



Australian Woman's  
Army Service 1941-1947



Womans Royal Australian  
Army Corps 1951-1984

# **AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL**

**February - May 2015**

## AWAS Association (Vic) Inc.

Post Office Box 307  
SAN REMO VIC 3925  
Telephone : 0400 482 992



State President	Gwenda Walker
State Senior Vice President	Maggie More
State Junior Vice President	Jude Pinkerton-Treloar
State Secretary	Cheryle Brown

## WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

Unit 73 – 2 Gremel Road  
RESERVOIR VIC 3073  
Telephone : 0408 553 412  
Website : [www.wraacvic.com](http://www.wraacvic.com)



State President	Margaret Jager
State Past President	Heather Fry
State Vice President	Liz Maclaine
State Secretary	Diane Sherry

## More Media Group Pty Ltd

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



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AWAS Association (Vic) Inc.



WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

To AWAS and WRAAC Association Vic Supporters

Thank you so much for your support in this venture, to keep our members updated and in touch with our Associations plans and future activities. Communication is the key to success and we know that through a quality product such as the More Media Group produces we will benefit from our time together.

The Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) and Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) Associations Victoria look forward to happy and productive times ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Pinkerton-Treloar

Editor,

Australian Women's Army Service and  
Women's Royal Australian Army Corps  
Associations Newsletters

Post Office Box 307  
San Remo VIC 3925

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## From The Editor

### Dear Members,

Welcome to the first edition of our combined AWAS and WRAAC journal (formally known as a newsletter), we sincerely hope you will be happy with the new format.

It was becoming apparent that due to escalating costs associated with producing two newsletters per quarter was becoming quite an expensive exercise for both Associations. The other significant factor was the time spent by members of the AWAS and WRAAC committee printing, folding and mailing out the newsletters. This was never an issue on their part as they were much too polite to complain but as with any organisation members seem to be busier than ever in this hectic environment in which we now live.

With the new arrangement the cost to our Associations is nothing as you will observe the advertising within the Journal will pay for our printing, postage and distribution.

The journal will be posted to you three times a year in February, June and October. The printing you notice is slightly larger, photos clearer with a fresh glossy look. If there is a specific event or the need to advise you on additional information your committee will communicate this to you via e-mail, post and our website. If you have information or a story to share please contact the Editor or a Committee member at your convenience.

We welcome your feedback regarding the new venture and hope you will continue to enjoy the news and views of the past and present. We share so much in common as former service-women who once so proudly served our Nation in war and peace.

Yours in friendship,

**Jude Pinkerton-Treloar**  
Editor

## June Publication Deadline

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**The deadline for all articles to be included in the June 2015 Journal is Friday 3rd May 2015.**

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### Articles can be posted or e-mailed

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To:	Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal
Address:	Post Office Box 307 SAN REMO VIC 3925
E-mail:	johntreloar1@bigpond.com

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## Calendar of Events 2015

DATE	EVENT
<b>February</b>	
Saturday 7th	WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch at Orrong Hotel
<b>March</b>	
Sunday 8th	Sandakan Ballarat
<b>April</b>	
Sunday 12th	Swan Hill Ex servicewomen
Sunday 19th	ANZAC Day Church Service
TBA	ANZAC Day Service at Austin Health All welcome
Saturday 25th	ANZAC Day Commemorative March
<b>May</b>	
Sunday 17th	AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service at 1100hrs
Saturday 23rd	WRAAC Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
<b>June</b>	
<b>July</b>	
Sunday 5th	Reserve Forces Day Parade
Saturday 11th	WRAAC Reunion Luncheon at International of Brighton.
<b>August</b>	
Wednesday 19th	AWAS Reunion Luncheon and AGM
TBA	Vietnam Vets Day at Austin Health.
<b>September</b>	
<b>October</b>	
Saturday 10th	WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch at Orrong Hotel
<b>November</b>	
Saturday 14th	WRAAC AGM
TBA	Remembrance Day Shrine of Remembrance
TBA	Remembrance Day Austin Health
<b>December</b>	
TBA	WRANS lunch
TBA	SWAC Presentation at Heidelberg

## From the AWAS President



Welcome to our first AWAS/WRAAC Journal 2015 and with the sincere hope the New Year has been kind to all. Our Association has commenced the year with a new look in the form of a glossy journal. If you have an article you would like to feature in the journal please contact Jude, she would like to hear from you.

### WRAAC

As we now share a journal I thought it might be a good idea to give a brief overview of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) and the close connection we have as former servicewomen.

