



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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NEWSLETTER

March 2010 – No 1/2010

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2010 and on behalf of your committee we wish you and yours a belated but sincere happy and healthy 2010.

This year will be a busy time for the Association as we gather our thoughts and reflect on a time in 1950 (60 years in 2011) when Cabinet gave its approval for women to enlist into the Australian Regular Army and the brief but exciting history of the WRAAC begins to take shape. I would have enjoyed sitting in on the debate regarding the decision to allow women to enlist once again into the Services as the 1950s was certainly not a paid up member of equal opportunity inc.

We now know the initial decision to establish the Women's Australian Army Corps was to overcome a manpower shortage due to both the Korean War and National Service. The advertisements used to attract female recruits, defines her duties to include training in Signals, Driving, