



Australian Women's
Army Service 1941-1947



Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps 1951-1984

AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL

March 18

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

10 Ledbury Crescent
BUNDOORA VIC 3083
Telephone : 0419 371 474
Website : 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



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From the Editor

Dear members,

Welcome to the March 2018 edition of our Journal with the expectation of a New Year extending peace and comfort to all.

This year, the WRAAC Association Vic Inc welcomes a new President, Carol (Hamilton) King to guide us through another wonderful chapter of the WRAAC story.

We also reflect on our heritage that has been well defined by the example set by fellow servicewomen of the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS)

In Victoria, as members of the WRAAC we were blessed to be led by former members of the AWAS who taught by example and as a result we understood the true essence of Esprit de corps.

Our incoming President shares these values and we are truly grateful she accepted the role.

To learn more about our President please read her profile later in this Journal.

Enjoy your Journal and as always, please send us "your" story.

In friendship,

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar.

July 2018 Journal Deadline

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

FRIDAY 11TH MAY 2018

Articles can be posted or e-mailed to:

Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

Postal Address:

87 Westmelton Drive,
Melton West, VIC. 3337

E-mail:

johnltreoar1@bigpond.com

— 2017 — Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
APRIL 2018	
Sunday 15th	Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Box Hill
Wednesday 25th	Anzac Day
MAY 2018	
Sunday 6th	AWAS / WRAAC Shrine Service
JULY 2018	
Saturday 21st	Brighton Savoy Hotel

From the WRAAC President

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Committee we wish you a Happy New Year and trust the Christmas period went well.

I know many of you have had a very difficult year, please know that our thoughts and prayers are always with you.

Many, many thanks to our outgoing President, Margaret Jager for the years of dedicated work she and the Jager family have given the WRAAC Association.

Margaret was always available to assist the AWAS Association Victoria with her expertise as a raffle ticket designer. The tickets, emblazoned with the AWAS logo were very special and we all know Margaret's legendary raffle calling skills.

Margaret, together with other Committee members have always



been there when it's been needed. A sincere thank you to all.

The WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc, has gone from strength to strength with the Calendar of Events long and varied and the production of the Journal has been enlightening and a quality production.

Thankyou Jude Pinkerton-Treloar.

The Journal is an informative read and when it arrives it's time

*From the
WRAAC President*

Continued

for a cup of tea, a sit down and its read from cover to cover.

This year will be another busy year for the Committee, members and friends, therefore we suggest you check the Calendar of Events and attend whenever you can, we would love to see you all.

The WRAAC Social Group luncheons will be held in February and October 2018 at the friendly Orrong Hotel.

This year, the WRAAC Association luncheon will be held on the 21st July 2018 at a different location.

Unfortunately, The International (Brighton) has ceased business and the Committee have selected the Brighton Savoy Hotel as our NEW venue.

The Brighton Savoy Hotel, is situated in a similar location with a dedicated Committee member doing a recce to check on the menu, location, parking availability and reports, all looks good.

Details will follow later in this Journal.

As I live interstate, I will not be able to attend all activities but will do my best to get to as many as possible. Thank you for the confidence and honour in voting me as President of the Association, Here's to a wonderful year for all.

Yours in friendship,

Carol (Hamilton) King.

Associations Contacts and Addresses

Editor

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar
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

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

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 2018 / 2019
membership year is due in June.*

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

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:

AWAS / WRAAC Shrine Service

6TH MAY 2018

SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

MELBOURNE

AT 10AM.



CAIRN PILGRIMAGE

21ST November 2017

*At the
Ex-Servicewomen's Memorial Garden & Cairn*

A small group of former service women and friends gathered at the memorial Cairn to remember the 70,000 Australian Ex-Servicewomen as reflected by the inscription on the Cairn.

This year Jude Pinkerton-Treloar talked about the history of the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Associations (Vic.) Inc. and acknowledged the late Major Jessie Perkins MBE, RFD, ED (Ret'd), for her invaluable notes and information regarding the historical background of the Council.

The Council initiated the idea of a Cairn in 1985 and its relocation to its present site at the Shrine of Remembrance. Here is an extract from Jude's notes.