The Women's Royal Australian Army Corps formed in April 1951 was due in part to a significant manpower shortage. By 1950 Australia was committed to Malaya, there was the emergence of the Cold War, Korea and National Service. Manpower targets could not possibly be met. A proposal prepared for the Military Board recommended the reintroduction of Women's Services as it was acknowledged the AWAS had exceeded all expectations during

World War II. Australia could have a trained nucleus for quick expansion in event of war. The United States of America (USA), New Zealand (NZ) and the United Kingdom (UK) had not disbanded their highly trained women's services following the end of hostilities in 1945!

In April 1951 Colonel Sybil Irving was appointed the first Honorary Colonel of the WAAC with the prefix Royal approved by His Majesty King George VI in June 1951 in recognition of the AWAS wartime service. December 1951 approval was given for the introduction of WRAAC into the Citizens Military Forces (CMF) now known as the Army Reserve (ARes). It is noted that former AWAS members also enlisted into the WRAAC and continue to maintain strong links to both Associations. The WRAAC disbanded in 1984 with the ceremonial closing of WRAAC School, Georges Heights Sydney.

Australia had changed and so had our social values, women demanded equality and today enjoy the same pay, conditions and opportunities as males enlisting into the ADF

Keep safe and well.  
Yours in friendship,

**Gwenda Walker**

## ANZAC Girls



Following on from the wonderful ABC series ANZAC GIRLS there was a lot of interest around the book and especially the much admired Alice (Ross-King) Appleford. Alice enlisted as a staff nurse in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) AIF in 1914 and that same year she joined fellow members of the 1st Australian General Hospital (1AGH) and set sail for Cairo.

Alice was then sent to Suez where 1AGH occupied a Convent which was used as a clearing hospital for casualties from Gallipoli. Later in

1915 she returned to Australia on transport duties, nursing the sick and wounded. No doubt to the welcome arms of her family. Alice then returned to Egypt and in 1916 was sent to France with the 1AGH and remained there throughout Somme Offensive. She was then detached to the 10th Stationery Hospital in June 1917 and in July to the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station (2ACCS) close to the trenches near Armentieres. The CCS was bombed and for her bravery Sister Alice Ross-King was awarded the Military Medal. There were seven

Military Medals awarded to the AANS during WWI. The bombing raids continued for several weeks on the CCS taking its toll on the medical staff, such are the horrors of war. On Christmas Day 1917 Alice was mentioned in dispatches and in May 1918 awarded the Associate Royal Red Cross.

Alice returned home from the war and married a Doctor she had met on the journey back to Australia, Sydney Theodore Appleford and they settled in Lang Lang, now rural Victoria where together they ran a busy Medical practice.

In the late 1930s Alice trained Volunteer Aid Detachments (VADs) in the Gippsland area and in 1940 had relocated to Melbourne where she enlisted for full time duty with the VADs and husband Sydney commissioned as a Medical Officer in the Army. Following the outbreak of WWII Alice attained the rank of Major and became the Assistant Controller AAMWS 1941-1950.



To perpetuate her memory an Annual award is presented to a serving member of the RAANC by the Ex-AAWMS Association. The award is now an amalgamation of two previous awards and trusts known as the Roach Appleford Award. Both awards are presented in memory of two members of the AAMWS and to encourage a high level of performance in Nursing.

Alice (Ross-King) Appleford passed away in 1968 and her grave is situated in the Presbyterian section of the Fawkner Cemetery. Major Marjorie Roach was a member of the Red Cross VAD during WWI and at the advent of WWII became the Assistant Controller of the AAMWS (QLD) with the rank of Major.

## Sandakan Commemorative Service 2015

The Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch will be conducting its annual Commemorative service on Sunday the 8th March at 1100hrs. The service is held at the Sandakan Memorial, Strathdale Park, corner of McIvor Highway and Crook Street, Bendigo.

This moving service honours all servicemen who either returned to their home country or lost their lives as Prisoners of War at Sandakan and Kuching in North Borneo or in the chilling Sandakan-Ranau "Death Marches".

For further information contact the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch on 03 5443 4013

