



Australian Women's
Army Service 1941-1947



Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps 1951-1984

AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL

AUG 21

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

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From the Editor

Dear members,

Welcome to the second edition of the AWAS/WRAAC Journal for 2021 as we continue to face an uncertain period for all Veteran and Community activities.

The dilemma facing us is, do we go ahead and organise functions and then cancel at the last minute. Such is the new norm in this Covid era.

Hopefully, we will be able to resume normal activities in 2022.

In this edition we cover the farewell to W01 Elizabeth Alice Gibson who sadly left us on the 13th of March 2020.

Accompany our Chaplain, the Reverend William (Bill) Pugh as he walks us along St Kilda Road on ANZAC Day.

We catch up with the girls at the Ex-WRAAC Social Group enjoying a happy day together. As so many events have been cancelled, we will do our best to keep you updated with changes whenever possible.

We think of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as she mourns the loss of her beloved husband, HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

We pause to say farewell to our fellow service personnel we have recently lost and thank them for their service.

Keep safe and well.

Yours in friendship,
Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM

— 2021 — Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 2021

Saturday 9th WRAAC Luncheon at Bentleigh Club
Postponed from July. For further details contact Liz Maclaine

NOVEMBER 2021

Saturday 13th WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. AGM
at 11:00 via Zoom. If you wish to attend, please register with the Secretary by 5th November 2021

ZOOM MEETINGS

Until we have permission to resume our normal meetings at the Shrine of Remembrance the Committee will continue to hold meetings via Zoom.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) SUMMER UNIFORM IDEAS

Our President, Margaret Brown, has asked members for suggestions regarding a suitable top for the warmer weather. Our current jacket is fine for the colder months, but it does occasionally get very hot in Melbourne.

It would be worn with black slacks

and have the WRAAC Corps badge perhaps on the pocket.

Having a white, easy care cotton fabric may look good as it would stand out against the green jacket and of course our distinctive beret.

Please think about this and forward any ideas to Carol King.

From the WRAAC President



Dear Members,

As I write this report, Winter is upon us and the weather is getting colder and colder so, of course, we are spending much more time indoors and hopefully keeping ourselves busy with interesting hobbies and fun tasks.

Covid has reared its ugly head once again and those in Victoria, and specifically in Melbourne, have had

to endure yet another lockdown for a couple of weeks. Like the rest of Australia, we dearly hope that we can get everything under control so we can go ahead with our normal lives, visiting family and friends and spending time together.

We are all hoping against hope that our annual luncheon on Sat 9th October 2021 at the Bentleigh Club will go ahead as planned and we look forward to seeing you all. It will

probably be a very loud and exciting get-together so be prepared!

Our annual Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings has been cancelled this year as our committee felt it was in the best interests of our members due to Covid but hopefully we will be given the opportunity next year to participate in this wonderful public-spirited scheme.

Our congratulations and best wishes are offered to Major Margaret Ann More RFD (Retd) who received an OAM for Service to Veterans in the Queen's Birthday Honours. What a wonderful achievement and so richly deserved. We are so proud of you Major More.

To anyone who is unwell we wish you a speedy recovery. Please keep in

touch with the Committee if you are aware of a member who is not well. Our friendships go back many years, and they are still going strong today.

Once again, I would like to thank our hardworking committee who willingly carry out all the tasks to keep our Association running smoothly.

Stay safe in these trying times.

Yours in friendship,
Margaret (Lister) Brown

AWAS/WRAAC Journal

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Brenda (Ruby) Walters
Gai Cooke



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Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Diane Sherry

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I:
(Mrs, Miss, Ms, Rank) (Surname) (Given Names)
Maiden Name (If Applicable): Date of Birth:
Address:
..... Postcode:
Telephone (Home): (Mobile): (Work):
Email Address:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nominated By.

Name: Membership No:

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO

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



CONSENT FORM

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

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

DETAILS TO BE PUBLISHED

Service Number:

Given Names:

Surname:

Maiden Name (If Applicable):

Units Served with Approximate Years Served (Dates)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signed: Date:

ONLY THOSE DETAILS FILLED IN BY THE APPLICANT WILL BE PUBLISHED

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

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

Meeting Date: Receipt No: Dated:

Annual Membership Card No: Date:

Life Membership Card Issued No: Date:

Congratulations!

MAJOR MAGGIE MORE OAM RFD (RETD)



Major Margaret (Maggie) Ann More, F32039 has been awarded an OAM in the 2021 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

She has been a member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association Victoria Inc. since the inception of the Association in 1976. Maggie was the first Secretary which set a benchmark for our Association.

She joined the CMF (Citizen Military Forces) in 1966 progressing through the ranks, to attain the rank of Major and was discharged on 23 February 1999. Maggie continues to mentor her fellow service personnel who benefit from her vast knowledge and experience. Within the WRAAC Association Victoria, Major More has held many positions, including Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer and committee member.





