



Australian Women's
Army Service 1941-1947



Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps 1951-1984

AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL

MAR 19

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 Maclaime
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



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

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

PROUDLY DESIGNED & PRINTED IN AUSTRALIA



Table of Contents

04	From the Editor	13	The Jericho Cup	37	SWAC-AWAS	48	Places to Visit
05	Your Eulogy	15	Bill the Bastard		Encouragement Award	50	ANZAC Day
06	July 2019	21	Join Us, Enlist Now!		2018		Commemoration March
	Journal Deadline	22	Help Bill Make it to the	37	Reserve Forces Day	53	Condolences
			Finish Line		Ceremony		Wangaratta RSL
07	Calendar of Events		A tribute to Drivers	39	Armistice Mosaics,	55	
08	From the President	24	WRAAC Cmf/Ares		Austin Health		
09	Associations	31	Drivers 8/3Wraac Co	41	From the Vault		
	Contacts and		Drivers Ballad	42	Southern Command		
	Addresses	32	Corporal Helen		Tattoo		
10	WRAAC Membership	34	Haskell/Wilson	43	The Tattoo Timetable		
11	Application for			45	Women Play Their Part		
	Membership						



From the Editor

Dear members,

Welcome to our first Journal for 2019 and trust you all had a very merry Christmas and a happy and stress-free beginning to the New Year.

We also know that for many of our members and their families this has not been the case and our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Thank you once again for your interest and valued feedback regarding articles you particularly enjoyed in past editions.

We would like to acknowledge our AWAS members and their families who take time to contact us and keep us up to date with news and articles, it is greatly appreciated.

In this edition we reflect on the past and share the thoughts and aspirations of the 1950s post war WRAAC who set the standard that our Corps was based upon.

These were the values that every member should be so very proud of. We then join our WRAAC and AWAS Drivers for an insight into their Service life.

Enjoy your Journal.

Yours in friendship,

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM

Your Eulogy

A subject so difficult for many of us to think about, so very bluntly, how would you like your service life to be remembered?

Over the years the Association has been asked by members and family to deliver the eulogy of a former member of the WRAAC which we do willingly with respect and dignity, this will never change.

We therefore respectfully ask if this is your wish could you take the

time to document your service life and then place it with your will for safe keeping.

Each and every one of you have a wonderful history filled life and a story to tell.

Please think about this as your family may take comfort from your WRAAC story as much as your fellow Servicewomen.

July 2019 Journal Deadline

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

FRIDAY 10TH MAY 2019

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

Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

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

E-mail:
johntreloar1@bigpond.com

— 2019 — Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT
APRIL 2019	
Thursday 25th	ANZAC Day We suggest you check with local papers to validate our Step off time.
MAY 2019	
Sunday 5th	AWAS/WRAAC Shrine Service Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne at 10am.
JULY 2019	
Sunday 7th	Reserve Forces Day Ceremony Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne at 10am.
Saturday 20th	WRAAC 68TH Anniversary Luncheon at Brighton Savoy Hotel
AUGUST 2019	
Thursday 1st	Vietnam Veterans Day Observance 2019 At Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital at 10.30am
NOVEMBER 2019	
Friday 8th	Austin Health Armistice Commemoration Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital At 10.45am

From the WRAAC President



Dear Members,

Welcome to our first journal for 2019. On behalf of the Committee we wish you a Happy New Year and trust you all had a lovely Festive Season and looking forward to a busy 2019.

On behalf of the committee we thank you for your ongoing support and value your participation and input.

Please read the calendar of events so you don't miss out on anything.

This year like all others is looking very busy for our committee and hope you can join in with us when you can. Looking forward to ANZAC Day to catch up with a lot of ladies and have a cuppa after the march, also our AWAS / WRAAC Shrine Service on the 5th May, and our Luncheon on the 20th July, just some very special dates to remember.

Our committee once again have already been to Bunnings this year for our Sausage Sizzle with a wonderful result thank you and well-done ladies, I believe a lot of laughter and fun was had.

To all our members who are not feeling the best, you are in our thoughts and prayers, if you need to say hi, any of our committee are here for you to have a chat to. Please don't hesitate to call.

To the committee, I thank you for all your help without you it would make my job a lot harder.

As I live interstate I will try to attend as many activities as is possible, the ones I can't make, I will be with you in my thoughts.

Yours in friendship

Carol (Hamilton) King

Associations Contacts and Addresses

AWAS/WRAAC Journal Editor

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

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

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

Patron

CAPT Iris Petrass

Honorary Chaplain

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

President

Carol (Hamilton) King
Telephone: 02 4233 0956

Treasurer/History Co-ordinator

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

Secretary

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

Vice President

Liz (Stone) Maclaine
Telephone: 03 9397 1043

Membership Officer

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

Social/Events Sub-Committee

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

Fundraiser Co-ordinator / Journal

Margaret (Robinson) Jager
Telephone: 03 9743 8267
Email: jager_id@bigpond.com

Sub-Committee

Heather Hyatt
Gai Cooke
Robyn Gibson

WRAAC Membership

We would like **YOU** to contact any ladies whom you may know who were in the Army (ARA, CMF/ARes) regarding joining the Association.

Please contact our Membership Officer,
Diane Sherry on **0408 553 412** or email **dishe1946@yahoo.com.au**
and she will post out the appropriate form.