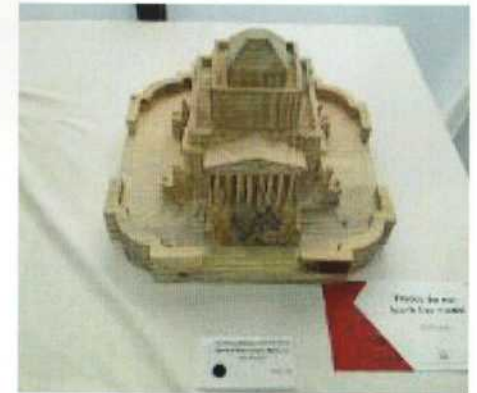


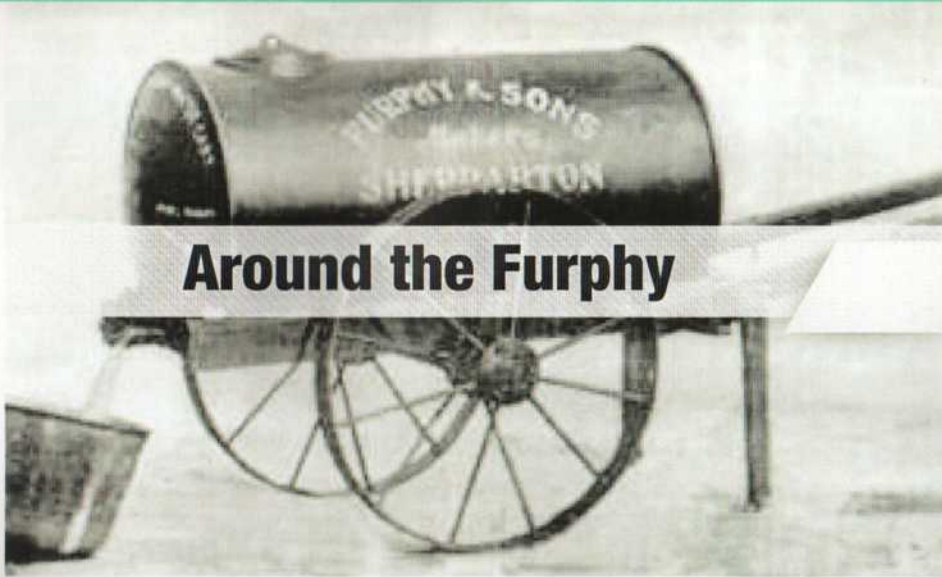
## SWAC News

### 3D Craft and Dimensional Art and Sculpture

The AWAS encouragement award for 2014 went to Mr Don Bergman for his excellent timber craft work of the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne. The timber used for the project was from the original Lone Pine tree that had to be cut down due to an incurable infection a few years ago. Don joined 5 Bn Scottish Regiment in 1948 and transferred to 2 Commando Coy in 1955. He served with 1 Bn RAR in South Vietnam in 1969. Don retired from the Army in 1975 and was awarded the Australian Army Trainers Command Commendation in 2002. Gwenda Walker presented the award to Don at the presentation ceremony held at Austin Health on the 28th November 2014.

In a surprising coincidence Don and Gwenda had met at various staff courses throughout their Military service.





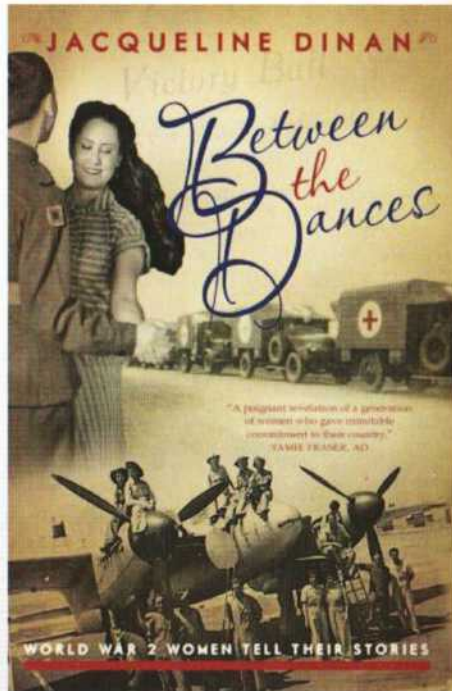
## Around the Furphy

### Jacqueline Dinan's New Book

We are looking forward to Jacqueline Dinan's new book titled *Between the Dances* (World War II Women Tell Their Stories). The book features many short stories about women's lives during World War II with many members of the AWAS featured.

For queries and further information:

- Phone: 03 9499 5169.
- Mobile: 0413 921 100,
- Email: [eventive@bigpond.net.au](mailto:eventive@bigpond.net.au)  
[www.eventive.net.au](http://www.eventive.net.au),
- Facebook: Jacqueline Dinan Author



### World War I Commemorative Medallions

We noted with great pride AWAS Association member Dorothy (Edwards) Holmquest (pictured left) was a recipient of a Commemorative Medallion presented to direct descendants of World War I veterans. The ceremony was held at the Clayton RSL on 3rd August 2014 before an audience of family and friends of veterans. Following the ceremony there was time to share stories and exchange memories with fellow guests at an informal afternoon tea.

If you are a descendant of a World War I, Commemorative Medallions are still available from the Reserve Forces Day Council (Vic) Inc.



