984)*





Killara Ps Choir Pictured With Kelli.  
(Permission was obtained from children's parents on the day)

Assembled guests gathered within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance to remember those we have lost and reflect on their service.

Shrine Governor, Major Maggie More RFD ED, welcomed all in attendance with Margaret (Robinson) Jager giving the welcome address.

This year we were blessed by the presence of 15 children from the Killara Primary School Choir under the direction of their music teacher Ms Kelli Brogan leading them in the singing of "Lest We Forget". There was barely a dry

eye as the children's voices echoed the words of this beautiful song within this sacred place with a promise of a peaceful tomorrow.

Our Association is affiliated with Killara PS as we attend their ANZAC Day and Armistice Day Services and therefore Killara is proudly our adopted school.

We are also honoured to have both AWAS and WRAAC plaques in the school commemorative area.

The children accompanied by their parents joined with former service personnel in the Poppy laying service and stood silently



during the Last Post with heads bowed in remembrance.

The Wreath Laying ceremony reflects the bond we share with our former sister services and the following wreaths were placed in their honour.

AWAS, WRAAC, AWLA, Nursing, WRANS, WAAAF. The children of Killara Primary School also placed a wreath in honour of all service women.

Following the service, we gathered in the Gallery area for morning tea and a chance to catch up with friends over a welcome cup of tea or coffee.



A Shrine Guard presented each child with a special badge to thank them for their contribution to the service and a certificate of appreciation from the WRAAC Association Victoria was presented to the school by Margaret Jager.

As we said our farewells and left the Shrine, the sun as if on cue, sent its warming rays over the forecourt and spread its warmth over the WRAAC and AWAS Flags proudly flying side by side in unison.

Truly a magnificent sight.



# NEVER GIVE UP

I wanted to write about my Sons, one at a time to encourage the youth of today so some of you can share this with grandchildren or anyone.

I joined 3 WRAAC Coy. in Kew, Victoria in 1970, was posted to 126 Signal Squadron in 1971. I absolutely loved my time in the Army Reserve, best of both worlds; it took me to places I never thought I would go.

I had to resign as my husband would not allow me to stay in after we were married, the biggest decision of my life, marry the man I love or stay in the career I loved.

I got married and had 3 children, Steven, Michael and Terrance.

This writing will be focused on Steven.

Ever since I can remember he wanted to fly, be a pilot, we lived at Millgrove Victoria, a small country town, realising after having 2 children the town would not be big enough and many things would involve travel so we combed the countryside for a large country

town that would have everything shifting to Traralgon in Gippsland.

Growing up Steven's hobby was planes and his love for them grew. Then the opportunity to join the Air Cadets came when he turned 13.

He excelled at all he did.

After joining the cadets, at 15½ he went on a flying camp for 7 days and went solo after 71½ hours. He could fly a plane by himself before he could get his learners permit to drive a car.

He knew his ambition was to join the Airforce so took every opportunity to know the requirements and attain the fitness level years before it was needed, except for swimming. At approximately 7 years of age he nearly drowned at Inverloch beach and had been afraid of water ever since, but he had to overcome those fears in order to become a pilot. It was a very hard road, getting private tuition and struggling with his fears.

He has had a few jobs, a paperboy from age of 13, then a trolley collector, then after leaving year 12,



Roulette Five Flight  
Lieutenant Steve English



a short stint as a train conductor waiting for his paperwork to come through, saying he had been accepted. He chose not to go through ADFA (Australian Defence Force Academy) but go direct entry. This was a big gamble, as he was told that once you were scrubbed you are out of the Defence Force all together.

On his first day they said everyone on your right and left will not be there tomorrow, and they were not. Back in 2001 the figures were something like 1,000 entrants and about 20 would get through, that is a daunting statistic.

Steven was determined and has been all through school, not doing sports that could injure him to break a bone etc, knowing all the criteria beforehand and striving to meet each goal was his aim. There was a lot of study but when it is something you have a passion for it comes easier, nevertheless it was hard.