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

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:

The Jericho Cup

On Sunday 2nd December 2018 the Warrnambool Racing Club proudly played host to the inaugural Jericho Cup, honouring the Australian Lighthorsemen and their trusty mounts, the Walers so revered by Australians in the Middle East during World War 1. The Racing Club welcomed Returned Veterans together with families and friends on the day which featured Historical displays, free children's activities plus loads of country hospitality.

The Jericho Cup will be held annually from the 100th anniversary in 2018 and is a wonderful tribute to the Lighthorseman and their mates, the magnificent Waler (1914-1918) a fitting tribute to all Australian horses lost at war.

Continued



BACKGROUND TO THE JERICHO CUP

The Jericho Cup was first held towards the end of the First World War, part of a ruse to confuse the Turks.

The Australian Light Horse were planning a major offensive against the Turkish Empire and to an observer gathering intel on the Australians everything appeared normal as who would hold a horse race on the eve of a Battle!

The main race held in September 1918 was named "The Jericho Cup" run over 3 miles (4.8 km) through desert sands and won by Bill the Bastard, a magnificent War Horse. The jockey, an Aboriginal Light Horseman, Jackie Mullgha rode Bill bareback.

As Bill the Bastard was by nature a cantankerous soul, bets were taken to see how long Jackie Mullgha could stay on board.

However, he won the race by half a length from Khartoum and rewarded his Jockey by tossing him

off his back amid 10,000 cheering light Horsemen.

All this was observed in full view of the Turkish outpost just across the River Jordan and indeed Chauvel's ruse had worked as the enemy believed the attack would come from the East not the West and the Australians rode into history with the last great mounted Infantry charge at Beersheba.

To read more on the History of Jericho Cup and the ruse we suggest *Bill the Bastard* by Roland Perry and *Victory-Beersheba 100th Anniversary* by Jill Curry

Genevieve Liebich has kindly given us her permission to publish her speech given on ANZAC DAY 2015 at the Molong ANZAC Day service.

Our sincere thanks to Michelle Kennett from *Bill the Bastard.org* for her gracious help.

How can you help Bill to make it to the finish line?

BILL THE BASTARD

AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST WARHORSE



Genevieve Liebich, a veterinary surgeon who works in Molong and Orange is a former Australian Army Officer. She was honoured to give the speech at the Molong Anzac Day Service 2016 and acknowledges two books from which she derived much of the content; *Bill the Bastard*, by Roland Perry, and *Vets at War*, by Ian Parsonson.

Genevieve discusses the role of animal heroes and veterinarian surgeons in war, particularly referring to Bill the Bastard and The Australian Light Horse while serving in Gallipoli and the Middle East during World War I.

We have, with permission, printed an abbreviated version of Genevieve's speech at the Molong Anzac Day Service 2016:

"I tell the story of those who had no voice but played such a vital role in Australia's war efforts including the men and women who were charged with their care," said Genevieve.

"When Great Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914, the Australian Government offered 20,000 troops for immediate service anywhere under British direction and the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was raised.

The AIF depended at all times on voluntary enlistments and included a large number of veterinarians already serving in the Australian Army Veterinary Corps (AAVC).

The acquisition of horses was relatively easy. Background or breeding didn't matter, the horses just had to be disease-free and strong. The hardy Waler - the horse named for its state of origin was the main equine export for WWI. They usually stood between 14 and 16 hands and weighed on average 500kg. They were sired by English thoroughbreds from breeding mares that were often part draft horse but could include genetic input from Welsh ponies, Timor ponies and the brumby.

The first contingent of the AIF left Albany, WA, on 1 November 1914 and consisted of approximately 20,000 men, including 19 veterinary officers and nearly 8000 horses carried in 38 transport ships escorted by four Navy cruisers.

I share the story of one particular Waler, affectionately named Bill the Bastard.

Bill was a fractious, fierce and some

thought unbreakable chestnut, Waler, stallion who became a Great War legend for his incredible stamina and effort in saving many soldiers' lives. He was one of over 130,000 Australian horses that served in the First World War, who were never to return home.

Bill's story starts in Sydney's Liverpool Army Camp horse corral where a young Ben Towers from Cootamundra, was volunteering to serve in the Australian Light Horse. Towers stated his age as 17

Everyone around the corral knew that Bill was used as a test for the horsemanship skills of underage recruits. Anyone who could stay on Bill for any length of time was considered a good rider and recruiting staff often turned a blind eye to their age.

Towers was the first rider ever to stay on Bill for over two minutes before being ceremoniously bucked off. He also scored the second highest score on his rifle test making him very attractive to recruiting. An assistant to the recruiting officer asked, "You gunna sign him up?"

The officer held his gaze and said: "I'd sign him up even if he couldn't

hit a barn door at 10 paces. Anyone who can handle Bill like that deserves a chance." He advised Towers to go for a walk around the block and come back a year older. Three years later they learnt that Towers, whose real name was Ben Burke, was only 14 years old the day he enlisted.

Bill was much bigger than the average Waler. His eyes were cool and yet at the same time alert and nothing seemed to ruffle him. Instead he ruffled others, especially potential riders. There was something in his independent nature that would not allow him to be dominated. Bill had never been fully broken-in, like many of the horses sent to war. The army were relying heavily on hundreds of Australian trainers who would be transported to its remount depots to prepare the horses for battle readiness. Hence, Bill was shipped off to war.