For more information contact:  
**Captain Peter Morgan (Retd)**

Phone: 03 9808 2978  
Email: [tynewood@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tynewood@optusnet.com.au)

Our thanks to Mufti (December Issue)  
Photo: Lt Colonel John Stevens

Well done to the Reserve Forces Day Council for their support and ongoing recognition of our WWI servicemen and women.



## Say It Isn't So Coco!

The recent news suggesting Coco Chanel, Edith Piaf and Maurice Chevalier were Nazi sympathisers and Anti-Semitic is not really new as the allegations have been around since well before the end of World War II. It is possible the information uncovered from Official Nazi papers from within the French Defence Ministry archives where Chanel allegedly was given the code name Westminister is authentic. Were they just performers and/or were they something else far more sinister? Maurice Chevalier is interesting as his name appears in several books about Nancy Wake. It would seem Maurice Chevalier may have been an acquaintance of Nancy's Father-in-law, Mr Fiocca. Chevalier was once invited to the Fiocca home for dinner with Nancy preparing Bouillabaisse a la Marseillaise for the special guest. The surprised Maurice Chevalier could not believe that the meal was prepared by someone who was not



French! So much for his Intel, he would have known Nancy had been taught by the master of all Marseille Chefs, Pepe Caillat who had taken her under his wing and taught her La cuisine Provencale!

History also reminds us that during the 1930s Hitler and the Nazis had many like-minded foreign friends such as the American Ambassador Joseph Kennedy, Aviator Charles Lindbergh and from Britain the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Hitler considered he was on a winner, therefore he surmised that a majority of Americans and British people were sympathetic to Nazism and had no objection to Anti-Semitism. In time all will be disclosed and put into its rightful place in history, but for the moment it certainly makes interesting reading.



## May 1945

Do you know it is 70 years since 340 AWAS disembarked in Lae, New Guinea from the troopship MX Duntroon. This iconic image tells it all as servicewomen dressed in tropical gear, kitted out to play their part in the push to force the Japanese to retreat north, through the Pacific Islands (The Lae offensive began on the 4th September 1943). The AWAS presence enabled more men to be released for combat roles as the women were highly trained and skilled to take on many roles as required. Well done to you all.

## Sister Thelma (Bell) McEachern

Did you happen to notice a small article in the newspaper informing us Australia had lost another significant link to the late Sister Vivian Bullwinkle and the ill-fated Vynner Brooke, Bangka Island massacre with the recent passing of Sister Thelma (Bell) McEachern.

Thelma's story is extraordinary as she experienced a life changing event on the 7th February 1941. We know there were many Australian Nurses trapped in Singapore as arrangements were hastily being made to evacuate them to safety with their patients. With news that the Japanese were advancing on Fortress Singapore six Australian nurses were told they would have to be ready in 15 minutes to evacuate as many wounded as they could take a small Chinese vessel named the Wah Sui. The nurses managed to get 450 wounded soldiers on board and were instructed by Matron Paschke



to wear Red Cross arm bands on their left arm at all times. They were also told to stay with their patients whatever happened.

The irony of Thelma's story is that by a mere toss of a coin she missed being on the Vynner Brooke and becoming a POW. It would appear Thelma asked

their much loved Matron Paschke if her best friend Molly Campbell had been selected to go on the Wah Sui or was she staying with the other nurses expected to be evacuated the very next day. Molly was Thelma's best friend and by all accounts the girls were inseparable. On checking her list Matron said Molly was leaving on the Wah Sui so Thelma asked if she could exchange places with Sister Pearl (Mitz) Mittelheuser and following a coin toss both Sisters agreed to the swap. After all what's in a day or two! The Wah Sui made it to Batavia and Thelma boarded the Orcades bound for Colombo and safely home to Australia. The remaining nurses were evacuated on the Vynner Brooke and we all know the bravery of the Australian Nurses.

Sister Pearl (Mitz) Mittelheuser (a Queenslander) who swapped with Thelma passed away on the 18th August 1945 three days after peace was declared. She was only 41 years of age and had been a POW since the bombing of the hospital ship Vynner Brooke.

Matron Olive Paschke RRC was lost at sea near Bangka Island when the Vynner Brooke was bombed by the Japanese on the 14th February 1942.

This led me to revisit the book titled, Vivian Bullwinkell by Norman G Manners published by Hesperian Press. It is the story of Vivian Bullwinkell, sole survivor of a WWII massacre by the Japanese. Manners writes about each Nurse in such a way you really get to know them. We will never forget our brave nurses.



# AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Subscription is \$10.00 which entitles members to receive Newsletters and special notices. Members and Unfinancial members are able to attend Reunions. If you do not know a current member to propose you, sign the form and a Committee member will propose you.

Cheques payable to "AWAS Association (Vic) Inc."

### PLEASE PRINT YOUR DETAILS CLEARLY:

I wish to become a member of the AWAS ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC and if admitted to membership I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force. My details are:

SERVICE NO: ..... SURNAME: .....

NEE: ..... CHRISTIAN NAMES: .....

ADDRESS: .....

..... POSTCODE: ..... PHONE NO: .....

POST NOMINALS: ..... RANK ON DISCHARGE: ..... UNIT/CORPS: .....

YEARS OF SERVICE: (eg 1943 to 1947, 1991 to 1995): .....

Signature of Applicant: ..... Date: .....

### PROPOSER:

I nominate ..... For membership.

Signature of Proposer: ..... Date: .....

Return this form with \$10.00 (money order/cheque) subscription to:

Miss Gwenda Walker  
Membership Secretary  
13 Birrale Street  
WANTIRNA SOUTH, VIC, 315  
Telephone 03 9801 2712



# WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Margaret Jager  
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

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: .....

**From the WRAAC President**



**Dear Members,**

Welcome to your AWAS and WRAAC journal and the beginning of my first term as President of the WRAAC Association Victoria.

I would like this opportunity to introduce myself I'm Margaret (Robinson) Jager a life member of the WRAAC Association Victoria and have been a committee member for many years. I'm also a proud member of the AWAS Association Victoria.

I joined the WRAAC (CMF) in 1971 having enlisted at the Kew Training Depot (3 WRAAC Co). Following basic training I was then posted to 3 Catering Corps for trade training and then went on to serve with Army Reserve Recruiting, 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse, 3 Training Group HQ and then back to 3 Catering Corps as a Sgt Instructor. During this time I participated in many camps and bivouacs with other units when required until my discharge in April 1997.

On behalf of the WRAAC Association I wish to convey our appreciation to Immediate Past President Heather (Rankin) Fry on her outstanding leadership and commitment to the Association during her 3 year term as President. Heather has been ably assisted by a dedicated committee and our sincere thanks to all. Well done ladies.

The journey has now led us to today as we open the pages to begin a new era of combined AWAS and WRAAC newsletters now known as the AWAS/WRAAC Journal.

Our thanks to Jude Pinkerton-Treloar, Cheryle Brown together with a team of ladies from both Committees for their work in producing our past Newsletters. We certainly hope this new venture contributes to less work for the production team.

We hope you enjoy our new format and a reminder to check the calendar of events section of the journal to make note of special activities.

On behalf of the WRAAC Association Committee we wish you a belated but sincere happy and healthy 2015 and look forward to catching up with you once again.

Yours in friendship  
**Margaret (Robinson) Jager**

# Associations Contacts and Addresses

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

Post Office Box 307  
SAN REMO, VIC, 3925  
Telephone: 0400 482 992

### **President /Membership Officer**

Gwenda Walker RFD ED  
13 Birralee Street  
WANTIRNA SOUTH, VIC, 3152  
Telephone: 03 9801 2712

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

Maggie More RFD

### **Jnr Vice President**

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar  
Telephone: 03 9874 7915

### **Secretary**

Cheryle (Howes) Brown  
Post Office Box 307  
SAN REMO, VIC, 3925  
Telephone: 0400 482 992  
Email: rayhyd@bigpond.com

## **Committee Member**

Dorothy (Edwards) Holmquest  
Joan (Woodhead) Johnstone  
Helen (Mulholand) Littlejohn  
Pat Nevill  
Vera (Gorringe) Paley  
Pauline (Bartlett) Priestley

## **AWAS/WRAAC Journal**

### **Editor**

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar  
Post Office Box 307  
SAN REMO, VIC, 3925  
Telephone: 03 9874 7915  
Email: johntreloar1@bigpond.com

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

Unit 73 – 2 Gremel Road  
RESERVOIR, VIC, 3073  
Telephone: 0408 553 412  
Website: www.wraacvic.com

### **Patron**

CAPT Iris Petrass

### **Honorary Chaplain**

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

### **President/Fundraiser Co-ordinator**

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

### **Vice President**

Liz (Stone) Maclaine  
Telephone: 03 9397 1043

### **Treasurer/History Co-ordinator**

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

### **Secretary/Membership Officer**

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

### **Assistant Secretary**

Heather Hyatt  
Telephone: 03 9717 1630  
Email: hhy14359@gmail.com

### **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

## Ex WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch

### Liz Maclaine writes,

The October lunch was extremely lucky to go ahead, as when I rang to confirm our booking I was advised that no such booking had been made. It would appear new owners had taken over the Orrong Hotel and the previous owners had neglected to pass on our booking. Following a chat with the new owners and explaining that our group had been attending the Hotel for about 20 years new arrangements were quickly made. As we began to arrive at the Orrong on the Saturday everything was fine and a great day was had by all. The meals were excellent and with all the noise and laughter it appears all in attendance had a great time. Our thanks and best wishes to the new owners, Ryan and his mum Lisa.