He was posted to 2FTS (Flight Training School) in Perth, he was going well until I received a phone call from an Officer on base to inform me that Steven had been involved in an accident, I immediately thought PC9 into the ground, no body left just ashes, then he informed me that Steven was being taken to hospital but the kangaroo had died. Steven was riding his motor bike and a kangaroo came out and they met, consequently he came off. But luckily the crew that strap him into his plane were following and assisted. It took some time to recover but he did and continued with his flying and graduating.

He chose to be assigned to the C130J Hercules in Richmond NSW; from there he had a few tours overseas to do his duty.

Whilst on his last tour, I had to

ring his Commanding Officer to speak to Steven, but he was on a mission, I asked that he ring me immediately on his return and have the Padre standing by.

Steven upon his return and hearing this knew something was wrong and I had the task of telling him his brother Michael had been killed in a car accident.

The Defence Force were very good, and he was home in days and able to assist with the funeral arrangements.

One of Michael's mottos was "Live your Life with Pride".

My boys seem to be able to fit in their achievements in life as if they are living for two to make the most of their life.

Steven met the girl of his dreams, Anna, when he was starting his pilot training and they married the year Michael died. They now have 2 children Hannah and Henry.

Steven after leaving the C130J Hercules position, requested a posting to East Sale, closer to family and the home of the Roulettes, he went on to become Roulette 2, 6 and 5 and now is doing the training to bring in the new PC21.

Still living his dream, flying and with his family growing and achieving every day.

I could not be prouder, to know my son is one of a handful of men that are the famous Roulettes.

Since being posted to East Sale he has paid back to the Cadets by helping out on flying camps and showing the PC9 off to new recruits that dream of one day being a pilot, he is a fantastic speaker takes time to answer all questions and is a great motivator.

What I want to impress upon the readers is if you want something in life, your dream to come true, you have to strive for it and not let anything get in the way of achieving your dream, there will be obstacles, overcome them, find a way around them, ask for help, seek out advise from those that are living the dream you want. Never give up.

Thank you

*Sheryl English*

# Memories shared by Ann (Cameron) Keynes

## 1958 SOUTHERN COMMAND MILITARY TATTOO

Hello, my name is Ann Keynes (nee Cameron), and I was thrilled to see the program for the above Tattoo featured in our last AWAS/WRAAC

Journal. I took part in that tattoo, so I am happy to share my memories with you.

I arrived at 31 WRAAC Barrack, 478 St Kilda Road Melbourne, in late June 1958, fresh from recruit training at Queenscliff Victoria. Having been posted to AHQ Sig Regt. Name, rank and serial number, F5/345 Pte Cameron M.A. (known as Ann). I soon settled into life at both 31 WRAAC Barrack and work at Signals.

Later in the year a big group of WRAAC and RAANC girls were selected to be part the tattoo to be held in October 1958. I was lucky enough to be one

of them, and we soon got into practise at, from memory, South Melbourne Drill Hall, and then at Melbourne show grounds itself.

The Tattoo ran on three consecutive nights, 9th, 10th and 11th October, and for the three nights before we had full dress rehearsals at the show grounds itself.

What fun was had by all, and we were determined to put on a good show to display our pride as women soldiers in the WRAAC and RAANC.

The first official night went off brilliantly even though we were all nervous. We marched onto the arena and did various marching displays before the highlight of our act, which came near the end of our performance. The lights in the

arena were dimmed to darkness and each of the marching girls carried a small torch in our hands, and as the lights went down, we switch the torch on and held one arm straight up, and we performed a circular marching routine. The torches shown green and gold and provided an attractive display for a very appreciative audience.

All went well until the final night. It had rained all day and although it had stopped by evening, by the time we marched on after the performances of the massed bands, the Gunners of the Royal Australian Artillery and the Commandos the show ground had turned into a quagmire!!!!!! Not good for marching feet.

However, we slogged through until the "torch display", then disaster struck me. I was in the middle section of long lines of girls marching in a circular motion. Hence, I was virtually marching on the spot, and slowly turning as the circle moved. I could feel my feet sinking in the mud, and unfortunately my left shoe

(lace ups remember!) slipped off my foot and disappeared into the mud!! As we couldn't stop, I had to march off without my shoe.

Immediately following us were the members of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals on motor bikes. So, my shoe was completely lost.

Yes, I marched out for the Grand Finale and even though I never saw my shoe again I still regard those days as one of my highlights of my WRAAC career.