Lt Maggie More receiving her commission from the late Major Jessie Perkins MBE, RFD, ED (Retd)

Maggie's record of service includes, 3 WRAAC Coy, 3 Div. Intelligence Unit, 36 (E) Signals Regt (UK), Reserve Comd and Staff College, Monash University Regt. and has served on many of their committees.

She was a Member, Senior Vice President and Treasurer of the Australian Women's Army Service Committee for over 20 years until they disbanded late in 2018.

Maj Maggie More is a Shrine

of Remembrance Governor which requires her to attend services and meet visitors & dignitaries attending services at the Shrine of Remembrance.

When asked to give an impression of her service to the Corps; Maggie reflected. "As I approach 22 years' service I am often asked why??? Usually, it boils down to one basic reason – "The people" – If it wasn't for all the wonderful people none of us would serve as long as we do."

Austin Health Anzac Day Observance at The Repat

13 MARCH 1941 – 13 MARCH 2021

Commemorating 80 years of service to veterans, War widows and the broader community



Continued...

This year, guided by Covid safe restrictions our much-loved ANZAC Service was able to be held in the area around the Remembrance Garden with a cap on invited guests. Austin Health CEO, Adam Horsburgh welcomed all in attendance and said although the service was different it still gave us the opportunity to acknowledge those who served our country.

There were only 100 veterans, family and friends permitted to gather outdoors for the service. However, it was so good to see familiar (faces) eyes behind face masks.

We watched as the various Plaques were dedicated by Stephen Dellbridge, Spiritual Care at Austin Health before being placed in the garden.

The stunning mosaics unveiled this year were of Vietnam and Gallipoli, the entire area is titled 'We will Remember them'.

There is one mosaic that includes the 'dog tags' of Jeff Freeman, a Vietnam Vet and Volunteer at the Repat plus a machine gun constructed by another veteran. The amazing Artist is Simon Normande.



ANZAC DAY

SUNDAY 25TH APRIL 2021



Once again, the uncertainty plus the justifiable anger from the Veteran community has marred the Melbourne ANZAC Day Commemorative March 2021.

Whilst the imposed quota is understandable during the Covid crisis Veteran communities feel aggrieved by the perceived double standard of many thousands attending a football match in the same afternoon.

At the football match we observed family groups of varying ages sitting together enjoying the game. Look at the photos and shake your head at the totally absurd situation.

The image of a fence surrounding our sacred place, the Shrine

of Remembrance, is haunting and should never be forgotten by each and every one of us who have served. My late father (WWII) would be shattered by the events of the day as Melburnians were encouraged to embrace AFL Football as the benchmark commemorating the Spirit of ANZAC!

Just look at our Newspapers following ANZAC Day, images of football players embracing their perceived idea of the true ANZAC!

Once again Victorians were encouraged to attend their local RSL venues or as per 2020 hold a service in their driveway with friends and neighbours. Many of us certainly did that.

ANZAC Day 2021 Around Australia



Past President and Secretary Carol King (Pictured with her family) Kiama, NSW.

Jude Pinkerton -Treloar OAM was joined by neighbours for a Driveway Dawn Service followed by a traditional Army

breakfast at her home.

A big surprise was a new neighbour who just happened to be a Vietnam Veteran, so the camaraderie



was in abundance on the day. He knew about the WRAAC and fully understood our role!

Margaret Jager attended three local Primary schools to engage with the children about her WRAAC service and what ANZAC Day means to them.

Elizabeth (Liz) Salmon attended

Wangaratta RSL for their service and sent this photo of a wall at the Wangaratta showgrounds for all to reflect and admire.

Thank you to our members for sharing their ANZAC Day memories with us. Ed.

ANZAC Day at Cadell, South Australia

Cadell, with a population of 150, is situated on the southwest bend of the Murray River in the Riverland area of South Australia.

Friends of the Association, Brenda and Larry from beautiful Cadell, South Australia sent us this image of a magnificent sculpture made from recycled scrap metal by Dennis Roberts.

The inscription reads.

"REFLECTIONS"

This sculpture made entirely of scrap metal, is my interpretation of the Anzacs of 1915.

The two strands of barbed wire around the cross represents the trenches of war.

The slouch hat with the rising sun represents the traditional Australian soldier.

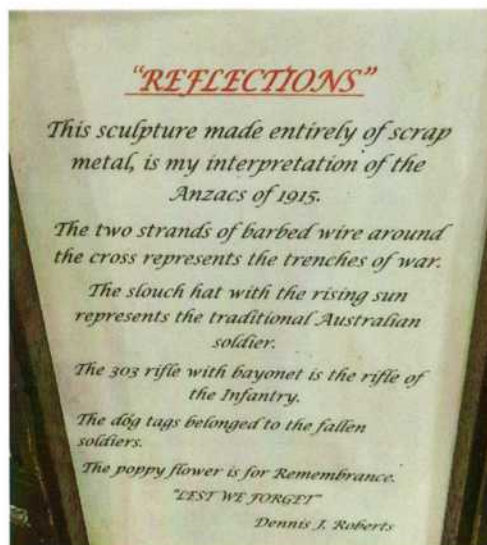
The 303 rifle with bayonet is the rifle of the Infantry.