The horses were loaded onto the transport ships in three decks. The upper deck was open to the air and on occasions, the sea. The middle deck was well lit and ventilated. The lower decks were dark, airless and poorly ventilated. The contingent was expected to be on board the ships for about 5-6

weeks. The health of the horses was very good considering the circumstances, with the loss at sea being only 3 per cent, much less than the 15-20 per cent expected.

Bill caused trouble even before the convoy set sail. He refused to go down to a stall on the lowest deck. He was then eased up to the top deck but was unable to be coaxed or forced into a stall. At this point the ship's adjutant was starting to get frustrated and Bill was almost left behind. Finally, Bill was then led down to the middle deck where it was well lit and nicely ventilated. Happy with his current position Bill walked straight into the stall, giving no further trouble at all.

Bill's minder on the long journey by sea was writer, poet and journalist Banjo Paterson.

Paterson's true passion was horses. He could ride almost before he could walk. He secured a tenuous role as an honorary veterinarian on the troop ship with Bill amongst those under his care.

Everyone knew the temperamental Bastard's reputation and Paterson was cautious with him, yet they

found an unusual connection and a mutual respect developed. Unbeknown to Bill and Paterson, Lieutenant Michael Shanahan was also on board the ship. Bill's later relationship with Shanahan gave the horse the chance to become the hero he was meant to be.

The first stop for the convoy was Egypt under the command of Harry Chauvel.

In February 1915 horses being broken out for the troopers. Many attempted to be matched with Bill but time and time again they ended up bucked off and bruised.

In mid-April 1915, Chauvel informed his men that they would be sent as back-up infantry for close combat trench warfare at Gallipoli. A small group of packhorses and mules would be sent for mail run and packhorse duties. Bill's bulk strength and endurance and the fact that no-one could ride him meant he would be allotted to duties as a Gallipoli pack horse.

Bill worked tirelessly carrying loads up and wounded or fallen soldiers down the steep and twisting tracks. The Anzac field ambulance men and animals showed as much courage

as any of the combatants as they moved up the valley retrieving the fallen. Everyone noticed Bill in particular, along with a gritty, yet always cheery Englishman John Simpson and his small donkey, Bill would be the one who would carry the limp body of John Simpson back down the valley the day Simpson's luck ran out as he was hit by a spray of shrapnel.

Each day a rider carrying urgent despatches would make the seven-kilometre run from Suvla Bay, north of Anzac Cove, to British campaign headquarters. The mail delivery had to be done at a gallop as the rider was fired at by Turkish snipers from the moment, he left the shelter of Suvla Bay. Light Horsemen competed to get the job and hundreds would place bets on whether the rider, his horse and the treasured mail would make it safely to the other end.

During October, Captain Anthony Bickworth, an exceptional English cavalryman, was ordered to mount the most difficult horse in an attempt to get a despatch through.

The bet was usually that either the mail would get through or it would

not. Once word got out that Bill was involved, the bet quickly changed to whether the mail would arrive with or without the rider. The result was Captain Bickworth lying unconscious on the ground after two kilometres and Bill completing the gallop safely and delivering the mail rider less but with a bullet lodged in his flank.

During Bill's stay in the veterinary sick bay Bill received treatment for his wounds and Shanahan claimed a bond with Bill through sweet talk, daily walks and liquorice treats. This friendship continued well after the Gallipoli campaign ended and Bill was returned to the remount depot in Egypt.

On his return to Sydney, Paterson applied for remount service and was made a captain, accepting Chauvel's earlier offer to command the remount depot in Egypt.

Paterson's directive was breaking, training and preparing tens of thousands of horses for one of the most vital roles of the war in the Middle East. He soon had 800 riders and trainers under his command along with 45 vets and assistants. During this time Shanahan continued to visit Bill at the remount depot

working to win his trust through soft talking and liquorice treats.

Shanahan became the first person to ride Bill without being bucked off.

The Battle of Romani.

Paterson agreed and from then on Bill was matched with Shanahan. Bill soon gained the reputation for being fearless, standing his ground in an ambush and warning his rider of danger ahead, using his keen instinct and sense of smell.

Late on the night 3/4th Shanahan and Bill rescued four Tasmanian troopers, who faced certain death, returned them to safety and earned Shanahan the Distinguished Service Order. Bill had monumental stamina and powered on for six hours that night. One general went through 17 horses in the same time that Bill stayed with Shanahan.

Later in the battle of Romani, Shanahan was shot in the leg but kept fighting until he passed out. Bill, sensing that his rider was unconscious on his back, carried Shanahan three kilometres to the vet, who then passed him on to a medic where his leg was eventually amputated. Shanahan was now

out of the war and Bill continued to serve as a packhorse, including an impressive effort at the Battle of Beersheba where he carried machine guns. The end of the desert conflict triggered considerable disharmony when the Anzac force learned the official word was that most of the horses were to be sold wherever the British Government wished.

Officers, including Paterson, turned a blind eye as many troopers took their mounts into the desert and shot them to stop them from being sold into Middle Eastern markets where they potentially would lead a life of abuse.

Bill, on the other hand, had the best possible ending. He was smuggled back to Gallipoli as part of the group of packhorses used on an artefact-gathering trip. There he was left, together with his best mate, a grey mare called Penny, with some villagers who remembered seeing him during battle. It was made clear to the village elder that Bill was only to be used as a packhorse and stud, never to be ridden.

Shanahan's association with Bill the Bastard caused him to become a permanent part of the Anzac legend. Shanahan

died at the age of 92 in 1964.