I hope you enjoy my memories of that tattoo and look forward to meeting up again at the WRAAC luncheon in July

Cheers

*Ann*

*Ed: Thank you Ann for sharing your story with us and adding to the proud history of the WRAAC.*

# WRAAC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY REPORT

## MELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Recently, I was asked by my Granddaughter Hannah, if I could talk to her prep class about what I did in the Army.

Following Hannah's request, I then received a message from her teachers, Miss Nikki Miskovic and Mrs Stephanie Wilson asking if I could include the two Prep classes (5-year-old children) in my presentation.

The talk was part of the curriculum involving careers and the life experiences of older people. I was thinking how I could hold their attention for 5 to 10 minutes!

However, as I started talking and talking, I realized my presentation had lasted for just over an hour.

I explained to the class how long it took to complete Recruit training,



then a basic cooks training course plus various promotion courses.

I told them about (Puckapunyal) where kangaroos and emus would walk across the parade ground when we were on parade.

With the help of Liz Maclaine, I had dixies and drink bottles, a hexy stove and various cooking utensils. From Jude Pinkerton-Treloar,



uniforms to add to the display.

I also had photos of the era plus a collection of bears in Army, Navy and Air Force uniforms plus a WW1 Nursing and Shrine Guard bear.

At the conclusion of the talk the children were encouraged to walk around the tables to look at the display.

As I was packing up prior to leaving the school I really hoped the children enjoyed my talk.

When I arrived later that day to pick up Hannah from school I was greeted by her teacher, Miss Miskovic with lots of thankyou notes from the children and a box of chocolates.

I was honoured to be asked to speak to the class as the children were so well behaved and polite.

*Margaret Jager.*





# VALE



*With the beginning of any new year we are often confronted by the reality of death but 2019 was a sad time for the WRAAC Association Victoria in so many ways. In the space of several months we lost three very dear friends so close to the hearts of the Association and its members.*

*Jean (Grenda) Parry VAD AAMWS  
Lt Colonel Donald Blanksby RFD ED  
Nance Rose Ormsby AWLA*

---

*Mary (Blake) Price VF 514355  
62 AASL & 3rd Amb/Car Coy*

Mary, who lived in Timboon, passed away recently and our sincere condolences are extended to her family and friends. Mary was very proud of her AWAS service and enjoyed our AWAS/WRAAC Journal especially the AWAS articles.

We will miss you Mary.

*Pat Nevill*

Passed away on the 5th February 2019 at the Royal Freemasons after a short illness. Pat joined the Land Corps in 1944 and worked as a pay officer for the RAEME at Bandiana.

Vale dear Pat. A lovely lady who will be sadly missed.

Rest in peace Pat.



*VFX 64964 Jean (Grenda) Parry 2/7 AGH 115 AGH, 27  
Camp Hosp.*

*4th October 1919 to 31st January 2019*

Jean was born in Scottsdale, Tasmania and moved to the mainland (Melbourne) when she was three years old. As a teenager, Jean joined the YMCA and began a first aid course through St John Ambulance and home nursing through the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Once qualified, all were expected to work/ volunteer at a public hospital on the wards or in casualty.

Jean worked Friday nights at Prince Henry hospital, (Melbourne) casualty and was on hand to patch up the brawlers after a feisty

night on the town in Melbourne.

Known as VAs, they were on duty at demonstrations / marches with first aid tents set up to tend the wounded.

The distinctive VAs (later to become AAMWS) working dress was a distinctive blue frock with a red cross on the pocket, a white veil with a red cross and a navy-blue cape.

An outdoor or walking out uniform comprised of a navy suit and hat (emblazoned with the Cross of St John of Jerusalem) white shirt and black shoes.



MARGARET JAGER & JEAN PARRY ANZAC DAY 2017

Jean proudly wore this uniform to every ANZAC Commemorative march until her recent passing, later these uniforms would be changed to khaki and known as members of the AAMWS.

In 1941 whilst training at Heidelberg Military Hospital, Jean was transferred from the garrison forces to the AIF issued with a VX number and told she would be leaving Australia by October.