HISTORY OF THE COUNCIL

Historical Background

The inaugural meeting of the Council was held on 22 May 1979. Elizabeth Lucas convened the meeting and was appointed Chairman. In attendance were representatives of Returned Nurses Club, WRANS, WAAAF, AWAS, and an apology from AAMWS.

It was agreed that the following Services be included AWAS, WAAAF, and Army, Navy and Air Force Nursing services.

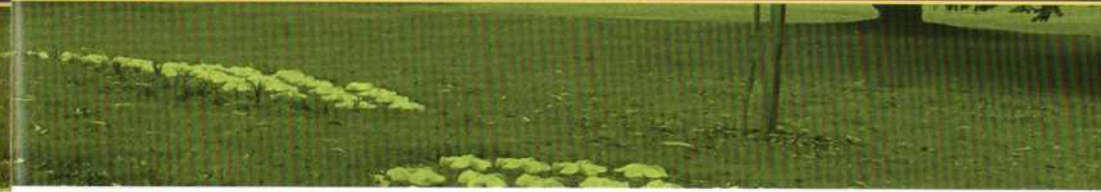
At later dates, the following Associations joined -

Middle East VAD Association and Post-war Associations WRAAC Reserve Assoc. (Vic.), WRAAF 1951-77 Branch RAAFA (Vic. Div.), and RAANC Association Vic.

Each Member organisation elects 2 delegates. Each Association pays an Annual Affiliation Fee (currently \$25.00 per yr.).

Purpose

The move to form a council in Victoria was initiated by the AWAS Association (Vic.) following discussion with the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Association (NSW) a body which had been formed in 1975. At this stage it was felt that, whilst all individual ex-service-women's organisations had their own particular association there was a need for a united front in representations to the Federal Government regarding such benefits as eligibility for Defence Service Home Loans, health assistance, pensions.



Apart "from the purpose of making representations to the Australian Government, the Council endeavors to obtain information and advice in the interests of Member Associations, and to promote the interests and welfare of war-time ex-servicewomen.

Incorporation

In 1985 it was decided to apply for and were granted an Incorporated Association.

In the official documentation the Purpose of the Association reads "*to act as a representative body for all ex-servicewomen in Australia on matters pertaining to their welfare, well-being and pleasure.*"

Patron

In 1985, Mrs. Nancy Wake-Forward GM - was appointed as the Patron of the Association. (Nancy Wake well-known as the "White Mouse" of the French resistance in WW2.)

Functions/Activities

This section is a condensed version of the 3 main activities that the Council has organised.

The Memorial Garden & Cairn In The Kings Domain

1985 was the year of Victoria's Sesqui-Centenary. After arrangement with the Melbourne City Council, "a rock Cairn" was put in place in a flower garden. 3 large Plaques were inscribed and attached to the Cairn, detailing the history of 70,000 Australian Ex-Servicewomen dating from the Boer War. A week-end of celebrations took place, the Un-veiling by Patron Nancy Wake GM, on the Saturday afternoon - in the evening 1003 ex-servicewomen sat down to the Banquet at the Southern Cross Hotel. The guest speaker at this function was famous author Patsy Adam Smith, herself an ex-servicewoman having served in the AAMWS.

On the Sunday, the big Picnic at Ferry Creek in the Dandenongs.

All the above activities were under the guidance of the Chairman, Elizabeth Lucas.

It was a huge event - each member organisation was given a section to organise. The WRAAC Reserve Association was given the Picnic. Unfortunately, it rained - but 3 huge Marquees, set up with tables, chairs provided cover for the Spit-roast Lunch. A band played old-time and war-time songs- and a great time was had by all. Just ask some of the old-timers about that week-end.

(b) Vintage Steam Train Trip - 6 Nov 1995.

Return trip to Ballarat. This day for ex-servicewomen, their families and friends were to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of end of WW 2. The first stop was at Bacchus Marsh Station for morning tea. The Mothers Club of the local

Primary School served us fresh scones with jam and cream, Tea/ coffee, the children presented each of us with a green and gold paper flower they had made.