The dog tags belonged to the fallen soldiers.

The poppy flower is for Remembrance.

"LEST WE FORGET"

Dennis J. Roberts



BILL'S REFLECTIONS

Our much-loved chaplain Rev. William (Bill) Pugh invites us on his journey to the Shrine along St Kilda Road.

Bill writes; Proud leader, magnificent Light Horsemen. The long winding march following. Some marching, some walking. Veterans in cars. Families taking the place of loved ones, no longer with us. Proudly wearing medals, carrying banners. A display of historic military vehicles, some horse drawn. Uniformed servicemen and women, police in step with band music. St Johns ambulance on call, cadets, guides, and scouts carrying banners, to honour units not represented now. Support and smiles from the crowd, lining the route. TV cameras picturing the parade for those at home. Last, the strong and proud step of the volunteers, who make the day possible. And then, at the Shrine we participate in a solemn service of remembrance.

If this is all we do on one day

The base is a barbecue plate, a brake disc in the bottom of the cross, the cross is a screen door frame with nuts and bolts welded together, the rifle is made from a sliding door track.

Thank you to Brenda and Larry for the photos and your interest in the WRAAC Association.

It is greatly appreciated. Ed.





of the year we miss a lot.

On Princes Bridge we noted our city Coat of Arms, with the Latin motto, *Vires Acquirit Eundo*, we gather strength as we go, the message left by our city forefathers. Looking down, boatsheds, a family picnicking, a ferry on the turn, a rowing eight pushing off from the staging area. Admiring the well ordered Alexandra Gardens, Flower Clock, and Fountain, symbols of our heritage. To mention some: the moving monument to police who died in the line of duty, the towering



figure of Sir Edward [Weary] Dunlop, the Christ-like healer of the Thai-Burma Railway, trees sentinel-like, leading up to the Shrine, plaques, naming units from the Boer War on. The statue of Private John Simpson with his donkey, who saved many lives and gave his. Monuments represent conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, one to Women's services. The Shrine, so much history, and the names of all who served in WW1, needing another visit. The Legacy Gardens remind us of the



lasting effect of war on families.

On to the Gardens, we pass the Children's Garden, and wind down between lawns, flower beds and trees, to the lake, settling down for a picnic.

A mother duck and family sail by, in perfect precision, safe and secure, in their home of garden and lake. To make that tiny and lovely scene real, for every home and family, a great company, whom we remember today, served, suffered, and died. History teaches us arms

solve little in the long run. We need to find another way. Schweitzer's unforgettable phrase "Reverence for Life" recognized all life as special. Jesus put the highest value on human life. And the greatest gift is to lay down one's life for a friend. Jesus recommended his Father's way to solve conflict in the human family. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Lest we forget.

Bill Pugh

Our sincere thanks for sharing your journey. Ed.

November 2021 Journal Deadline

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

FRIDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2021

**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

ANZAC DAY 2021



Our sincere thanks to the Herald-Sun Newspaper for their Weekend Supplement 'Women at War' dated 24th April 2021 by Sarah Marinos.

The articles highlight Australian Service women from different generations who served Australia in War and what

Anzac Day means to them.

The Journalist interviewed Army, Navy, Airforce and Army Nursing Personnel.

The heading reads: Fearless Females on our Frontline.



COLONEL JAN MCCARTHY (RET'D)

Colonel Jan McCarthy served 26 years in the Australian Army as a member of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

From 1968-1969 was part of the second group of Nurses to do a tour of duty in Vietnam where she was posted to the 1st Australian Field Hospital.

Colonel McCarthy reflects on

ANZAC Day "Each ANZAC Day I remember the Australians we lost over many years. The two world wars took a whole generation of young men" she says.

Colonel Jan McCarthy continues to serve her fellow Australians in various roles and is an inspiration to current and former service men and women with her leadership and service to Veterans and War Widows.



PHOEBE PARKER

Our much loved and respected Phoebe Parker, 101 joined the AWAS in 1942 (Sigs) until discharged in 1944 and attended AWAS reunions until recently. She continues to march on ANZAC Day at her local RSL where she is a member.

Phoebe remembers her Army mates and the Soldiers she served with on ANZAC Day especially when she hears the Last Post.

The WRAAC Association Victoria were privileged to share Phoebe's 100th birthday at their reunion luncheon 2019 where she was a treasured guest.

The AWAS hold a special place in the hearts of members of the Women's Royal Australian Army Service as they were the forerunner to the formation of the WRAAC in 1951.

AWAS WRAAC SERVICE

SUNDAY MAY 2ND, 2021

Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne



Piper; David Cretney, Col John Coulson OAM, Killara School choir, Margaret Brown, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM, Heather Fry, Maxine Pettingill, Capt Iris Petrass, Margaret Jager & Kelli Brogan

A slightly chilly Autumn Melbourne morning greeted members and friends as they gathered within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance to Commemorate the Australian Women's Army

Service (AWAS) and the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) both flags proudly flying overhead, signifying the close bond of service and friendship.