Jean embarked for the Middle East leaving Sydney in November 1941 on the Queen Mary arriving at the 2/6 Australian General Hospital (AGH) Palestine, a month later.

At the end of hostilities Jean Parry continued to serve her fellow servicewomen and was an inaugural

member (1944) of the Returned & Servicewomen's RSL-Branch.

Her awards and achievements include.

RSL Meritorious Service Medal  
RSL Life Membership

RSL Certificate of Merit  
with Gold Badge

Past President and long  
serving member

Jean Parry was a kind and  
compassionate lady whose presence  
will be sadly missed whenever there  
is a gathering of service personnel.

Lest We forget

Rest In Peace, dear Jean.

Our sincere condolences to  
Jean's family and friends.





## *VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS (VAD)*

### *Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS)*

A VAs role in a hospital was somewhat like a Nurse. However, their work was possibly more akin to a skilled Orderly.

Their basic training was very good and hands on as they gained more experience working with trained sisters as aides. They were often required to perform the most menial of tasks and worked extremely long hours. If we look at this in perspective a VA was there with the tea trays, scrubbing brushes, pots and pans, mops and buckets and soiled linen.

All tasks were conducted with pride and with the utmost respect for the sick and wounded.

Their sense of service was strong as was there motto:

Not of men sought we Glory  
For Ye are our Glory and Joy.

They worked in convalescent hospitals, hospital ships, troop trains and in the blood bank and by 1941 due to the shortage of manpower it was decided that Australian women should be employed in hospitals.

VADs then were utilised as cooks, clerks, telephonists, lab assistants, radiographers, dental clerks, admin and general duties' personnel.

In 1942 the Adjutant-General approved the establishment of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) a move to streamline services and administration. This is when the uniform change went from blue to Khaki and the perceived loss of identity for VADs.

VADs/AAMWS were posted to Medical units in the Northern Territory including Alice Springs, Katherine, Adelaide River, Western



Australia and from July 1943 to hospitals in New Guinea.

Towards the end of the war members were sent to New Britain, Bougainville, Hollandia, Morotai, Borneo and Japan.

Our association member the late Cheryle (Howes) Brown proudly told us of her late mothers' role as a member of the AAMWS (Morotai) and the horrendous conditions under which she nursed the sick and wounded.

She then went on to serve in Japan.

Members of the AAMWS were trained and drilled by the highly skilled and efficient NCOs of the Australian Womens Army Service (AWAS)

This was part of the transition from being a VAD to the AAMWS as they were now private soldiers and had learn how to belong to the Army.



When you read Patsy Adam-Smith's book, Australian Women at War, you gain an insight into the sadness and bitterness many VAD girls felt at the loss of this time-honoured service.

Patsy Adam-Smith was a VAD and one of many who didn't like to be told to "smarten up soldier" or "get that smirk off your face" as they passed a parade ground.

Remember, many of the VADs had seen service in the Middle East and nursed with the 9th Division after Alamein and Bardia.

One can only imagine how they must have felt.

With the passing of time, the hurt possibly became less as the reality of the merge was outweighed by the economics and efficiency of the change.

We should never forget their service; History owes them that honour.





*Lt Colonel Donald C Blanksby RFD ED  
Passed away on the 15th February 2019  
President of the 58/32 Infantry Battalion*

Lt Colonel Don Blanksby served as a member of the CMF/Army Reserve for 31 years and was Commanding Officer CO of the 1st Battalion Royal Victorian Regiment.

CO 3rd Division Battle School.  
CO Officer Cadet Training Unit.

CO Other Ranks Training Unit 3rd Military District.

Lt Colonel Blanksby was a Senior Marshall of the ANZAC Commemorative March for many years.

Rest in peace Don, a dear friend of the WRAAC Association Victoria.

We will miss your helpful and considerate way where nothing ever appeared impossible to accomplish.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Don Jnr and family at this sad time.

To Don's partner Susan we extend our sincere condolences for your loss.



We think of Don's service friends as they reflect on the life of a good mate.

Lest we forget

The late Lt Colonel Blanksby pictured with his late wife Lt Colonel Beverly Blanksby at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne



*Nance Rose Ormsby  
Australian Women's Land Army  
7th November 1925 -1st April 2019*



Nance Ormsby was an exceptional woman who gave so much of herself to help others. We first met Nance at an ANZAC Day Commemorative March many years ago as the Land Army always formed up behind the WRAAC.