The next Pub Lunch will be on Saturday 7th February 2015.

Congratulations and thanks to Liz Maclaine, Bev Bond and Lyn Board for another successful year organising the Pub Lunches. It is always a relaxed and happy gathering amongst friends and you're always made to feel welcome.

### If you wish to be on the mailing list contact:

Liz Maclaine	03 9397 1043
Lyn Board	03 5989 2553
Bev Bond	03 5952 3096

## Reserve Forces Day

### Sunday 5th July 2015

The Reserve Forces Day Parade for serving and retired Reservists, Army, Navy and Air Force will be held on Sunday the 5th July 2015.

Assemble at Government House Drive no later than 0945 hrs ready to form up behind our Association Banner and Standard.

**Dress:** Berets, Green Jacket and comfortable walking shoes.

**Medals:** Officially issued decorations Medals awarded to other people should not be worn.

## AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service

### Sunday 17th May 2015

The AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative service will be held within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday the 17th May 2015 at 1100hrs.

Following the service a wreath will be placed at the WRAAC Plaque to remember our sisters who are no longer with us.

For further information contact Diane Sherry [dishe1946@yahoo.com.au](mailto:dishe1946@yahoo.com.au)



## WRAAC Association (VIC) Inc Annual Luncheon



### 11th July 2015

You will notice the date for the 2015 Annual luncheon is a few weeks earlier this year due to pending major renovations at the International of Brighton. Therefore remember to diarise the 11th July 2015.

Luncheon attendance forms will be enclosed in the June edition of the journal

## ANZAC Day Commemoration March

### 25th April 2015

As per last year we will form up in Flinders Street just near the Station entrance to step off into history as we participate in the 100th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. This is certainly something to tell the Grandchildren.

We have enclosed a list of protocols from the ANZAC Commemorative Committee regarding the 2015 march, also included is the medical identification card to be carried to be carried by all participating in the ANZAC Day 2015 March.



## Protocol

### (To Be Followed)

- » All marchers should form-up and march six (6) abreast.
- » Veterans are to march directly behind their unit banner, accompanied by one carer if needed. That carer should be of an age where they can directly assist the Veteran. Veterans having difficulty completing the March, and all WW2 Veterans, are encouraged to use the transport provided, but must remain in the vehicle until the March is completed.
- » If a Veteran must fall out of the March he or she should be directed to a Marshall for assistance. Unit Associations are to continue moving so as not to disrupt the momentum of the March.
- » Descendants are to march behind the Veterans, and be old enough to march the full distance (approximately 1km) without assistance.
- » Representation of your Veteran forebears is to be restricted to one descendant per Veteran and the descendant is to wear the Veterans medals on the right breast (the left breast is reserved for the original recipient of the medals).
- » Descendants are to dress in appropriate clothing, as your forebears would have done. Therefore, all marchers should wear neat and tidy clothing, out of respect for the fallen (torn denim, sporting attire dirty joggers are not considered appropriate).
- » The carrying of framed photographs of relatives, and the pushing of prams and pushers, is not permitted.
- » Veterans are requested not to join or leave the March other than at the Assembly and Dispersal points.





ANZAC Day 2015

# Medical Identification Card

Name: .....

Address: .....

Date of Birth: .....

Brief Medical History: .....

.....

Allergies: .....

Medications (name, dosage, frequency): .....

.....

.....

### Next of Kin

Name: .....

Relationship: .....

Home Telephone: .....

Mobile: .....

Name: .....

Relationship: .....

Home Telephone: .....

Mobile: .....

**TO BE RETAINED BY MEMBER  
CARRY IN TOP LEFT HAND POCKET**



# WRAAC 65th Anniversary Update

## Friday 12th – Monday 15th February 2016.

The Anniversary Organising Committee (AOC) is very busy at the moment planning this significant occasion and we wish them well. If you are interested in attending Canberra in 2016 the details are as follows:

- Friday 12th Feb:** A meet and greet evening at the Australian War Memorial. Cost \$65. Maximum attendance 300
- Saturday 13th Feb:** 65th Sapphire Anniversary Dinner at QT Hotel (Formerly the Lakeside). Cost \$90 Maximum attendance 400
- Sunday 14th Feb:** Church service at ANZAC Chapel RMC Duntroon. An opportunity to view the Kathleen Best Memorial Gates (relocated from WRAAC School). Followed by lunch at the RMC Golf Club. Cost \$20 Maximum attendance 300
- Monday 15th Feb:** Farewell lunch at National Portrait Gallery. Cost \$40 Maximum attendance 250.