This year we acknowledge the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the AWAS on the 13th of August 1941 and the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the WRAAC and the women who marched before us into Australia's proud military history.

2021 was a slightly scaled down version of the service but the enthusiasm and affection of the 35 capped number was there in abundance.

The children from Killara Primary School joined the service singing, Lest we Forget, following the welcome from Shrine Governor, Colonel John Coulson OAM RFD ED.

President Margaret Brown gave the welcome address as she acknowledged the role of women in the Defence Force.

Our much loved and respected Patron, Captain Iris Petrass recited the Ode of Remembrance.

Past Members of the WRAAC

participated in the service saying our traditional prayers and Psalms.

During the wreath laying ceremony, Piper Mr. David Cretney piped The Lament.

The children, joined by a member of the Association placed a wreath in memory of those we have lost.

A truly memorable moment.

The National Anthem and I Am Australian was performed by Ms. Kellie Brogan.

This is a special service for the WRAAC Association Victoria and on behalf of the President and members our sincere thanks to the caring Staff at the Shrine of Remembrance for their help and guidance.

War Plane Recovery



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

F01254 006

It was recently reported that a Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation (CAC) Wirraway A20 had been found at Lake Corangamite, Victoria.

The lake, located near Colac, is situated in the Lakes and Craters region of the State. An interesting part of Victoria to explore.

The Wirraway used to train RAAF Pilots during World War II was based on the North American NA16 trainer. It was also used as a general-purpose Aircraft.

Australia produced version to be known as Wirraway an Aboriginal word meaning "Challenge". It should

be remembered Australia was capable of producing approximately 750 Wirraways between 1939 and 1946 at Fisherman's Bend. Quite an achievement by today's standard.

We wish the salvage team all the best on the recovery and future restoration of the Wirraway and follow its progress with great interest.

If you are interested in our Aircraft history we suggest a visit to the RAAF Museum, Point Cook.

Located at: RAAF Base Point Cook
480-490 Point Cook Road,
Point Cook Victoria

WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP

After a false start on Sat 13 February (due to another Covid lockdown), the February WRAAC Social group Luncheon was held on Sat 27 March 2021 at the RSL Highett. Twenty-six (26) ladies attended, (apologies from 13 ladies) along with the regular attendees we had three new girls join us, Meredith Bell, Laraine Philp and Kirsten Larsen. It was great to see Brenda Johnson and Vera Duane in attendance as they started the group on 12 February 1962 and continued with the organization of lunches until I joined the Group in 1985.

It was early 1990's that I took over the Group, later, Lyn Board and Bev Bond joined me. The faces have changed over the years, the stories are still similar about our Service, and there is always plenty of laughter and talking at the luncheons.

Liz MacLaine



Brenda Johnson & Vera Duane at Social Group lunch

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.



VALE



WO1 ELIZABETH GIBSON F31803

9 April 1927 - 13 March 2020

*Enlisted 3 WRAAC Coy 1 May 1956 -
Discharged 11 July 1978*



WRAAC donations went towards the memorial plaque

overhead screen accompanied by the entrance Hymn; Here I am Lord.

Elizabeth Gibson was posted to Pay Corps in 1974 but prior to that her main posting was that of a Drill Instructor.

As a long time Instructor, many of us had the opportunity to benefit from her strict and thorough guidance into Military life.

She led by example and expected

A Memorial Service was conducted on Friday 9th April at Springvale Botanical Cemetery for WO1 Elizabeth Gibson, known to many of us as Liz Gibson or Gibbo.

On arrival at the Chapel, Elizabeth's Army hat and medals were on display acknowledging her Military service. A beautiful photo of a smiling Elizabeth appeared on an

a high standard in return.

There was a soft and compassionate side to Elizabeth as conveyed by her family and friends.

Her Military tributes were delivered by Elizabeth Salmon, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM and Heather Fry. The ladies shared stories about her kindness and ability to mentor future Leaders and Instructors.

Heather Fry spoke of the friendship she and her family shared with Elizabeth that developed post Army days.

During the photo reflection accompanied by the Abba song, I Have a Dream, we learnt about Elizabeth's passion for travel and fashion. To see her 'out of uniform' she was certainly the well dressed, proud Australian traveller.

We went on to learn Elizabeth was a passionate RSL member and would always participate in their ANZAC Day March. The Poppy of Remembrance Service was conducted by two Clayton RSL representatives with all present invited to place a poppy in remembrance. Following the Chapel service, ten former WRAAC personnel joined by the two RSL representatives formed a Guard of Honour for the Gibson family

carrying Elizabeth's ashes.

We attended the Final Farewell where Elizabeth's ashes were placed in a grave next to her mother accompanied by Time to Say Goodbye by Andre Rieu.

The service also included the reciting of the Ode by Elizabeth Salmon.

On completion of the service, we were invited to join the Gibson family for refreshments and during this time many stories, often very light-hearted were shared about her army and family life. Elizabeth was a much-loved Auntie Bett to her many nieces and nephews.

For all of us who served with Elizabeth we were very aware of her tough army exterior but underneath all of that was a very kind, caring and compassionate lady.

Elizabeth Gibson was an excellent role model and served her country well.

Rest in Peace Ma'am.

A sincere thank you to Heather (Rankin) Fry for your article and arranging the WRAAC component to Elizabeth's Memorial service.

The Gibson family were deeply touched by the support and resources offered by the WRAAC Association Victoria. Ed.

VERA JESSIE PALEY VF515663

2/3/1926 - 15/4/2021

Our sincere condolences to Vera's Family and friends at this sad time.
Vera was a member of the AWAS.

AUDREY (WOODS) MARTIN VF389556 (ASWG)

5/1/1921 - 4/11/2020

Audrey passed away on 4th November 2020.
Our sincere condolences to Audrey's family and friends.

FLIGHT SERGEANT JOHN HENRY SIMS, A35813 (RAAF)

27/10/1928 - 31/12/2020



Our sincere condolences to our dear friend Joy (WRAAC Ares) on the recent passing of her beloved husband John on the 31st of December 2020.

John put his age up to enlist during Second World War as many young men did at that time.

John continued to serve his country in both Air Force and Army until he was discharged in June 1977.

Joy tells us that due to John putting his age up she has been unable to obtain records of his wartime service.

CAPTAIN ALAN RAE STEBBING

24/11/1934 - 14/05/2021



Capt Alan Stebbing, Officer Commanding 3 Catering Training Centre CMF / Ares. Alan was very passionate about the Catering Centre and their achievements. Every student whether it be cook, steward or NCO attending courses at the school were always conducted to the highest standard.

When WRAAC first started at the Catering Centre, Alan would contact Lt Col Blanksby and Maj Perkins weekly to let them know how the girls were progressing.

In later years when speaking to Alan he would reflect about our time in the army always with lots of laughter. We were constantly amazed how he remembered everything, but he could always stretch a great story.

When WRAAC disbanded, he made sure the girls went to units that would look after them and allow them to continue with catering. Following a unit camp, he would ring or come and visit to get feedback regarding the conduct of the camp and on a couple of occasions he made a visit to the camp to check how catering was going and making sure we received the right rations.

Whenever the WRAAC Association had a service at the Shrine of Remembrance, Alan would make himself available so he could come and chat and have a cuppa and sandwich. If there were any leftovers he would always ask if the Shrine volunteers were able to have them (This was Alan trade testing the catering). It was always an honour to have Alan at our functions.

Alan recalls one of his memorable occasions was when HRH Prince

Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh was in Melbourne on 31 October 1973 for his Award Presentations at Government House, Melbourne. Alan recalls his 3 Division Commander asking him if his 3CATR TRG CEN Staff and Students could cater for 100 youth Award recipients and their families, YES! YES! YES! Everything the CMF cooks and stewards created was superb. The Duke personally thanked them all when they were invited to meet him after the lunch.

Luise Nardella, a former student of Alan's, writes, "My admiration for Alan started many years ago at the AACC Unit in Gipps Street Richmond. Under his guidance and professionalism, the unit functioned very effectively, producing qualified and very capable Army Reserve cooks."

On a personal note, I found Alan to be conscientious, hard-working, tolerant and a very proud man. It was a pleasure knowing Alan.

Gai Cooke, a former student of Alan's, writes; "I will always remember Alan, marching on ANZAC Day in his cook's hat and wooden spoon.



Alan with his catering legends; Sue Hopwood (Reed), Chris Sayers (Lynch), Margaret Jager (Robinson), Luise Nardella, Gai Cooke, Alan Stebbing, & Lyn Sullivan (Lynch) at the last luncheon Alan attended

What a great way to acknowledge our corps, catering.

Alan was kind, generous and full of fun. The Catering Depot in Richmond enjoyed many funny and happy moments in his company.

As a cook he was superb. I always enjoyed working with him on functions and courses."

Our last meeting was at the WRAAC luncheon where he was so happy to see a few of his cooks there and insisted on having a photo with us, something to remember him by.

Rest in peace Captain Alan Stebbing, we will miss you.

Thankyou to the catering ladies for your contribution. Ed.

HRH PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

10 June 1921 - 9 April 2021



Our sincere condolences to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and the Royal family on the passing of Prince Philip.

We reflect on his service to country as an Officer in the Royal Navy during World War II and give thanks.

We remember and pay tribute to his long life of dedicated service to the Commonwealth.

'May you have fair winds and following seas.'

CROSSING THE BAR

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.



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

Donation from the AWAS



A final transfer of funds to Ward 17 Austin Health was accomplished on the 23rd of April 2021.