We enjoyed the camaraderie and the sense of pride amongst the AWLA women.

Nance was President of the Victorian section of the Ex-Australian Women's Land Army, a role she held for approximately 25 years.

Our Association formed a bond with the Land Army and every year at our AWAS/WRAAC service a wreath is placed in their honour.

Nance Ormsby was able to inspire people with her determination to help others in need.

Her volunteering work included, selling poppies, ANZAC Badges and Legacy Badges. Working in an Op shop.

Visiting Veterans in hospital.

Her involvement included the Australian Women's Land Army.



## THE LAND ARMY GIRL



*She is neat and she is slender, Australian born and bred,  
 She was reared down in the city, a city life she led,  
 But when her country called her, she answered right away,  
 And joined up with her sisters, in the Land Army of the day.  
 Have you seen her in the beet fields, she's not afraid to work,  
 She sets a fine example to some chaps I know who've shirked,  
 When their King and country called them, they turned a stone-deaf ear,  
 You'd think those girls would shame them; with the work they're doing here.*

*Not only from the city, but the country girls as well,  
 From north and south and east and west, the Land Army ranks they swell,*

*They are keen to serve their country, in any sort of way,  
 To relieve men for the army, we are proud of them today.*

*These girls are wondrous happy, you can see them any day,  
 As they bend their backs to do the job, they laugh at it as play.  
 They're not looking out for glamour, still, they like their bit of fun,*

*They're out to serve their country, until this war is won.*

*Their spirit is amazing, the things that they can do,  
 'Tis sheer determination that helps them to win through.*

*When we all absorb 'the spirit; as these Land Girls have done,*

*Perhaps we'll see the shirkers, in the army every one.*

*When we all absorb the spirit, and we realise we're at war,  
 And strive to serve our country, by doing more and more.*

*Then, and then, my brothers, can we hope to win the day,  
 By following the example of these Land girls of today.*

Rats of Tobruk Ladies Auxiliary where she was President for many years and given Life Membership for her work.

Legacy.

Nance was forever grateful for the support she received when she was widowed and was still an active member of Legacy until her passing.

Nance also served some time as the President of the Epping War Widows group.

Nance Ormsby worked tirelessly for the RSL.

Her family said "Mum gave and expected nothing in return, but many people saw this input and wanted to give her recognition"

These included:

The Whittlesea Shire SENIOR Citizen of the Year award 2005

Life Membership of:

Rats of Tobruk  
 Epping RSL  
 Victorian RSL

RSL Australia's highest award - Meritorious Service Medal. only the second woman to receive the award.

Victorian Senior Citizen of the year award (for Veterans Affairs)

Rest in Peace dear Nance we will miss you.

Our sincere condolences to Nance's family and friends at this sad time.

Margaret Jager and Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM attended Nance's service at the Epping RSL on behalf of the WRAAC Association Victoria.



# THE LAND ARMY GIRL

*continued*



This poem was found in the publication Down to Earth.

The story of the Australian Women's Land Army in Victoria.

Compiled by Mary Lowe.

It was not until 2012 (AWALA 70TH Anniversary) that the Australian Women's Land Army was finally recognised by the Australian Government for their work during WWII.

It is said that whilst called an Army it was not a service.

Although they had a badge and a uniform, they did not share any of the conditions and recognition that went with the other services.

John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister once said in 1941

"Every human being in this country is now, whether he or she likes it, is at the service of the Government to work in the defence of Australia."

The AWLA certainly did that.

Editor's note.

I have just read a book titled:

The Land Girls by Victoria Purman.

Victoria Purman explores the lives of three Australian girls and why they joined the Land Army.

Whilst it is the work of Historical Fiction it gives the reader a sense of the various tasks the girls did undertake during the war. (WWII)

Our troops had to be fed as did the general population. The Land Army girls work was hard and physical, and many were very young women. They picked fruit, dug potatoes, milked cows, worked in the shearing sheds plus occasionally dealing with a hostile property owner not giving them any encouragement for a job well done.