The costs for the functions do not include drinks. Bar facilities will be available. For all correspondence regarding the 65th Anniversary contact;

AOC Secretary WRAAC 65  
PO Box 7 JERRABOMBERRA, NSW, 2619  
E-mail: [wraac65@gmail.com](mailto:wraac65@gmail.com)

The Committee is currently perusing accommodation options: The QT has offered to meet any offer from other Hotels. If you wish to book at the QT the details are as follows:

Booking ID code R1302WRAAC  
Contact person Gabrielle Thorpe  
Telephone (02) 6247 6244  
[www.qthotels.com.au](http://www.qthotels.com.au)  
Address: 1 London Circuit, ACT 2601

## Lady Soldiers Book Launch



### Keswick Barracks Adelaide 14th & 15th October 2014

The South Australian book launch of the much anticipated Lady Soldiers (Lyn Dale Kane) was held over two wonderful busy and at times confronting days amid the military environment of Keswick Barracks. The history and culture of Keswick is steeped in tradition and once home to former WRAAC and RAANC members from the 1950s onward.

Our Association has a significant link to Keswick as in 1973 our much loved and respected Patron, Captain Iris Petrass was Commandant of Keswick Barracks making her the first female in Australia to hold such a position.

#### DAY ONE

To the nostalgic sound of purring Army vehicles, our girls began to arrive at Keswick Barracks, waving to all as they entered the historic Torrens Parade ground. One could only imagine the fun they had during that magical ride as memories and emotions surged to the surface. It was good to see Liz (Stone) Maclaine who is featured in the book on board one of the vehicles enjoying the ride.

This was the prelude to a moving outdoor service held at the tree planted (circa 1965) by our late Honorary Colonel Mary (May) Douglas OBE (1961-1966). A sprig of rosemary was handed to all by Victorian WRAAC Association member, Jude

Pinkerton-Treloar as guests entered the enclosed garden area. Following a warm welcome to all from Helen McLeod Meyer (Lady Soldiers Project Consultant) then introduced Chaplain Nora Kunzel who conducted the service. At the conclusion of the service Chaplain Kunzel invited all present to participate in the placing a sprig rosemary at the plaque and a perfect opportunity to reflect on times past.

We then joined together for morning tea and time to embrace the many friendships we continue to share post service.

Dr Amanda Third, Senior Lecturer in Cultural and Social Analysis at the University of Western Sydney gave us a stirring account of the book and how the Author Lyn Kane Dale, was able to convey the thoughts, emotions and experiences of former members of the WRAAC and RAANC. Dr Third emphasised "one could never hope to gain from exploring Military records". Following an enjoyable lunch we left Keswick Barracks so emotionally charged with pride and gratitude for the wonderful experience life offered to so many all those years ago.



### Keswick Barracks Heritage Walk

#### DAY TWO.

Once again we arrived at Keswick full of unbridled interest to commence our tour of this Historic Building site nestled snugly on a 30 acre triangle and amazingly, not too far from the centre of Adelaide. The construction of the building commenced in 1912 with the first building converted in to an Army Hospital following the outbreak of WWI. One could almost smell the Eucalyptus Oil used in the treatment of many incurable diseases of the era such as Tuberculosis and VD. We always knew Eucalyptus Oil was a viable product with multitude uses!

## Lady Soldiers Book Launch Continued

As we continued the tour a well versed guide directed us to the area where members of the WRAAC and RAANC billeted during courses or waiting for another posting. It was wonderful for the girls who had lived there so many years ago to recall the happy times shared. WRAAC Association Victoria member Maxine (Turner) Pettingill (pictured) recalls arriving at the Barracks in 1962 for enlistment and thinking how huge and sprawling the place was! Maxine is a South Australian girl by birth who now resides in Victoria, the lady proved to be a great tour guide showing us Victorians around her beautiful city. At the conclusion of the Heritage walking tour we were then ushered into building 34A for a welcome lunch and the screening of the DVD titled *Lady Soldiers*. The images were



first screened in 2012 at Campbell Barracks (WA) and was eagerly devoured by an appreciative Keswick audience. The film depicts the hopes and dreams of 16 women who served in the WRAAC and RAANC. It was an honour to meet many of the girls who participated in the book and DVD.