340 kilometres south-west of Sydney, nestled in the undulating hills of Harden-Murrumburrah, Bill the Bastard is being immortalised. This life size model depicting the epic feat of Bill the Bastard and Major Michael Shannahan saving four Tasmanian troopers during the Battle of Romani, can be viewed by the public in the artist's studio, cnr. Bathurst St and Burley Griffin Way, Harden-Murrumburrah.

Join Us, Enlist Now!

FORWARD!



Free Ambassador subscription

By enlisting with the 'Bronze Bill the Bastard' project, you help to ensure that future generations learn and appreciate the tale of this remarkable war legend, 'Bill the Bastard' and the Australian Light Horse.

How do Ambassadors help?

Ambassadors help by receiving regular e-mail updates. We ask that you share these stories and news items with friends and contacts via e-mail, Facebook, letter or conversation to engage all Australians in our project and to help raise funds to bronze this nationally significant Light Horse Memorial.

Help Bill Make It To The Finish Line!

AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST WARHORSE
RECREATED BY PASSIONATE
SCULPTOR - CARL VALERIUS



A life-size model sculpture of the Australia's Greatest Warhorse, Bill the Bastard, resides in Murrumburrah, NSW, the home of the 1st Australian Horse. A dedicated team is committed to having the model bronzed. Once the bronzing is complete, the statue of Bill and his five riders will be unveiled in Murrumburrah NSW to commemorate the end of WWI.



DONE

Create a life-sized model of Bill the Bastard, Australia's Greatest Warhorse, Michael Shanahan and four Tassie Troopers.

DOING

Spread the story of Bill the Bastard to commemorate the significant role played by the Australian Light Horse in WW1.

NEXT

Engage all Australians to help raise funds needed to transform the model of Bill the Bastard into a bronzed sculpture.

FINISH

Bronze and place the sculpture of Bill the Bastard within the Light Horse Precinct Memorial, Murrumburrah NSW.

A TRIBUTE TO DRIVERS

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE DON-R'S IN THE AWAS

THE WRAAC ASSOCIATION VICTORIA sincerely thanks the inspirational members of the NSW AWAS for entrusting us with their stories especially Joan Weir their former Editor. As promised, we will keep telling the AWAS history and its considerable role in Australia at War.

Don R's were despatch riders.

This article was first published in the June 2009 edition of Khaki NF 463305 Marie (Perry) Hall

The Don R's were a small group of the Australian Women's Army Service who were known as the 13/15 Don r, 24 L of C Signals in early 1944.

We were stationed in Brisbane and caused a sensation because we were taking over from the male Don R's who had previously carried out their assignments on motor bikes.

For the women the Army provided left hand drive Jeeps that had previously not been seen in service

in Australia. When the Jeeps arrived, we made news and were recorded on camera, lined up and marching alongside the new vehicles.

Before arriving in Brisbane, we had done some preliminary Rookies training at Ingleburn Rookies school. We experienced training in how to wear the uniform with pride, marching, exercises and all manner of subjects to make us good Army personnel.

The next move was to Victoria to the Bonegilla camp. We did an abridged signals course and



then we were sent to Cowra by train for the Driver training.

The training was done on trucks with crash gear boxes. We learnt how to maintain the vehicles completely. We could change tyres, grease, clean the engine, check oil, water and petrol. The course and exam were over in 6 weeks. On completion we received the coveted license, and this was issued on the 5th November 1943. We were then authorised to drive cars, Ambulance

and trucks 15cwt and over

In addition, we did specialized training on the Jeeps being licensed for those on the 16th February 1944.

Our work was interesting, we travelled wherever Army personnel were stationed including General Blamey and General MacArthur's Headquarters which were in Brisbane.

The St Lucia University was a destination as it was Head Quarters for our Intelligence personnel. We



Don R Drivers with Marie pictured right first row third one back

were on duty and in action around the clock. Our duty when not driving was in maintaining our vehicles.

Eventually our Jeeps were replaced with utilities. As well as enjoying our work we appreciated the privilege of helping our country in such an essential and satisfying service. We were a small and close-knit group and friendships have lasted into this year 2008. Many of us have remained in touch over the years and all feel grateful for the

privilege of being a Don R in the Australian Women's Army Service.

There are so many personal stories of the challenges and adventures of the Don R's and they are for another telling.

WRAAC CMF/ARES DRIVERS 8/3WRAAC CO

Okay, I admit it!

At one point in Service to
Country I did foster the hope
of becoming a Driver.

It wasn't the smell of the petrol fumes
or the greasy blue work overalls or
learning how to navigate treacherous
river crossings and however
tempting it appeared to be able to
change a tyre blindfolded (Joking)

It was the Drivers Uniform!

I loved that uniform with all its
Regimental glory and the pride
a Driver displayed in wearing
Highland green flared pants with a
razor-sharp crease and signature
bomber jacket. Even our revered
beret looked jaunty on a driver.

Therefore, in my search I found this
wonderful poem about a WRAAC
Driver in a 1958 edition of Sassenach
unfortunately the Author is unknown.

DRIVER'S BALLAD

I went to camp one Saturday –
A January morning mild.;
They put me in a Holden Ute
And said, "It's all yours, child".

I viewed the Ute, with loathing;
It had a dreadful whine –
Perhaps the diff. or gearbox –
The fault just wasn't mine.

They told me "In the morning
The One-tonner takes its place"
It had only done one thousand
So, a pleased smile
wreathed my face.

