



# WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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## NEWSLETTER

March 2009 – No 1/2009

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## *My Country*

By  
Dorothea Mackellar  
(1885 – 1968)

The love of field and coppice,  
Of green and shaded lanes.  
Of ordered woods and gardens  
Is running in your veins,  
Strong love of grey-blue distance  
Brown streams and soft dim skies  
I know but cannot share it,  
My love is otherwise.

I love a sunburnt country,  
A land of sweeping plains,  
Of ragged mountain ranges,  
Of droughts and flooding rains.  
I love her far horizons,  
I love her jewel-sea.  
Her beauty and her terror –  
The wide brown land for me!

A stark white ring-barked forest  
All tragic to the moon,  
The sapphire-misted mountains,  
The hot gold hush of noon.  
Green tangle of the bushes,  
Where lithe lianas coil.  
And orchids deck the tree-tops  
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!  
Her pitiless blue sky.  
When sick at heart, around us,  
We see the cattle die-  
But then the grey clouds gather,  
And we can bless again  
The drumming of an army,  
The steady, soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!  
Land of the Rainbow Gold,  
For flood and fire and famine,  
She pays us back threefold-  
Over the thirsty paddocks,  
Watch, after many days,  
The filmy veil of greenness  
That thickens as we gaze.

An opal-hearted country,  
A wilful, lavish land-  
All you who have not loved her,  
You will not understand-  
Though earth holds many splendours,  
Wherever I may die,  
I know to what brown country  
My homing thoughts will fly.

Dorothea Mackellar



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

## BUSHFIRE and FLOODS

Our thoughts and prayers are with our members, their families and friends as they battle to overcome the sadness and grief caused by the devastating Victorian bushfires.

Our heartfelt gratitude is extended to the volunteers who protected life and property during that fateful time in our State's History. So many of our members are the unsung heroes of a job well done.

The committee was able to contact members residing in the bush fire areas to let them know we were thinking of them and with them in spirit.

We also think of our members who reside in Queensland and Northern New South Wales who have been subjected to floods and tumultuous conditions.

We are so proud of our Emergency Services, Volunteers and Army personnel who answered the call to fight and defend fellow citizens, and our thoughts were with their families waiting at home hoping their loved ones would return home safely.

Our sincere thanks to our sister WRAAC Associations for their thoughts and prayers during this sad time, we appreciate their concern and support.

My Country by Dorothea Mackellar expresses the love and respect we have for our great Nation, no matter where we are we can humbly say her beauty and terror the wide brown land for me.

Yours in friendship

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar



A photo of Elizabeth (Rouse) Salmon and husband Michael's Rosewhite property after Black Saturday, clearly defines how close the fire came to destroying their property.



Grace Walker defended her home with a garden chair, garden hose and the help of her husband Tom, neighbour and three young strangers.

## Kindness of strangers

By Monique Ehrington

THREE young strangers helped Tom and Grace Walker save their Chum Creek home from the Black Saturday fires.

The Walkers, both in their eighties, were defending their property with garden hoses as neighbour Graham Smith put out spot fires.

Mr Walker said his wife fringed off most of the fire in the comfort of a garden chair, as she had a sore back.

They were defending their property when three young men appeared at the house, prepared to help with shovels and a rake.

Mrs Walker said when she first saw them she thought they were the CFA but the plain clothed men had apparently heard about the fire while at a Lilydale pub, and

came up to help.

"These little faces appeared at the window. They grabbed hoses and buckets and started putting out spot fires," Mrs Walker said.

Mr Walker said it never occurred to them to think the men were anything other than what they said they were.

"They looked like normal boys, probably 18 or 19-years-old. They said, 'We've come to help,'" Mr Walker said.

The Walkers said they think they could have saved their home even if the men hadn't arrived but were grateful for helping at their own risk, with one of the men nearly being hit by a falling tree.

"I think we could have still saved the house, but the kids were doing things that Tom and I couldn't have done," Mrs Walker said.

"When they left they gave me a big hug. We were very sorry we didn't get their names, they were marvelous Aussie boosters."

Mr Walker said they were also appreciative of neighbour Graham Smith who was going back and forth between their property and his to put out spot fires.

"Graham is just a really good neighbour," Mr Walker said.

Mr Smith said he felt compelled to help his neighbours who were in trouble alone.

"They would have given it a good shot but they would have been in trouble," Mr Smith said.

"I looked up and I saw how close off they'd been to the fire and I had to go help old Tom and Grace. They're my next-door neighbours and I worry about them."