As we left Keswick Barracks there was a sense of pride and for many perhaps closure to a former life but with a renewed conviction

to meet again in the sharing of stories and goodwill.

On behalf of the Victorian girls our sincere thanks to Lyn Dale, Helen Meyer, Betty Layt, the wonderful caterers, all the support workers, The Army Museum of South Australia and former WRAAC and RAANC members for your friendship.

Until we meet again.



## Reflections.

### Rear view mirror comment

The tree planted by Colonel Mary (May) Douglas OBE and the plaque dedicated to the opening of the building on the 2nd April 1971 is now part of a very run down and forgotten area of the Barracks. This is not consistent with today's standards and expectations regarding acknowledgement of females in the Military.

In fairness to the Museum it was suggested to us that possibly a new tree may be planted in replacement of the original tree that is certainly not thriving in its current dry and unsuitable position. It is sad to think that such an inspirational leader who contributed so much to Australia is not in a more prominent and

significant area of the Barracks. When asked about this it was suggested there could be a possible new site for the re-dedication of the tree and plaque. However finances appear to be an issue.

Remember Colonel Mary (May) Douglas was the only woman to be a member of all four women's services VAD, AAMWS, AWAS and WRAAC.

For the record, there is not a WRAAC Association in South Australia since they wound up three years ago, therefore connection was severed.

The Museum offers an archive section, a research section and an extensive collection of documents, books and military data from the past. It is well worth a visit.



## Around The WRAAC Pack

### Baby News

Congratulations to our Patron Captain Iris Petrass on the recent but premature arrival of her twin Granddaughters Matilda Trist and Amilie Aster. The girls were born in Canberra on the 29th September 2014 and doing well. Our best wishes to big brother Felix and his family on the happy news.

Iris has been very busy of late juggling her Nanna duties between Melbourne and Canberra.

Our best wishes to Major Maggie More on the arrival of her first Grandchild, Jack Paul More on the 7th January 2015.

Best wishes to Gai Cooke on her wonderful news, she is going to be a first time Grandmother early this year.

### Travel News

Our best wishes to Pam Philips who informs us she will be in Turkey next year to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. Pam has promised to share her story and photos with us on her return. Have a safe trip Pam.

The Treloar family will be in New Guinea in the New Year to trace Jude's father's footprints during his service with the 4th Field Ambulance, AIF. (Milne Bay, Finschhafen, Lae and Madang). Remember to take your Malaria medication and wear appropriate clothing!

We look forward to hearing from Margaret Hattersley (WRANS Association) regarding her adventures on Gabo Island in December. I think a few of our girls would have memories of the area.

### Austin Health Remembrance Day Observance

Heather (Rankin) Fry and Margaret (Robinson) Jager attended the Remembrance service at Austin Health on the 11th November 2014 and placed sheaths of Singapore orchids at the AWAS and WRAAC Plaques. This year two more plaques were unveiled during the service. The Corps of Commissionaires and Australian Commando Association.

We recommend you take a walk around the Remembrance garden at Heidelberg and then visit the Jessie May Labyrinth.

## Remembrance Day

### 11th November 2014

Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne  
Remembrance Day Melbourne 2014 started with overcast skies and a chilly wind that did not deter the feeling of thousands of people gathered to remember our Service Personnel with gratitude and respect. The Shrine as impressive as ever shrouded by low cloud and surrounded by buildings that appear to be getting closer and closer with time. The crowd hushed in silent contemplation as the Remembrance service began, a service that was emulated in towns and cities around Australia. The visible presence of Police and Public Service Officers (PSOs) did add extra sadness to the occasion as the threat of misguided thinking is real and a definite threat to our way of life. The flags, lowered to half-mast flew in sync with the strong breeze that only the Shrine forecourt seems to attract. There were hundreds of school children in attendance and they were encouraged to participate



in the wreath laying ceremony. A small section of the steps to the Shrine were roped off where the children placed wreaths and flowers, reminiscent of the Spanish steps in Rome bathed in flowers.

Following the service invited guests began the walking tour through the Remembrance Galleries and to view the display of memorabilia depicting the Military History of Australia. It is truly impressive and our gratitude to all involved

# Galleries of Remembrance Dedication



**11th November 2014**

## Shrine of Remembrance

The much anticipated opening of the Galleries of Remembrance held on such a significant day has added another dimension to Melbourne and the Veteran Communities love of the Shrine of Remembrance. The Shrine, situated on holy ground offers solace to family and friends of those we have lost in service of our nation.

A stroll around the Remembrance Garden allows time for reflection and gratitude for the peace and harmony far too often taken for granted. Within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance we gather and place flowers to remember the fallen and give thanks.

Lest We Forget.