They said, "We'll call you 'Smiley'"
(That won't be always right)
They said, "Go catch that convoy,
It's almost out of sight".

Just GOT to catch that convoy!
With speed limits to observe
And traffic lights against me,
I thought they'd got a nerve.

Then Sergeant Casanova
Approached me on his bike;
"What's the matter, got the
brake on?"
He asked, sarcastic-like.

"Down the middle", he called gaily,
And down he swiftly sped,
But a big truck got between us
And I stayed behind instead.

At last we reached Mt. Martha –
The Don Rs in a flap –
Proclaiming it the slowest trip
with much derisive yap.

With 'Slow and sure" my motto,
Casanova can be blowed.
I'd rather get there safely
Than be scraped up off the road.

My days were filled with driving down
by the sea and sand:
With sun and wind and open road
The life was simply grand.

Collecting all the rations
I had a lot of fun,
Bringing meat, milk, bread and eggs
Out on the ration run.

They sent me down for POL
At good old OCS
Crawling ten slow miles ph
Speed made for me, I guess.

I had to give my engine
A kero clean and swob,
But the lads who came to watch me
So kindly DID the job!

One day I struck an ambush
Along our own camp track:
Don Rs had stacked their firewood
To see me move it back.

The Lieutenant rode beside me;
We descended in a pet;
The Don R ears were blistered;
I think they're scarlet yet.

The days went by like lightning
Without an hour's lag;
And swim parades and barbecues
Offset the paper fag.

Too soon the last parading
Saw us marching up the hill,
Then back to Kew fast driving
To raid the Pay Corps till.

Then straight back to the drill hall
Away in Albert Park,
And quickly get a move on
Or hear the Sergeant bark.

The boys were back at the depot,
Waiting for me and the truck;
The afternoon traffic was hectic,
And in it I truly got stuck,

So "Late again, late again, late again"
The wheels of the truck seemed
to sing;
"Who's driving?" bellowed the Sgt
"YOU! THAT EXPLAINS
EVERYTHING! "

F 31787

CORPORAL HELEN HASKELL/WILSON



In response to the Newsletter request, may I pass on some memories of the great times I was fortunate to experience during my CMF service.

I still have great memories of my initial 3 WRAAC Coy Recruit Camp in early 1962 at Puckapunyal, held in conjunction with members from WRAAC coy from Tasmania.

Despite the hot summer sun, the blisters and the Aussies flies it was a great introduction to Army life. How thankful we were for the Army issue Fawn felt hats! The organizational lectures, the parade-ground drill sessions, the duty private requirements, learning to present and conduct ourselves in a military acceptable manner were both daunting and self-satisfying learning experiences.



Whilst I enjoyed many visits to Puckapunyal both as annual camp and weekend driving bivouacs, the most memorable Army experience I enjoyed during my service in the CMF, which ran between 1961-1969, was the 102 Coy. RAASC Transport camp in Jamieson Vic, sometime in May 1963 or 64 perhaps.

There was a Regular/CMF Military operation being conducted in the area with a command post somewhere near at Woods Point, and our Transport Unit headed by then Lt. Gwen Walker, provided transport as required. The RAANC CMF Unit, their training Depot at that time in William

St. Melbourne, also attended the 14-day camp, held under Canvas in Jamieson, experiencing appalling weather conditions for the entire duration of the Camp.

The continuous heavy rain turned the driving tracks to a thick smelly mud calling on the Transport girls to use all their expertise to move the International & Ford 2 Ton trucks around the compound. One particular evening the rain was so heavy members had to be moved from their Tents to drier ground. Again, despite the adverse weather conditions, the morale and camaraderie that was displayed by all members was instrumental



in allowing the Camp to continue and be a training success.

There were so many great weekends away; one comes to mind when a convoy of Army vehicles traversed a steep winding track through private land Somewhere at Snake Gully via Ballarat. The gradient on the land was so steep that the order was given co-drivers in the Trucks had to hold the floor gear stick in low gear while the driver navigated the vehicle safely down the hill.

It was a great training exercise, but one not without some anxious moments for both Lt. Walker and the Transport girls.

Monegeetta was another great weekend away, and on one occasion some of the Transport girls were very fortunate to be given a ride in a helicopter over the Goulburn Weir by a Survey Unit that was also camped at Monegeetta.

In re-visiting some of my experiences, I will be forever appreciative and grateful to have been a part of 3 WRAAC Coy.

SWAC AWAS ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD 2018

David Vernon.
Hope Tree

Hope tree represents the hope for David's future life and that of his family.

"Where there is life there is hope, where there is hope there is life."



AWAS Encouragement Award: David Vernon - hope tree

RESERVE FORCES DAY CEREMONY *Sunday 7th July 2019*

Reserve Forces Day Ceremony will be conducted at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne on Sunday 7th July at 1000 hrs.

The format of Reserve Forces Day has changed from previous years. Form Up Point will be east of the flag poles at the Shrine and marchers will then form up in one block on the Shrine Forecourt.

There is no marching onto the forecourt as there was previously. A Commemorative Service will then be conducted.

The Wreath Laying Ceremony will consist of one wreath only on behalf of the Reserve Forces.

At the conclusion refreshments will be available by the Salvation Anny for a gold coin donation.