On leaving Bacchus Marsh we travelers waved our Australian flags and the children sang Waltzing Matilda and waved us good-bye. Lunch was arranged for serving at Ballarat station. The rain had set in, so we took our hot roast lunch, served in aluminium tray plus fresh fruit salad or chocolate cheese cake - back into train and ate in our compartments.

A coach trip had been arranged to take us to Lake Wendouree and other sights, or you could 'do' the shops.

On the return journey travelled via Lal Lal, Meredith and Geelong back to Melbourne. A great day to remember.

*(c) Shrine of Remembrance
- Exhibition -
2 Nov 06 - 30 Jan 07*

Each Member Association was involved in providing memorabilia for display. The 'manning' of the Exhibition to assist visitors was provided by volunteers from the various organisations.

To date, the feed-back has been interesting.

The Council has also been involved or added support to other State Councils - e.g. The NSW Council who were part of the planning etc. of the Ex-Servicewomen's Memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, and the functions connected with the Dedication.

The above gives you some idea of what the Council is about. We acknowledge the late Major Jessie Perkins MBE, RFD, ED, (Ret'd.) who compiled the above information regarding the Council.

Jessie Perkins was a delegate to the Council since 1985 and held the position of Treasurer and Public Officer until her passing.

*The Shrine Of
Remembrance Garden*

In 2010 the Cairn was moved to its current position within the Shrine of Remembrance garden, known as the Ex-Servicewomen's Memorial Garden & Cairn.

A job well done.



F32209 Carol King



My name is Carol (Hamilton) King and I have been elected to the position of President WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. I would like to thank those who voted me in and, as such, have faith in me. I value their friendship and expertise, acknowledging the work they have done to elevate our Association to where it is today. Where other

organisations are finding it difficult to continue, we are expanding and producing quality material and representing WRAAC, AWAS at many and varied events.

A little about myself

I was born in Oakleigh (Melbourne) in 1952 the third of four children. Loved sport and was a Girl Guide leader for several years. Worked as a Girl Friday for a local company and then at Allens Confectionery. Married Grant in 1977 and travelled around the country with his jobs in commercial radio and then later with his Army positions.

My family was quite a military family. Grandfathers WWI, Uncle WW2, Korea and Vietnam, brother Vietnam. My father was a CMF/ Reservist as was my brother (before joining the ARA) and elder sister (Suzanne). I WAS NOT going to join the CMF but, 'alas' I did on 31 May 1970 at 3 WRAAC Coy Kew. MAJ Jessie Perkins was our OC and our CSM was WO1 Elizabeth Gibson. CPL Irene Lakeman (nee Trench) was our squad leader. As I was only 17, dad would drive me to Burke Rd and Dandenong Road and I would catch a tram up to Kew for parade nights.

Whilst at Kew I met many lifelong friends and role models. With the training I received, my confidence improved, and I gained people skills that I carried with me in my many jobs over the years.

As seen below my time in the Reserve was spent in Training, WRAAC and Signals. Many weekends were spent away, some in the bush. The yearly camps with WRAAC spent at Benalla; I will always remember well, lots of marching, drill, physical training and map reading. I still remember the definition of "a map" - "A map is a diagram or representation of a portion of the earth's surface drawn to scale showing manmade and natural features". The things you remember!!!

I do remember our bivouacs at Belgrave Heights and as recruits we avoided saluting, so the tree in the centre of the courtyard was named 'Major Woodbark' and as such each time we passed we had

to salute. My time with Signals was really enjoyable, even though I was doing 100 days per year as well as my normal job. (I had/have a very understanding husband). All the 126 camps were in the bush and tactical. Digging long drops and setting up tents and radio aerials, not to mention the driving of trucks and Land Rovers were part of the day-to-day activities. Morse code, teleprinters and voice radios were our tools of trade. We even used an old plug and cord switchboard at one of our camps. Whilst at 126 Signals, the powers that be in Canberra decided that women were to be weapons trained. This was something I never excelled at, weapons were the 9mm pistol, 7.62mm SLR, M16 and we even got to throw a few hand grenades. Luckily no one had to rely on me to save them! Also, whilst at 126 Sigs, the women were allowed to do roping and rappelling. Firstly, off towers then out of helicopters, there were five or six WRAAC doing this and we all just loved it.