The donation made possible following disbandment of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) Victoria.

As with many Associations, the AWAS Association Victoria were proud sponsors of the former Story Writing and Arts Competition (SWAC).

Ward 17, cares for current and former Servicemen and women offering help and support they so desperately need to cope with the debilitating illness, PTSD, plus a

range of other mental health issues.

The donation may be used to purchase equipment or aids to assist Veterans in their time of need.

Pictured above following the presentation of the donation (behind lowered masks).

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar OAM (fmr. Jnr VP AWAS Association Victoria)

Mr Robert Winther (Veteran Liaison, Austin Health)

Margaret (Lister) Brown (WRAAC Association Victoria President)

Heather (Rankin) Fry (WRAAC Association Victoria Treasurer)



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Saturday 13th November 2021,
via Zoom at 11:00 MELBOURNE*

Those members wishing to attend the AGM, on Zoom, please register with the Secretary by 5th November 2021.

NOMINATION FORM - PLEASE PRINT

I (your name)
being a financial member of the Association, nominate
..... for the position of
..... on the committee.

Signed.

Proposer Print Name

Seconder..... Print Name

I accept the nomination.

(Signature) Print Name

Nominations are to be sent to the Secretary, Carol King,
33 Bland Street Kiama NSW 2533 by Friday 8th October
2021 or email: grantcarolking@gmail.com

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

SECRETARY'S USE ONLY

Date received

All Financial Yes / No

Carol King - Secretary

Contact Details Update

Vice-President Liz Maclaine wishes to thank all for taking the time to return their contact details update forms.

If you have not yet been able to return the form, please do so at your earliest convenience.

If you do not have or have misplaced the green form, we have included the membership contact details here.

Could you please update the following?

Name: - _____

Address: - _____

Reg. Number: - _____

Phone Number: - _____

Mobile: - _____

Email: - _____

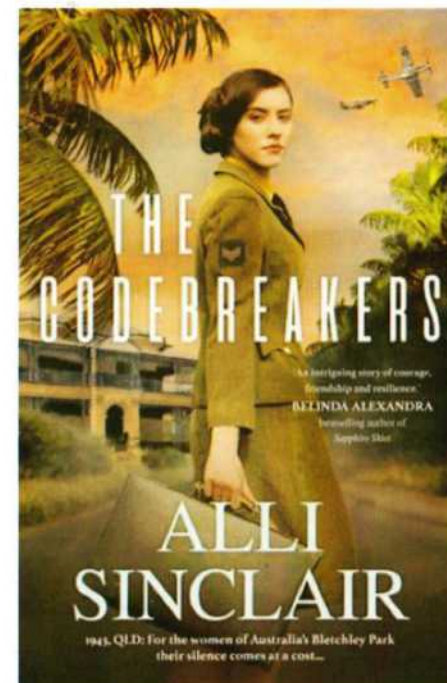
Return to: - Liz Maclaine

16 Richard Street Williamstown Victoria 3016

Or: email: lizardmac@hotmail.com

BOOK REVIEW

THE CODEBREAKERS



Author Alli Sinclair. Published by Harpercollins.com.au.

From the publisher's website.

1943, Brisbane: The war continues to devastate and the battle for the Pacific threatens Australian

shores. For Ellie O'Sullivan, helping the war effort means utilising her engineering skills for Qantas as they evacuate civilians and deliver supplies to armed forces overseas. Her exceptional logic and integrity attract the attention

of Central Bureau - an intelligence organisation working with England's Bletchley Park codebreakers. But joining Central Bureau means signing a lifetime secrecy contract. Breaking it is treason.

With her country's freedom at risk, Ellie works with a group of elite women who enter a world of volatile secrets; deciphering enemy communications to change the course of the war. Working under immense pressure, they form a close bond - yet there could be a traitor in their midst. Can the women uncover the culprit before it's too late?

As Ellie struggles with the magnitude of the promise she's made to her country, a wedge grows between her and those she holds dear. When the man she loves asks questions she's forbidden to answer, how will she prevent the double life she's leading from unravelling?

This book is fiction, but it covers the AWAS (Codebreakers) in Queensland hidden away from others as they attempt to break the Japanese code.

I don't know what the late Betty (Hurtig) Davis ASWG HWG would make of it, but it is through her I am compelled to read anything that has a Bletchley Park connection.

The Author does describe the pressure the girls were under not to divulge any information they see or hear. The penalties were quite severe.

I purchased this book at Target.

Cost \$16.00 Ed.

TRAVELLING WRAAC

EXCURSIONS TO BATTLEFIELDS OF THE WORLD.

Carol & Grant King

Grant and I have been very lucky to have had several overseas trips, many of which included well know battlefields. Grant is ex-military, and I have nearly every generation with a member in the military.

In this final instalment we take you with us on some more of our excursions (in no special order) which we have seen together.

Hope you have enjoyed my/our ramblings.