2019 RESERVE FORCES DAY CEREMONY



SUNDAY 7TH JULY 2019



10:00 hrs

To honour and recognise those who have served as members of the Reserve Forces in Australia

Program

- 0930 hours** Report to assembly area at the Flag Poles on the forecourt
Briefing of Association Presidents
- 0945 hours** Banners /Standards to the grassed area beside Eternal Flame
- 0955 hours** Muster of all members onto the forecourt
4-5 ranks in one formation
- 1000 hours** Flypast of Vintage Planes from Pt Cook RAAF Museum
- 1000 hours** Ceremony to commence with:
Welcome, Guest Speaker, Wreath Laying, Ode, National Anthem
- 1030 hours** Ceremony concludes
- Dress:** For Males Beret, jacket with medals, trousers or suit, black shoes
For Females a similar or suitable attire is expected
- Seating:** on the grassed area North Side Eternal Flame
- Photographers:** in attendance
- Light Refreshments:** Refreshments at conclusion – Gold Coin Donation
- Wet Weather Plan** – Ceremony moved to Shrine Sanctuary
- Further Details:** Contact Brian Neal 0409 197 913 or
Danny Hill 03 5945 1034 attendance replies appreciated



ARMISTICE MOSAICS, AUSTIN HEALTH REMEMBRANCE GARDEN, HEIDELBERG REPATRIATION HOSPITAL

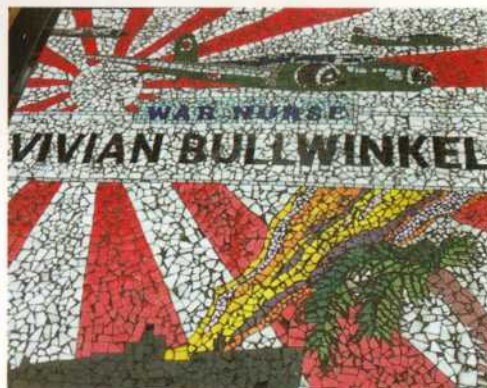
On 13th November Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital unveiled the Armistice mosaics in the Remembrance Garden, with several of our members in attendance.

We suggest a visit to the Repat to view this amazing tribute and to enjoy the beautiful garden with our WRAAC and AWAS Plaques sitting side by side.

Following your visit enjoy a cuppa at the friendly Café nearby.

Photos of some of these mosaics are below;





FROM THE VAULT

FROM SASSENACH CIRCA; 1950 - 1960

I am indeed glad to write a short "foreword" to "Sassenach" as it gives me an opportunity to tell members of 8 WRAAC Coy about the most fitting and memorable Ceremony held in Sydney on 6 Nov 59 to commemorate the Service to the Corps and Australia of our first Director Col Kathleen Best.

The Gates which we all gave in her memory are quite beautiful, already they seem an important part of WRAAC School, Georges Heights - the ceremony of unveiling them was performed by H.E. the Governor of New South Wales Lt Gen Sir Eric Woodward KCMG, CB, CBE, DSO who in such sincere words told us all of Col Best's service from her nursing to her soldiering. Later our Director hopes that you will have a copy of this speech which should be heard by each of us and taken to our hearts and minds.

Every one at WRAAC School performed her allotted task with care and competence; the Guard of Honour was perfectly mounted; the two most junior WRAAC in E Comd - 1 ARA and 1 CMF opened the gates as though they had practised together many times whereas in fact they and the Guard had rehearsed only that morning; while the Staff prepared afternoon tea in three Messes for about 270 people - altogether it was a splendid team effort and I considered myself very privileged to be living in the Unit and so able to see for myself how every one was determined to make the occasion worthy of the woman in whose honour it was held.

Soon you will be holding your Christmas party for elderly folk and I am sure you will make it as happy a day as it was last year.

My best wishes to you all for Christmas and much happiness in 1960.

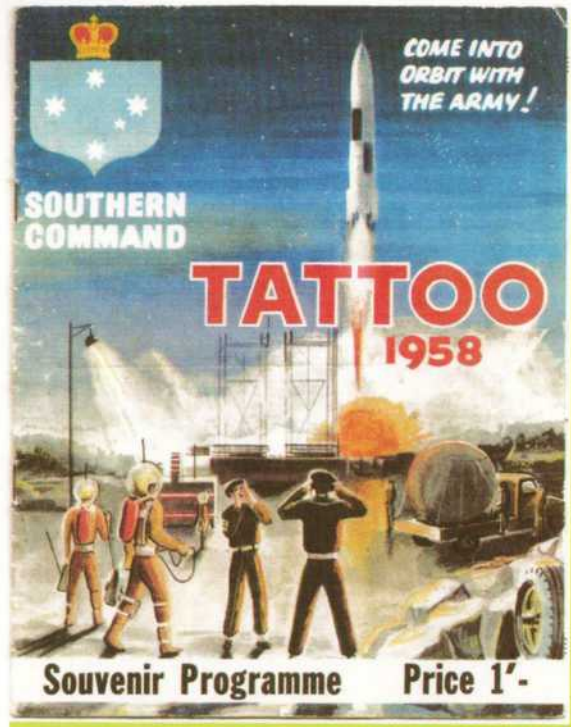
Sybil H. Wainwright
Hon: Col.



WRAAC School Gates, Georges Heights referred to in letter above

Southern Command Tattoo

9th 10th & 11th October 1958



In 1958 Southern Command presented a Military Tattoo at the Royal Agricultural Society

of Victoria Show Grounds with RAANC and WRAAC members taking part in the event. The Association has limited knowledge of the occasion and would appreciate your input as it's a significant part of our history.