I met Grant (husband number one - still is), at a driving course at 7 Company Transport, Coburg. There had been one previous course with WRAAC (Maggie More, Denise Hodder, Cheryl Howes, etc.) Driving Land Rovers and trucks was a handy skill to have. With my marriage to Grant in 1977 we moved to Berri in South Australia, I stayed in the Reserve for a couple of years with 10 RSAR. We then moved to Ballarat where we started our family, and this is where I discharged. Grant worked in radio for 17 years, all around the country then, many years later, moved into the Regular Army, where we moved around the country again. Three children later and 16 houses we have settled into Kiama (south coast of NSW). No complaints, life has been good.



- May 70 - Jan 74* *WRAAC HQ, Kew, Recruit, then instructor.*
- Jan 74 - Apr 75* *3 Signals Regiment, Albert Park (instructor)*
- Apr 75 - Nov 75* *108 Signals Squadron, Batman Ave (instructor)*
- Nov 75 - Mar 79* *126 Signals Squadron, Watsonia (student and instructor)*
- Mar 79 - Dec 80* *10/27 RSAR Berri South Australia (instructor)*

My time in the Reserve with 3 WRAAC Coy has been a wonderful part of my life. As a member of the WRAAC Association (Vic) and now its President, I look forward to catching up with old friends and new friends. As I live in New

South Wales, I will not be able to attend all of the activities but will do my best to get to most. Our very experienced committee and our Patron Iris Petrass will be there for me, as they have always been for our members.



Vale



Havala Laua

It is with great sadness we report the passing of the last known Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel, Havala Laua at the age of 91. Mr Laua passed away on Christmas Eve 2017 in his home village of Kagi, situated along the Kokoda Track. Mr Laua last visited our shores in 2016 as Australia commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda campaign.

Australia is indebted to the courageous Papuans who risked their lives to evacuate our sick and wounded and helped to deliver much needed supplies to our soldiers.

Rest in Peace

Havala Laua



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

REYNELLA WALKING TRAIL

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

As many of our members participate in the exhilarating activity of walking this will appeal to you. We were sent these amazing images of our much-loved Land Army Girls as depicted on concrete structures situated in the Reynella area. There are many images reflecting the Services to view along this landscaped walking trail thus providing interesting views during the walk.



Reynella has a many walking trails and we suggest you check them out next time you visit South Australia.

Our thanks to Carol King and Catherine Van Amstel

WRAAC LUNCHEON 2018

OUR WRAAC LUNCHEON VENUE HAS CHANGED.



We are now going to The Brighton Savoy Hotel.

150 The Esplanade, Brighton 3186.



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC. 42ND ANNIVERSARY REUNION LUNCHEON

Members are invited to a luncheon at The Brighton Savoy Hotel

150 Esplanade, Brighton.
On Saturday 21st July 2018
At 11.30am for 12.30pm

Unfortunately, we have had to increase the cost to \$57.00 which includes a 2-course luncheon, canapes, drinks including beer, wine and soft drinks.

Followed by tea, coffee and chocolates.
Pre-lunch drinks will be served from 12.00pm

Dress: *Neat Casual*

There is off-street undercover parking at venue on premises, with a lift to the function room.

The date is 21st July 2018

(BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 22nd JUNE 2018)

Booking forms will be sent out soon.



The Hunt for HMAS AEI

Lost at sea on the 14th September 1914

Found near the Duke of York Islands 2017.

The hunt was on for the Australian Submarine AEI and the final resting place of the 35 men on board.

The submarine was found in December 2017 and is significant as it was Australia's first submarine and tragically the RAN's first major loss.

HMAS AEI sister submarine was HMAS AE2 achieved fame for its operations in the Dardanelles before sustaining irreparable damage on the 25th April 2015 whilst under heavy enemy fire.

The Captain and crew of HMAS AE2 were taken prisoner by the Turks on the 30th April 1915 and spent the remainder of the war as POW.

It was recorded four members of the crew died in captivity with the remainder released following the Armistice in 1918.