From The Mountainview Mail dated Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009. CAPT Grace (Douglas) Walker displaying the courage and determination that helped battle the terrifying bushfires in the Healesville/Chum Creek area. CAPT G. Walker served with both ARA and CMF. (Thanks to CAPT Gwenda Walker for article)

## ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

### ANZAC DAY Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009

The Assembly area and march off point for Women's Services is Flinders Street West (near Federation Square) at 9.10am. It would be a good idea to arrive ten minutes earlier to catch up with everyone and enjoy the atmosphere of this special day. If you have never marched before please join your fellow WRAAC Association members and make this a day to remember our Corps and the great Women who made it so. We line up behind the AWAS and the Land Army girls form up behind us, we will be marching 8 abreast as per last year.

Dress: Blazer, beret, scarf and medals, if you do not have a blazer wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

If you are wearing a relatives medals remember to wear them on the right breast, left breast is for the original owner.

Note: Always check newspapers the day before in case a change of plan has been ordered.

**AWAS/WRAAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE**  
**11am Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

A commemorative service will be held within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 11.00am.

It will be a celebration of the close bond we share with the women who served our nation during WW2 and indeed the forerunner to the WRAAC.

Following the Service a late morning tea will be served, a great opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow ex servicewomen.

For catering purposes please contact

Cheryle Brown Telephone 03 5678 5486 or Email: [rayhyd@bigpond.com](mailto:rayhyd@bigpond.com) or

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar Telephone 03 9874 7915 or Email: [johtreloar1@bigpond.com](mailto:johtreloar1@bigpond.com) by the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

**AWAS LUNCHEON/AGM**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

The venue: Legacy House. 293 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

Time: 12 noon for 1230 hrs lunch

**Full booking details will be in our next Newsletter.**

**EX-WRANS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LUNCHEON**  
**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009**

EX-WRANS Association (Vic) Inc wish to extend an invitation to members of the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc to their Annual Luncheon, to be held at Legacy House, 293 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009

Cost: \$25:00 per head

Time: 12 Noon

Please make cheque or money order payable to EX-WRANS ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

Please advise if there are any necessary dietary requirements.

RSVP: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Mrs Pauline Hiron

30 Ruby Street

EAST BURWOOD VIC 3151

**WRAAC 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**  
**2011**

A sub-committee has been formed to co-ordinate the celebrations for this special year.

The committee is currently discussing with the Shrine of Remembrance an exhibition of WRAAC History to be held in conjunction with Corps day celebrations. We need you to clear out your cupboards and check for any WRAAC uniforms, stories, photos or history you may have. More information will be available at a later date.

Other states will be holding celebrations for 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WRAAC.

Check: [www.wraacmemories.com](http://www.wraacmemories.com) for more information.

**58<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND FINAL CORPS DAY**  
**CELEBRATIONS WRAAC ASSOCIATION SOUTH**  
**AUSTRALIA**  
**14<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

It was with mixed emotions our group boarded the aircraft to South Australia to attend the final Corps Day Luncheon of the South Australian WRAAC Association, this being the Association's 58<sup>th</sup> year and final Corps Day Celebrations.

We were a small group of Victorians looking slightly shell shocked as we left our home state with the Bushfire horror weighing heavily in our thoughts.

Our WRAAC contingent of mates joining together in the spirit of goodwill helped to keep us together.

On our arrival at the Adelaide Airport we were greeted by Carol (Hamilton) King, a former member of 3 WRAAC Coy a long time friend to many of you and a great girl. After lots of hugs and catch up talk we were escorted to the **Sofitel Carol** nestled in the charming suburb of Aberfoyle Park.

Adelaide is a joy to travel around with an efficient transport system, if only Melbourne could say this.

The Luncheon was held at the Adelaide Pavilion in the very brown and dry Veale Gardens, South Terrace. The lack of rain is a reality in South Australia.

As we entered the Pavilion the warmth of the greeting extended to us by South Australian WRAAC ensured we felt at home in the company of fellow ex-servicewomen.

We were welcomed by the Association President Major Jan Allen and then asked to stand as the SA WRAAC Banner was marched proudly into the room to the rousing strains of Soldiers of the Queen, a few tears were shed at that very moment.

The meal and service was excellent and the buzz of chatter seemed to fill the room with a sense of fun and laughter, so very WRAAC.

We caught up with Margaret Bull enjoying the company of friends she had served with and having a really good time.

Our group of girls enjoying the day were Brenda Walters, Margaret Jager, Cheryle Brown, Carol King and Jude Pinkerton -Treloar. We did not let you down as fun was the order of the day.

Our sincere thanks to the organizing committee and the wonderful women of the SA Association.