We have a copy of the Programme and limited reference in "Sassenach" as to the outcome of WRAAC involvement.

If you have information regarding the Tattoo, please contact the Editor.

The Tattoo Timetable

1. **8 p.m.**
OPENING FANFARE and FIREWORKS DISPLAY
in the real thing - unhampered by peacetime nightwear.

2. **8.10 p.m.**
PIPES and DRUMS: MASSED ARA BANDS
Martial music and precision marching. First the Pipes and Drums of The Victorian Scottish Regiment and the Victoria Police. Then three Regular Army bands massed under the baton of the Army's senior Bandmaster (Warrant Officer 11 H. J. Silk). These bands of Headquarters Northern Command, Headquarters Southern Command, and the Corps of Royal Australian Engineers last appeared here together at the Olympic Games, 1956.

3. **8.28 p.m.**
INTO ACTION
Gunnery of the Royal Australian Artillery, 3rd Division, are disturbed at rest, and race to bring their 25-pounder field guns into action. They would be faster

4. **8.41 p.m.**
APPRENTICES' GYM AND GYVE
Army Apprentices work hard and play hard. They can gyve with the best, hut they are fit in mind and body to work with the best, too!

5. **8.50 p.m.**
"D DAY"
A Commando raid and then the amphibious landing. The green berets of 2nd Commando Company (Citizen Military Forces) show how to climb a sheer cliff, and how to come down again. Men of 4th Infantry Brigade (The Victorian Scottish, Royal Melbourne, and City of Essendon Regiments) storm ashore from landing craft to seize a beachhead from the enemy and secure it for following troops.

6. **9.16 p.m.**
GIRLS ON PARADE
Some light on the women soldiers

of today - girls of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps show their paces.

7. **9.24 p.m.**

TUNNEL OF FIRE

Trick and fancy riding by members of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. No matter what the hazards, the Despatch Rider must get his message through. He must be able to do almost anything on his motor-cycle.

8. **9.36 p.m.**

POLICE PUSH BALL

Troopers of the Victoria Mounted Police show what their mounts can do in fun. If you are no bigger than that ball, just remember if you feel like out shoving Circle, Prob, and Digger, or Bandy, Jimmy and Patch next time you are in that big crowd in Town!

9. **9.42 p.m.**

SCIENCE AND SATELLITES

Like others we keep pretty hush-hush about our progress in space

missiles. But we are now going to put an Australian Army satellite into orbit in space, with a real live Australian volunteer on board - AND BRING HIM BACK HERE TONIGHT FOR YOU TO MEET AND HEAR WHAT HE THINKS OF IT!

10. **9.56 p.m.**

CEREMONIAL

No Army show would be complete without Ceremonial. Its precise movement and exact performance catch the eye. But good drill is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end. It is a sign that the soldiers are keen, alert, and working together as a team; essential qualities for success in battle. From the drill of these men of 1st Armoured Regiment on parade tonight you can form a good idea of how well they would fight their 50-ton Centurion tanks on the battlefield.

11. **10.08 p.m.**

GRAND FINALE

The thousand performers in this Tattoo, with their equipment and vehicles, gather together to bid you goodnight.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

WOMEN PLAY THEIR PART



Women soldiers take their place alongside men in many posts in our Army. In some of these occupations, such as nursing for example, they are often better than men.

Except for fighting tasks and those requiring strong physical effort, women serve in practically every skilled occupation in the Army. As in civil life, women soldiers' pay and margins for rank are a proportion of

the male rate. But their margins for skill are the same as the men's, on the basis of equal pay for equal work.

The two Corps in which our women soldiers serve are the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps. Once a girl has completed her recruit training she serves in a unit alongside men and in the place of a male soldier.

*Serving
Australia
in the*

WRAAC
WOMEN'S ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY CORPS



In this way women release many fit men for service in those units which would be involved in any fighting.

Army life for a woman is as full of variety as for a man. The young woman who enlists is certain to see a good deal of Australia. Members of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps are at present serving in Malaya. Like men, a number of women officers also go overseas for special training.

Today there are vacancies for 500 young women recruits for employment in all trades and skills. The Army naturally likes to get recruits that already have some skill in particular occupations, but it will train girls who have none from scratch to fill a trade posting. A girl's own wishes will be considered in doing this, but the trade or skill for which an unskilled recruit is trained must obviously depend upon her personal aptitude for it.

8 Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Company



Citizen Military Forces

INVITES YOU TO . . .

COME on . . . **Sunday, 10th April, 1960**

between 2 - 5 p.m.
to the DRILL HALL

cr. High Street and Highbury
Grove, KEW

SEE . .

The Mayor of Kew, Cr. H. G. Ferguson, J.P., open a Display of Exhibits showing various training activities of the Company:
GIRLS — operating latest communication equipment in a Signal Centre

GIRLS — working on Motor Vehicles

GIRLS — modelling Uniforms
Photographic Display and Coloured Slides of other activities

HEAR

A BAND RECITAL
by the
**SOUTHERN COMMAND
ARMY BAND**

AFTERNOON TEA WILL BE PROVIDED

ENLISTMENT enquiries welcomed from girls 18 - 30 years, to train in their spare time.

PHONE WM 7217 — Mondays - Fridays

or
CALL any Wednesday night at the Drill Hall for further particulars.