HMAS AEI E Type Submarine

Complement	Total 35, comprised of three officers and 32 sailors
Captain	Lieutenant Commander Thomas Besant, R.N.
Builder	Vickers, Barrow-in-Furness, England
Launched	22 May, 1913
Displacement	• 726 tonnes (submerged) • 599 tonnes (surfaced)
Length	• 55 metres
Propulsion	• 2 eight-cylinder diesel engines • Battery-driven electric motors
Speed	• 10 knots (submerged) • 15 knots (surfaced)
Armament	• Four 18-inch torpedo tubes
Range	• 6000km

Fate Lost at sea 14 September, 1914



The Federal Government's position stated position is that the wreck will be treated as a war grave.

You May Have Missed This

Joy Lofthouse

WORLD WAR 2 PILOT



The recent passing of British WW2 Spitfire Pilot Joy Lofthouse at the age of 94 was one of the many female Pilots known as Attagirls (Air Transport Auxiliary)

The ATA was a civilian organisation set up during the second world war to ferry new or damaged Military aircraft between factories and airfields.

The women who joined the ATA became accomplished pilots who transported Spitfires, Hurricane fighters and the huge Lancaster Bomber. It is said Joy, from South Cerney, Gloucestershire, actually learned to fly before she could drive a car.

The ATA, formed in 1940 when despite the usual opposition,

women were "allowed" to fly Military trainer and communications aircraft.

It appears, Joy answered an advertisement in an Aeroplane magazine that said the ATA had run out of qualified pilots and were about to commence training.

Joy was accepted and began training in Oxfordshire where she learnt to fly all types of single seater aircraft.

With just nine (9) days of technical training and about ten (10) hours of flying you were sent off solo.

It seems the technical aspect of the training wasn't so technical after all. Joy recalls "with no navigational

input just map reading on your first solo flight all you could focus on was finding the Airfield again'.

In 2015 Joy returned to the skies taking control of a Spitfire 70 years after last flying in one.

VALE Joy Lofthouse.

The Auxiliary suffered 156 casualties mostly attributed to severe weather, but Joy Lofthouse said when you are young "you don't think about danger'.

Many of the Pilots were British however there were also several from Canada, USA, Australia and Poland.



ATA MOTTO

Aetheris Avidi - 'Eager for the air'

Unofficial: *Anything to anywhere*



FROM THE VAULT

Signals Training Circa 19??

When?.....

Where?.....



- 1) Sgt. Carol (Hamilton) King
- 2)
- 3) Linda (Binding) Hewitt
- 4)

If anyone knows the names of the unknown trainees, please pass this information to the editor.

Female Fighter Pilots Smash Gender Barrier

The Australian Tuesday, December 19th, 2017

Rory Callina - Defence Writer



The female fighter pilots flank four of their male colleagues as graduates of the RAAF's grueling fast-jets course

If there was any hint of a glass ceiling in the Royal Australian Air Force, two women just flew straight through it.

On Friday, Defence Minister Marise Payne congratulated the first female aviators to graduate from the RAAF's grueling course to fly the force's jet fighters.

Female Fighter Pilots Smash Gender Barrier

- continued -

"Years of dedication and hard work have brought these pilots to this point in their careers - and I wish to take this opportunity to thank them for providing such a fine example of the career opportunities and aspirations that can be realised in today's air force," Senator Payne said.

Women have been eligible to enter the fast-jets program since the 1980s, but until last week none had passed the course. Defence declined to release the pilots' names for security reasons.

The milestone potentially puts female pilots into the cockpits of nearly every aircraft within the air force's fleet, ranging from the giant C-17 Globemaster to the Ch-47 Chinook helicopters. It is an achievement that has created some controversy, with critics raising concern that standards had been dropped for women to enter the program. Such concerns were ill informed, said one of Australia's first female RAAF pilots,

Robyn Clay-Williams, who was ecstatic at the development.

"It's a massive achievement, a big barrier to break, and they would have had all eyes on them," said Dr. Clay-Williams, who graduated as an RAAF pilot in 1988 and went on to become a test pilot for Australia's fleet of C-130 Super Hercules aircraft. "There's been all sorts of people saying there's a lower standard that they have passed and it's not true and it's not helpful," she said.