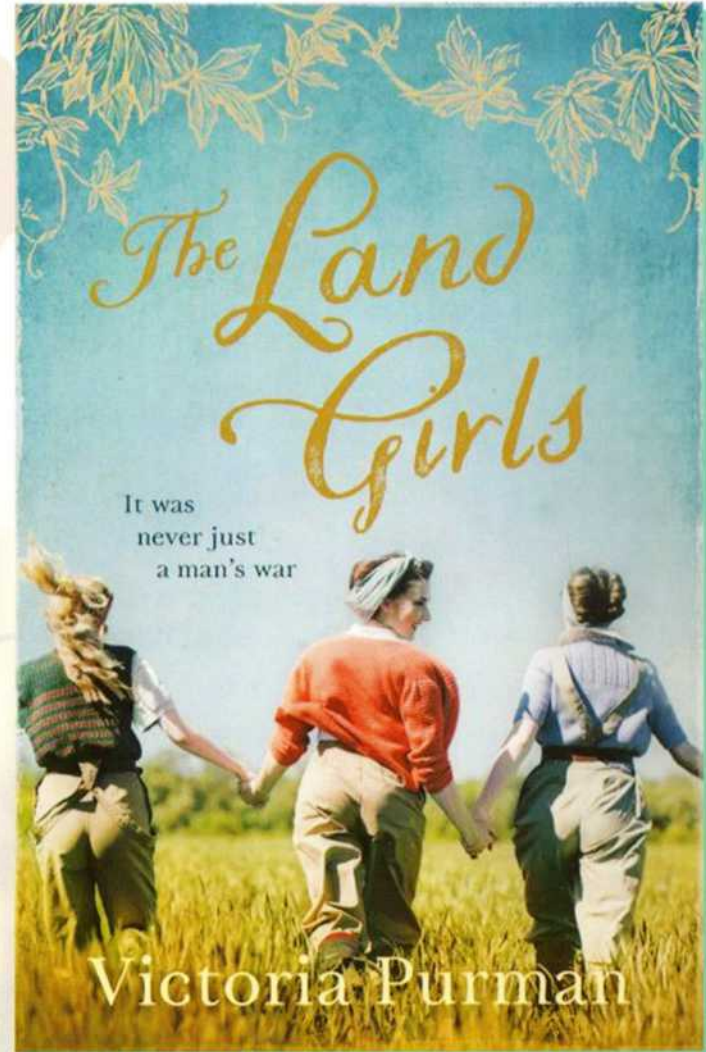
They were after all only Women!

I enjoyed (Loved) the book and purchased mine at Target.

The Land Girls.

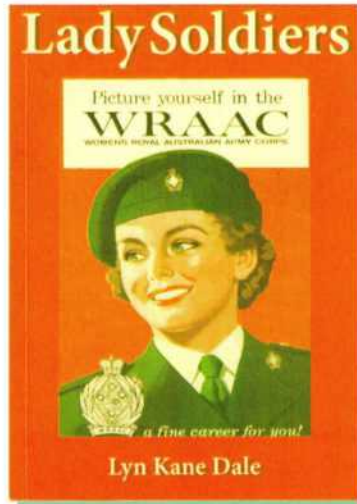
Author: Victoria Pulman.

Published by HQ Fiction.





*Lynette Diane Kane Dale F58136*



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Lynette on the 25th April 2019. Many will remember her for her book and documentary titled Lady Soldiers and the wonderful book launch in 2014 when so many former WRAAC and RAANC members joined together at Keswick Barracks, Adelaide to acknowledge her work.

Our sincere condolences to Lynette's family and friends.

## LEST WE FORGET

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

## SICK PARADE

*To all our members who are not feeling well, 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*

# WRAAC Social Group Luncheon

*Sat 16 Feb 2019*



L-R Margaret Dark, Gwen Walker, Glenys Williamson, Freda Murphy, Gayleen Duncan.

Another successful luncheon was held at the Orrong Hotel, Armadale on Sat 16 Feb 2019. 37 ladies attended, with a few apologies received including six from girls who haven't attended before. We had eleven girls attend for the first time, it was great welcoming them to the group. There was lots of laughter as we remembered things we talked about. The next WRAAC Social Group luncheon will be held in Oct 2019.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIZ



Congratulations to Liz (Rouse) Salmon who celebrated her 70th birthday in April.