Please note, the historical information contained was sourced from a number of sites, mostly 'Wikipedia', 'Britannica' and various other WWW sites.

Singapore - Changi

Whilst in Singapore we did a day tour of the war sites, these included a replica of the Changi Chapel,

The Singapore War Cemetery, Artillery positions around the city. Whilst the tour was interesting, we came away quite disappointed as it was very rushed, i.e., we only had about 45 minutes to view the Changi Museum when we could have done with three hours.

The Battle of Singapore, also known as the Fall of Singapore, was fought when Japan invaded the British stronghold of Singapore - nicknamed the "Gibraltar of the East". The fighting in Singapore lasted from 8 to 15 February 1942, after the Japanese forces had advanced down the Malayan Peninsula. The campaign, including the final battle, was a decisive Japanese victory, resulting in the Japanese capture of Singapore and the largest British surrender in history. About 80,000 British, Indian and



Also in 1988, Singapore built a replica Chapel and museum next to the Changi Prison. When Changi Prison was expanded in 2001, the chapel and museum was relocated to a new site 1 km away and the Changi Chapel and Museum was officially established on 15 February 2001.

Isandlwana - Rorkes Drift - South Africa

We had been staying at Isibindi Wildlife lodge in South Africa and noticed they could arrange tours covering the Zulu Wars. This sounded good to us, so we started our tour with Mike Nell and his Land Rover Defender. This was a whole day tour with a picnic lunch. It ended up being so much more than we had thought it was going to be. We first drove to Rorke's Drift for morning tea and a full explanation of the origins of Shaka Zulu (the leader of the natives) and why and how he became the man he was. Grant asked what exactly is "Rorke's Drift,"? A 'drift' is a crossing or ford in a River; Rorke's Drift was a mission station and the former trading post of James Rorke, an Irish merchant,



Australian troops in Singapore became prisoners of war, joining 50,000 taken by the Japanese in the earlier Malayan Campaign. The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, called it the "worst disaster" in British military history.

Changi Chapel. After the war, the original chapel was dismantled and moved to Australia, where it was reconstructed and unveiled in 1988 at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.



therefore, Rorke's Drift is a crossing in the Buffalo River at James Rorke's Trading Post. Mike also had further explanations of the history of the area and of the Zulu tribes and the British units, we had a most enlightening and delightful day with him.

The Anglo-Zulu War was fought in 1879 and came about after Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere had presented an ultimatum on 11 December 1878, to the Zulu King Cetshwayo with which the Zulu King could not (or would not) comply, including disbanding his army and abandoning key cultural traditions.

Just over 150 British and colonial troops defended the station against attacks by 3,000 to 4,000 Zulu warriors. The massive

but piecemeal attacks by the Zulu on Rorke's Drift came very close to defeating the much smaller garrison, but were repelled.

Eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders, four Distinguished Conduct Medals and other decorations and honours.

The Battle of Isandlwana on 22 January 1879 (the day prior to the Battle of Rorke's Drift) was the first major encounter in the Anglo-Zulu War between the British Empire and the Zulu Kingdom. Eleven days after the British commenced their invasion of Zululand in South Africa, a Zulu force of some 20,000 warriors attacked a portion of the British main column consisting of about 1,800 British, colonial and native troops



be our chauffeur and guide, taking us to Gettysburg, New York and showing us the sights of Washington.

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863, is considered the most important engagement of the American Civil War. After a great victory over Union forces at Chancellorsville, General Robert E. Lee marched his Army of Northern Virginia into Pennsylvania in late June 1863. On July 1, the advancing Confederates clashed with the Union's Army of the Potomac, commanded by General George G. Meade, at the crossroads town of Gettysburg. The next day saw even heavier fighting, as the Confederates attacked the Federals on both left and right. On July 3, Lee ordered an attack by fewer than 15,000 troops on the enemy's centre at Cemetery Ridge. The assault, known as "Pickett's Charge," managed to pierce the Union lines but eventually

and perhaps 400 civilians. Despite a vast disadvantage in weapons technology, the Zulus ultimately overwhelmed the British, killing over 1,300 troops, including all those out on the forward firing line. The Zulu army suffered anywhere from 1,000 to 2,500 killed. There are no graves or headstones at Isandlwana, only piles of white painted rocks which, we were told, was where the British soldiers fell.

Gettysburg - America

Our trip to a few countries in 2012 included the United States where we caught up with American veterans Grant had worked with during his first tour to Iraq. One of these, Wes, lives in North Carolina and as soon as he knew we were visiting Washington was adamant he would meet us and

failed, at the cost of thousands of rebel casualties, and Lee was forced to withdraw his battered army toward Virginia on July 4. More than 50,000 men fell as casualties during the 3-day battle, making it the bloodiest battle of the American Civil War.

As you would expect the Americans have set up this site so well. There is a large museum/shop/theatre with so much information. Here you can arrange tours or buy a CD to do your own self-drive tour. We spent several hours driving around the particular sites that were well marked and had great information boards as well. The sites took you back in time and were staged as if in the battle.