A Defence spokesman said all participants in the fast-jets course, male and female, completed the same course requirements.

"Any assertion otherwise is incorrect. The requirements are stringent and have not been altered to facilitate the entry or graduation of females," he said.

The spokesman said the pilots might be eligible to fly Australia's new F-35A fighters when the planes came into service.

Dr. Clay-Williams, who is now a medical researcher, said claims being circulated that women could not handle G-force were incorrect. "If you have a shorter sitting height you actually handle G-force better, so theoretically the taller and thinner you are the worse it is. It's less of a gender thing than a body shape," she said.

Probably the most confronting issue now facing the women pilots would be the attention they faced, Dr. Clay-Williams said. "I think they will be OK if they let them get on with their job," she said. "I think they have passed this course and they have got what it takes."

The number of female pilots in the RAAF remains low with only 36 females among the force's 800 pilots. Overseas, however, women have been employed in key combat roles flying fast jets or other challenging aviation combat roles for many years, especially during the so-called war on terror.

The Late Joy Lofthouse would have enjoyed this article. Ed.

"Saucepans into Spitfires"

'Women of Britain, give us your aluminium. We want it and we want it now ... We will turn your pots and pans into Spitfires and Hurricanes, Blenheims and Wellingtons ...' (Lord Beaverbrook, July 1940)

Woman to friend as they watch Spitfires overhead: 'I suppose after the war they'll melt them down and make saucepans and things.' (Punch, 1941)



From; Keep smiling through. The Home Front 1939-1945 Susan Briggs. Hope you find this article historically interesting as we think about the mighty Spitfires!

Remembrance Day 2017

AUSTIN HEALTH

'THE REPAT'

As the large crowd gathered in the Acacia room to remember those lost in conflict and to reflect on the past, my thoughts drifted to another time and place. This year, due to inclement weather the service was held indoors, not in the Remembrance garden as in past years.

Following the service, the rain stopped briefly to allow us to move to the Remembrance garden to place our floral tributes at our respective plaques.

I looked across briefly at the empty row of seats that are part of the walkway that links us to the Chapel and felt the sadness of a bygone time where, so many wonderful men and women sat and watched the proceedings.

The smiles, the hugs and the genuine sense of friendship shared



WRAAC Plaque



AWAS Plaque



Reserve Forces Plaque

so graciously as we walked pass to collect our tributes with the promise to catch up later in the Acacia Room for that welcome cuppa.

The effervescent MC, Robert Winther constantly trying to regain order as we made our way through the assembled mass of human hugs and smiles.

Politicians, Business leaders it didn't matter you all had to run the gauntlet.

That day, I missed the sharing of stories that made our future appear so safe and predictable.

The empty seats said it all, time moves on but the memories of the special moments in time never leave, they become beautiful memories.

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar



The Empty Seats



Sir John Monash Mosaic Designed By Susan Deprost



ANZAC Day Commemoration March

25TH APRIL 2018



This year we have been informed that our step off position will be in Swanston Street East next to Federation Square at 9:00am



We have enclosed the protocol as directed by the ANZAC Commemorative Committee regarding the march.



The medical identification card is to be carried by all participating in the ANZAC Day 2018 March

ANZAC Day 2018

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

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 1 km) 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.

Women Veterans Network Australia Inc

*Connecting past and present Women of Defence with
resources, support & information.*



‘BY THE LEFT’ - INITIATIVE ENCOURAGING FEMALE VETERAN PARTICIPATION

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of an upcoming initiative for female Veterans, and to seek your support in promulgating information about the 2018 event amongst your relevant network and/or your members.

In 2016, the inaugural Female Veterans and Families Forum (FVFF) was hosted by DVA. If you would like further information about the FVFF, a copy of the report is available on the DVA webpage. One of the major issues raised during the forum was recognition of female Veterans. There are

many female Veterans who no longer wear their medals or march on ANZAC Day, as they feel that they are constantly being asked to prove their Service. Of those who attended the FVFF, the majority indicated that at some point they had either been questioned about whose medals they were wearing or were asked to move their medals to the right hand-side.