**WE SALUTE YOU.**



Back: Carol King, Diana Fitzgerald, Brenda Walters Middle: Margaret Bull, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar Front: Margaret Jager and Cheryle Brown

**EX-WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP LUNCHEON**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

The February Luncheon for the WRAAC Social Group was held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009, at the Orrong Hotel in Armadale with 24 attending and 21 apologies. A great time was had by all with lots of baby photos shown around.

A few members were in Adelaide for the last birthday luncheon for the WRAAC Association SA.

Our thanks to Liz MacLaine for this report.

## AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

### VALE

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Army Reservist CPL Roz Clifton serving with 108 Sig Sqn. CPL Clifton was killed after the car she was travelling in ran off the road whilst attempting to divert from the thick smoke of fires burning near Kilmore.

### THINKING OF YOU

Our thoughts are with Margaret Dark and Family on the recent loss of her dear Mother

### ON THE MEND

Elizabeth (Rouse) Salmon is doing well after a recent hip operation. Members have been keeping us up to date on her progress.

Our Chaplain Bill reports to be feeling better after his recent bout of illness. The girls send warm wishes to Lesley and look forward to catching up with you both in May.

To all our members who are not feeling well at this time our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you wish to have a chat please contact a committee member (telephone numbers on front cover) or our Chaplain Rev. William (Bill) Pugh – Editor

### BABY NEWS

Congratulations Denise (Mitchell) Hodder and Peter on the arrival of a Grandson. A proud Aunt Maggie advises he is beautiful.

The Blanksby Family have welcomed a baby girl into their ranks. Asa Blanksby (pictured below) was born on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009.



Sue (Reed) Hopwood welcomed identical twin granddaughters to her family.

### WEDDING NEWS

Congratulation to Emma Jager on her marriage to Cameron on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009. Emma is the daughter of Margaret (Robinson) Jager and husband Ian.

## TRAVEL NEWS

Sue (Browne) Logan and husband Malcolm are presently enjoying a cruise to Thailand with friends.

Heather (Rankin) Fry and Hugh about to embark on a trip around Australia.

Carol (Hamilton) King and husband Grant had an interesting time in Dubai, they enjoyed the Old City with its gold and spices and four wheel driving in the Sand Dunes.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Nola Williams                      Annette Curtis  
June Balzer                         Diana Fitzgerald

## 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 9478 1073 or email at [dishe1946@yahoo.com.au](mailto:dishe1946@yahoo.com.au) and she will post out the appropriate form.

Could you let Diane Sherry know if you have an Email address and if you are able to access the Newsletter on the website? Her contact details are listed above.

## OAM RECIPIENT WO1 IAN WARD RET'D

Ian Douglas WARD, Burwood, Victoria, awarded an OAM in the 2009 Australia Day Honours for Service to Veterans through the coordination and organization of commemoration and remembrance programs, and to the community.

A much loved and respected friend of many who served with him.

## A SAD FAREWELL TO NAVAL AND MILITARY CLUB MELBOURNE

We were saddened to learn that the Nations most famous Military Club which boasted members such as General Sir John Monash and Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey has collapsed with a massive financial debt, due in part to a failed property deal and declining membership.

To its credit the Club opened its doors to females and those of non-military background in the 1990s but could not replenish its ageing membership base.

In 1881 the Naval and Military Club was established as the Pipeclay Club by a small group of officers of the Military Forces of the Colony of Victoria.

The club had a wonderful tradition and became the hub of Melbourne's Social, Community and Ceremonial life.

The demise of this Club is not unique as so many older established clubs are struggling to attract younger members coupled with the current financial crisis taking its toll.

We all have our own special memories of the Naval and Military Club, crisp white table cloths and serviettes, sparkling

glasses and silverware, the excellent service and a sense of a proud History.

Rest in Peace the Spirit of a bygone era, one of charm and dignity, we will miss you.



### VC MEDAL ON DISPLAY

Well done to Trooper Mark Donaldson on allowing the Nations War Memorial to display his Victoria Cross to the public. The medal will be displayed for an unspecified time, in the Afghanistan section of the 1945 Conflicts to Today gallery from March 2009.

The SAS soldier who became the first Australian to be awarded a VC in 40 years is pictured with his medal.



### FOR YOU INFORMATION AND INTEREST

#### *The 'RSL Salute*

In London on Armistice Day 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall, a funeral procession accompanying the remains of The Unknown Soldier, which had arrived from France that day, was to halt at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment.

The official party included the Empire's senior soldiers, sailors and politicians and as many Victoria Cross winners as could be assembled. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guards Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including the Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that **"No matter what honours we may have been awarded they**

**are as nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice."**

The RSL maintains that tradition to honour the dead by placing the right hand over medals (not your heart).