Liz, with family and friends joined together to reflect on the many accomplishments of a dear friend and colleague.

Liz was not only a member of the WRAAC but also a member of the Victorian Police. Affectionately referred to as 'Rousey' all were all asked to write something about Liz to read at her party which was

accomplished with great hilarity.

However, we all agreed that 'Rousey' is that special person you always want in your corner or by your side in the trenches.

Well done young lady, all the very best on your pending retirement from the Cadets and enjoy the time catching up with your family, friends and all your craft work.

Sincere thanks to Myrene and Neil Purcell for such a happy and special day.

## Associations Contacts and Addresses

### AWAS/WRAAC Journal Editor

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar OAM  
87 Westmelton Drive  
Melton West VIC 3337  
Telephone: 03 9874 7915  
Email: johntreloar1@bigpond.com

### WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

10 Ledbury Crescent  
Bundoora VIC 3083  
Telephone: 0419 371 474  
www.wraacvic.com

### Patron

CAPT Iris Petrass

### Honorary Chaplain

Rev W.G. (Bill) Pugh  
Telephone: 03 9598 5841

### President

Carol (Hamilton) King  
Telephone: 02 4233 0956

### Treasurer/History Co-ordinator

Heather (Rankin) Fry  
Telephone: 03 9795 8472  
Email: hfry44@bigpond.com

### Secretary

Margaret Brown  
Telephone: 0419 371 474  
Email: maggie.rat@hotmail.com

### Vice President

Liz (Stone) Maclaine  
Telephone: 03 9397 1043

### Membership Officer

Diane Sherry  
Telephone: 0408 553 412  
Email: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au

### Social/Events Sub-Committee

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

### Fundraiser Co-ordinator / Journal

Margaret (Robinson) Jager  
Telephone: 03 9743 8267  
Email: jager\_id@bigpond.com

### Sub-Committee

Heather Hyatt  
Gai Cooke  
Robyn Gibson

# 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association Annual Luncheon



The annual reunion memorial service and luncheon was held at the Keilor East RSL on Friday the 24th May 2019 with many in attendance.

This year there was sadness as we reflected on the loss of the Association President Lt Colonel Don Blanksby who passed away in February 2019.

Major R Prewett RFD welcomed all to the wreath laying service as we remembered the accomplishments of the 58th Infantry Battalion (Essendon rifles) raised in 1913 under Lieutenant Colonel Harold ' Pompey' Elliott.

The Luncheon Guest Speaker was

Author Mr Michael Madden  
The Victoria Cross  
Australia Remembers

*Our sincere thanks to the 58/32 Infantry Battalion Association for allowing us to publish "Call to remembrance". Ed*

## CALL TO REMEMBRANCE

*Maj R Prewett RFD*

We have gathered at this place today to remember with gratitude and pride the 58th Infantry Battalion (The "Essendon Rifles") that was raised in 1913 under Lieutenant Colonel Harold "Pompey" Elliott, who was promoted to Brigadier-General as Brigade Commander during World War I, and later rose to the rank of Major General.

Sadly the 58th Battalion AIF suffered severe and costly losses upon its introduction to the war effort in France at Fromelles, but after regrouping and rebuilding, went on to serve with great distinction in the major battles of France and Flanders, none more so than that which saw the recapture of Villers Bretonneux on 25th April 1918.

In World War II the unit was linked to form the 58th/59th Infantry Battalion 2nd AIF and served with outstanding distinction in Papua New Guinea and not only stemmed the Japanese advance but in the Salamaua campaign had

a marathon 77 consecutive days in direct contact with the enemy. Then in Bougainville October 1944 it fought the Japanese in appalling conditions until they surrendered. The 58th/59th were still in action on the very last day of the war in 1945.

Post-World War II, the 58th/32nd Infantry Battalion was raised in 1948 and called the "Melbourne Rifles".

In 1955 the Battalion was renamed the "City of Essendon Regiment" and played its part in the 1st National Service Training Scheme and as a volunteer Citizen Military Forces unit.

During the Second National Service Scheme the battalion provided many volunteers to the Vietnam conflict and benefited immensely from the experience they provided on return.