This issue may come as a surprise to you, but it is one that is felt very deeply within the female Veteran community. They described their experiences as disheartening and

undermining the value of their Service. This feedback prompted Minister Tehan to call on all Australians to recognise the Service and sacrifice of female Veterans. Further information is available in a Ministerial Media Release of 06 December 2016 - Supporting female veterans and families.

In 2017, growing the respect for female Veterans in the Australian community was one of four major topics discussed during the FVFF. Minister Tehan again committed to supporting the recognition of female Veterans as stated in his Ministerial-Media Release of 10 October 2017 - Forum focused on issues confronting female veterans.

It must be emphasised that female Veterans do not want to be viewed differently; they want to be viewed the same - as Veterans. But to achieve this, they must first be seen. Feedback from the male Veteran community indicates that they too want both male and females to be viewed simply as

one under the Veteran banner.

The first initiative is a campaign called ‘By the Left’ which is aimed at encouraging female Veterans to march as a group on ANZAC Day 2018. The title is a play on words which highlights the significance of Veterans wearing their medal(s) on the left side, while incorporating a military marching word of command. In 2018, regardless of Service, Corps, Association, full-time or part-time Service or deployment location, female Veterans will be invited to march as one group in major centres on ANZAC Day 2018. Female Veterans may also choose to march, as they have previously, with the group they deem appropriate on ANZAC Day, and they will be encouraged to do so. While ‘By the Left’ is a Women Veterans Network Australia initiative (WVNA), this activity will not be conducted under the WVNA banner. All groups will be invited to parade their banners, or to elect not to march under any banners.

'By The Left' - Initiative

- continued -

Female Veterans acknowledge the very important role that ESOs and Associations have within the Veteran community, but the presence of female Veterans is often diluted amongst the number of groups who march on ANZAC Day. We are mindful that some may view this activity as female Veterans requesting greater recognition than male Veterans. For this reason, we are requesting your assistance in preventing possible division amongst male and female Veterans by accurately informing your members of 'By the Left's purpose.

Specifically, we call on your support to help inform female Veterans of 'By the Left'. Your assistance in sharing information via your social media resources, newsletters, meetings and notice boards would be greatly appreciated. Information will be forwarded to you in February/ March 2018 with relevant details for the event nearest to your location.

As stated previously, your assistance in helping our female Veterans to feel part of the Veteran community, and to be respected by the Australian community is important. We hope that 'By the Left' will encourage much larger numbers of female Veterans to march this ANZAC Day, and for them to seek further involvement by becoming a member of and/or seeking further involvement in the ESO community.

Thank you for your assistance, and please do not hesitate to contact 'By the Left', coordinator Kellie Dadds on mobile 0488 224 211, or WVNA President Nicky Rothwell on mobile 0418 782 092 should you require additional information.

Kellie Dadds

WVNA Project Officer

E: R3Event@wvna.org.au

W: www.wvna.org



RESERVE FORCES DAY

SUNDAY 1ST JULY

Shrine of Remembrance – Melbourne

PARADE/COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Commences at 10:00AM

Rifle Green Berets

Our association has some Rifle Green Berets which were sent to us from Directorate of Logistics - Army in 2014.

The Rifle Green Beret was issued to RAR soldiers in 1964 - 1997 and is not the same colour or design as the WRAAC Beret. We have been able to handover some of the berets to RAR Association members, but we still have some small size berets in hand.

The sizes are:

X SML 52 - 53 cm

SML 54 - 55 cm

The berets are non-returnable as they are surplus stock and we are eager to pass these berets on to interested persons. As they are small sizes they would be ideal for children to wear at Remembrance Services or even school productions.

The berets are *free of charge*, but cost of postage will be required. If interested, please contact:

Heather Fry.

Ph: 03 9795 8472

Mobile: 0417 979 826

Email: hfry44@bigpond.com

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

15th April 2018



At Bunnings Box Hill

Middleborough Road, Box Hill

From 08:00 to 16:30

Anyone available to assist at any time during the day please contact Heather Fry

Telephone: 03 9795 8472

Email: hfry44@bigpond.com

We do have a good day.
Please come along and join us.