This is an excerpt from the Newsletter of the City of Essendon Regiment.

## SHRINE NEWS

### THE GREAT GAME EXHIBITION Victorian stories of sport and war Eastern Visitor Centre

13<sup>th</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009

This exhibition has been developed from the collections of Victoria's sporting clubs. It explores the integral part played by sport for Australians in wartime from the Boer War to the present. The team spirit, the role played by sport in preserving morale, promoting fitness and collaboration spilled over from peace into wartime. Images and memorabilia demonstrate the role of sport on the home front, the front line, the service and sacrifices of Australian sports people and the continuing role of sport in commemoration today.

### RETURN TO GALLIPOLI EXHIBITION Western Visitor Centre

27<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Professor Bruce Scates wrote *Return to Gallipoli* about the pilgrimages made by Australians to Gallipoli from the end of the First World War to the present. Based on his research this exhibition traces the pilgrimages to Gallipoli since 1919 when war correspondent and official historian CEW Bean travelled to Gallipoli. Early pilgrims followed during the 1920s and 30s and writers and artists during the 1940s and 50s until the first of recent modern pilgrimages when Ken Inglis accompanied a group of veterans in 1965 to Gallipoli. The exhibition traces this history up to the present surge of interest among pilgrims of all ages to visit this important place in Australia's history.

### SKETCHES OF ANZAC DAY EXHIBITION Visitor Centre

By Mary Hammond

10<sup>th</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009

These delightful sketches of the ANZAC Day march and its observers have been created by the artist since 1985, With sympathy and humour they show the humanity of veterans and their supporters alike. Some twenty sketches and the artist's sketchbooks are displayed to offer her personal response to this enduring ritual of remembrance and celebration.

### HISTORY OF THE SHRINE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION March to July 2009

This exhibition is touring regional Victorian centres until 2011. For a complete listing please visit [www.shrine.org.au/exhibitions](http://www.shrine.org.au/exhibitions).

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Horsham	March-April
Horsham RSL	
Numurkah	May
Numurkah Library	
Colac	June-July
Performing Arts & Cultural Centre	

## SHRINE LEARNING PROGRAMS

The Shrine of Remembrance has an inspiring range of learning programs for students of all ages. All of the programs are provided free of charge and schools may be eligible for travel assistance kindly provided through Metlink. Bookings essential.

Enquiries: [education@shrine.org.au](mailto:education@shrine.org.au) or Telephone (03) 9661 8113.

#### **Storytelling for Children**

First Sunday of the month, 2pm. These sessions are the ideal way to introduce young children to the Shrine for the first time. A discovery tour follows each storytelling session.

Bookings Essential: [programs@shrine.org.au](mailto:programs@shrine.org.au) or Telephone (03) 9661 8100

Shrine Web Site:

For all information about Shrine programs visit the website at [www.shrine.org.au](http://www.shrine.org.au).

Telephone (03) 9654 8415

### FOR THE DIARY APRIL – AUGUST 2009

25 <sup>th</sup> April 2009 Saturday	ANZAC Day	
2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2009 Saturday	EX-WRANS Annual Luncheon	Legacy House 293 Swanston Street Melbourne
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2009 Sunday	AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service	Shrine of Remembrance
25 <sup>th</sup> July 2009 Saturday	WRAAC Annual Luncheon	International of Brighton
12 <sup>th</sup> August 2009 Wednesday	AWAS Annual Luncheon / AGM	Legacy House 293 Swanston Street Melbourne

**ATTACHMENT: 1. Veteran Community Story Writing & Art Competition (SWAC) 2009**



Patron: Maj Gen David J. McLachlan AO

## Veteran Community Story Writing & Art Competition (SWAC) 2009

**Opening Date:** 1 April 2009

**Closing Date:** 31 July 2009

Entries are now invited for the 2009 Victorian Veteran Community **Story Writing & Art Competition (SWAC)**.

This competition is open to eligible members of the **ex-service community**, including veterans, widows and children of the above 18 years & over who reside in Victoria.

Entries may be:

- Story Writing & Poetry
- Art
- Craft
- Photography

Novice through to experienced levels welcome.

Special 2009 Writing category of the various roles undertaken by women during wartime, which is entitled: **“Women and War”**.  
Maximum 1,500 words.

For entry forms call the SWAC Co-ordinator on 1300 132 515  
or Country Residents 1800 555 254

- or e-mail;  
Swac@dva.gov.au
- or write to; GPO Box 87A  
Melbourne VIC 3001
- or download from  
DVA internet;  
[www.dva.gov.au/vic/services/swac/form.htm](http://www.dva.gov.au/vic/services/swac/form.htm)