In 1960 all three Infantry Battalions in Melbourne (the 5th, 6th, and 58th/32nd Battalion) were amalgamated to form the 1st Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment.

1965 saw those three amalgamated



The Queen's and Regimental Colours of the 1st Battalion The Royal Victoria Regiment

units re-raised, however the 58th/32nd Infantry Battalion carried on under the title of 1st Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment, until disbanded in 1987.

Since 2000 many Army Reserve members from the Royal Victoria Regiment have seen service outside Australia in places such as Timor Leste, the Solomon Islands and Afghanistan. Even today some reservists are serving with Regular Army units and on Border Protection operations.

At this service we mark 2019 as a century since our 1st AIF soldiers returned home to Australia, but world peace did not remain forever. 80 years ago, in 1939, the outbreak of World War II saw Australians fighting again.

In 1959, 60 years ago, National Service was introduced in Australia, and 5 years later selective ballots

were introduced. Many members of 58th/32nd Infantry Battalion CMF served under these National Service conditions. Within the next 10 years many members of the 1st Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment had volunteered to serve overseas, seeing service in Borneo and South Vietnam.

Today being some 50 years since the Vietnam War, we will particularly remember our Volunteers and National Servicemen at our luncheon today.

We suggest you look at the book;

The Victoria Cross  
Australia Remembers

If you would like to purchase a copy of this book, please contact TPI Victoria Inc.

All profits from the sale go directly to TPI Victoria Inc.

OFFICIAL HARDBACK & LIMITED EDITIONS

# The Victoria Cross

## Australia Remembers

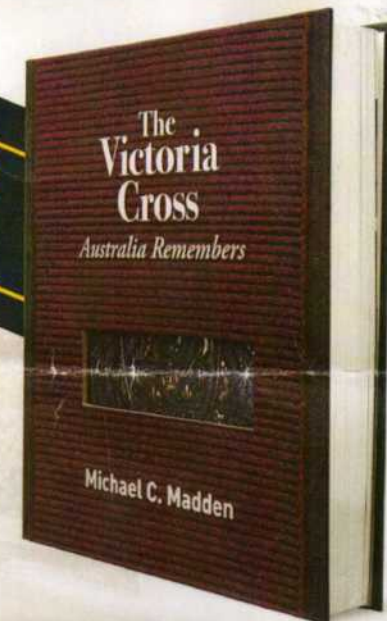
by Michael C. Madden



Australia remembers its greatest heroes in this superbly designed and crafted full colour book.

Hear directly from the families and even the Diggers themselves, as they reflect on the impact of this extraordinary award, the Victoria Cross.

**HARDBACK**  
**\$79<sup>99</sup>**  
Inc. GST



**LIMITED EDITION  
BOXED HARDBACK**  
**\$179<sup>99</sup>**  
Inc. GST

All profits from the sale of this book go directly to the Totally & Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen & Women's Association of Victoria.



# ANZAC DAY 2019



*A picture-perfect Melbourne morning greeted all as they gathered for the dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance followed by the traditional Gun Fire breakfast.*

*We were advised to form up earlier this year with step off time for the WRAAC Association was 0830 hrs.*



This was a tricky time for many wishing to participate in the Commemorative march due to public transport issues on many suburban lines.

In Melbourne there is so much work going on around Flinders street station it is barely recognisable.

This year we had 15 marchers participate and we enjoyed the cheers from the crowds as they called out to us "they know how to march".

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM proudly led the WRAAC Association this year.

The crowd was down slightly, possibly due to the Easter break and school holidays, but this did not deter from the significance of the day.

At the conclusion of the March we gathered at the Salvation Army station for our traditional cuppa and slice of fruit cake.

A big thank you to Matilda and Maddie for helping us on the day.



## ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE 2019

Wednesday 24th April  
'At the Repat'



Several hundred past and present Service personnel, family and friends attended the ANZAC Service held in the Acacia Room at Heidelberg.

We are all made to feel very welcome and part of the service.

This year we missed so many of our dear friends who could not be with us to share the day. WRAAC Association members present placed wreaths at the various plaques in the peaceful Remembrance Garden.

*Lest we forget*