Arlington - America

Whilst not a battlefield, we thought it important to include Arlington National Cemetery, America's most sacred ground.

Located in Arlington County, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington D.C., in whose 624 acres (253 ha) the dead of the nation's conflicts have been buried, beginning with the Civil War, as well as reinterred dead



from earlier wars. Due to limited space, only honourably discharged members in certain categories are eligible for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, this includes Members who died on active duty and their immediate family, retirees and their immediate family, recipients of the Purple Heart, or Silver Star and above.

At Arlington we witnessed the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While on duty the sentry crosses a 63-foot rubber surfaced walkway in 21 steps. He then faces the Tomb for 21 seconds, turns again, and pauses an additional 21 seconds before retracing his steps. The number 21 was chosen because it symbolizes the highest military honour that can

be bestowed - the 21-gun salute. The impeccably uniformed guards wear Army Dress Blue Uniform and always bear their weapon away from the Tomb as a gesture against intrusion on their post.

During our visit on site, rifle shots rang out, a three-gun salute at a military funeral for a fallen comrade (we were told from Afghanistan). Very sobering. Among those buried at Arlington are John F Kennedy and America's most decorated war hero Audie Murphy, there is also a monument to the seven crew members of the 'Challenger' and 'Columbia' space shuttles.

Berlin - Germany

Our travels have taken us to many cities involved in the Second World War and include London, Paris, Berlin and others. With the passing of time all major cities have re-built and modernised since the end of the Second World War. Quite a few tour companies in Berlin conduct walking tours highlighting the history and locations the rise and fall of the Third Reich, the Cold War and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and on both times, we've been to Berlin we've done a tour.

Cost we think is quite reasonable, and a quick look at the web sites suggest you'll now be paying in the region of A\$25-\$30, about 15 euro. Each tour has lasted around four to five hours and the guides we've had have been brilliant, really know their history and are clearly passionate about what they do. Departure point is the railway station near the Berlin Zoo and finish at the last location on the tour. On the 'Third Reich' tour we saw a couple of buildings that still bear the scars of the Second World War, bullet holes in the walls.

There's also the story of Claus von Stauffenberg who was one of the leading members of the failed 20 July plot of 1944 to assassinate Adolf Hitler and remove the Nazi Party from power. Along with Henning von Tresckow and Hans Oster, he was one of the central figures of the German Resistance movement within the Wehrmacht. For his involvement in the movement, he was executed by firing squad shortly after the failed attempt known as Operation Valkyrie. (Tom Cruise played von Stauffenberg in the 2008 movie 'Valkyrie'.)



Hawaii

Our first trip to Hawaii was in 2017 and very high on our list of things to do was a visit to Pearl Harbour and the USS 'Arizona' Memorial. Sadly, the day we visited we were unable to get onto the Memorial as the seas were considered a little too rough to permit transfer from the launch to the Memorial, but they did circle it a few times which allowed all on board to take photos. There is also a theatre with historical footage and information. From there it was onto a bus and across to the 'Mighty Mo', the USS Missouri for a self-guided tour.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japan launched a sneak attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet's



base at Pearl Harbour. The attack compelled the United States to enter World War II as a combatant. Just before 8 a.m. on that Sunday morning, hundreds of Japanese fighter planes descended on the base, where they managed to destroy or damage nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships, and over

300 aircraft. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were wounded. The following day, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. The final act at the end of hostilities occurred on 2 September 1945 when the Instrument of Surrender was signed on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

Another battle in Hawaii, probably not nearly as well known and also on the Island of Oahu, was the Battle of Nu'uuanu in the late 1700s. Fought between the forces of Kamehameha 1 and the Maui Chief Kalinikūpule, it was fought to unite all the Hawaiian Islands under one rule, taking place in the at the top of Nu'uuanu Valley - which overlooks Kanehoe Bay - and an estimated 400 warriors died, many falling from the cliff top to their deaths.

Battle of Austerlitz - Czech Republic

We've been to the Czech Republic a couple of times, meeting and staying with a Czech officer friend Grant served with in Bosnia in 1999. He and his family live in Brno, the

second-largest city in the Czech Republic after the capital, Prague and he took us to the site of the Battle of Austerlitz and told us the history and significance of the battle.

The Battle of Austerlitz (2 December 1805), also known as the Battle of the Three Emperors, was one of the most important and decisive engagements of the Napoleonic Wars. In what is widely regarded as the greatest victory achieved by Napoleon, the Grande Armée of France defeated a larger Russian and Austrian army led by Emperor Alexander I and Holy Roman Emperor Francis II. The battle occurred near the town of Austerlitz in the Austrian Empire (modern-day Brno in the Czech Republic). Napoleon's 68,000 troops defeated almost 90,000 Russians and Austrians nominally under General M.I. Kutuzov, forcing Austria to make peace with France (Treaty of Pressburg) and keeping Prussia temporarily out of the anti-French alliance.)