PLACES TO VISIT

To take the Grandchildren & other members of the family

Light Horse and Field Artillery Museum

Remembering All Animals in War
200 Bessie Creek Road
Nar Nar Goon Victoria
www.lighthorsemuseum.com.au

Facilities:

Open 7 days a week 9am-5pm BBQ area

Car and bus parking

Disabled access and toilets Military models, coins & souvenirs

Melways Map: page 319; D2

Jack Chalker Art Exhibition

Jack Chalker's work is on display at the War Memorial Canberra.

Artist in Captivity

The stark reality of the brutality of war and the cruelty inflicted on fellow humans is depicted so graphically in the artwork created by the late Jack Chalker whilst in captivity on the Thailand-Burma "Death Railway" during World War 11.

The purity of his artwork is so graphic that a photograph could not possibly capture.

As a family member of a loved one lost during this horrendous time, I found Jack's work confronting and yet comforted by the knowledge that our boys have not been forgotten. Jack Chalker's work is undeniably a candid reflection of the brutality inflicted on Prisoners of War by the Japanese.

About Jack Chalker.

Jack Chalker was born in London on 10 October 1918 and with the outbreak of war enlisted into the Royal Field Artillery and was posted in February 1942 to Singapore, where he was captured by the Japanese. He spent time in Changi Prison and two labour camps before being sent to work on the Burma-Siam Railway.

Jack was a promising artist and had to postpone his studies until the war ended.

He passed away on 16 November 2014, aged 96



ANZAC Day Commemoration March

25TH APRIL 2019



*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 2019 March*

ANZAC Day 2019

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.



CONDOLENCES



F31824 Pte. AM (Samson) Roberts



It is with great sadness we report the passing Margaret (Samson) Roberts in December 2018.

Margaret joined the WRAAC CMF (8WRAAC CO) on the 25th June 1958 Kew until Discharged in August 1961.

The WRAAC Association Victoria was always great comfort to Margaret as she really enjoyed keeping up with

the news via our Journal and phone calls. Margaret was also a contributor to the purchase of our WRAAC flag held at the Shrine of Remembrance.

As per Margaret's wishes Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM was asked to deliver the Eulogy reflecting Margaret's service life.

Jude was joined by Margaret (Robinson) Jager and members of the Ballarat RSL. Our sincere condolences to Margaret's family and friends at this very sad time.

Vale Margaret.

In the 1960 edition of SASSENACH there is reference to Margaret's achievements at the Royal Melbourne Show with her Finches winning major places at the event.

Margaret really loved her beautiful birds.



CONDOLENCES



*VF593139 Elizabeth Sparrow Wilson
Anti-Aircraft*

We have been advised by her daughter that Elizabeth Wilson passed away on 18th November 2018.

Elizabeth enlisted when she turned 18 in 1942 and was called up 6 months later. She was stationed at Yallourn and later Jandacott in WA.

*VF388132 Mavis Jackson AWAS
LHQ Heavy Wireless GP*

*NF479607 Pat Rook AWAS
3RD Salvage*

*VF345331 Nancy Young AWAS
Vic Loc Records*

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

WANGARATTA RSL

Celebrating 100 years and new beginnings ...

2019 will be a very special and exciting year for the Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch and the Wangaratta RSL Women's Auxiliary. After years of planning and overcoming numerous challenges, the Sub-Branch will be relocating to a "new home"; having outgrown our present building.

Our new home is in a wonderful location, opposite the beautiful King George Gardens and overlooking the Ovens River; at the site of a Wangaratta icon, the Sydney Hotel, in Templeton Street. The remodeling and additions to the old Hotel not only gives us much-needed space now, but more importantly, increases potential for future membership growth; enhancement

of facilities for RSL members and families; increased opportunities for community participation; fund-raising; Welfare activities and a greater public profile - all of which are essential for us to continue to be a relevant, viable, vibrant and evolving organisation; benefitting all Veterans, Ex-Service and Service personnel, as well as strengthening ties with our local community.

Building works continue this year and our official Opening Date is planned for 4th May 2019 - although we hope to be operational some weeks beforehand, in time for ANZAC Day. At this time, we will be holding a major exhibition of 18 History Boards - researched and written by several

members of the Women's Auxiliary; all enthusiastic, amateur researchers. These Boards will showcase stories of the RSL; Wangaratta during the Wars; Military History and other "hidden gems"; full of poignancy, tragedy and humour. Hopefully these stories will be of great interest to all the community, especially younger members. So much of Australia's (particularly women's) proud history of service may be unknown, or maybe not fully appreciated; we hope to achieve greater recognition of this service, with our stories.

To coincide with the official opening, there will also be a Grand Ball, to be held at the new RSL. The Ball will provide several surprises for attendees and acknowledge the link with our Sub-Branch's history.

Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch and Wangaratta RSL Women's Auxiliary cordially invite all Readers and their families to please drop in to our new home, anytime you are in North East Victoria this year. Tour our History Boards which will be on

display during April and May, maybe enjoy a meal, take in the beautiful surrounds and explore our constantly changing exhibits of memorabilia - the Digital Catalogue of which exceeds 600 items; with Wangaratta RSL awarded the "Victorian Collections Award for Excellence for war heritage organisations", by the Victorian Museum, in 2017.

More information on the Wangaratta RSL, including our future home, may be found at: www.wangarattarsl.org.au

We look forward to welcoming you.

Narelle Power, President,
Women's Auxiliary.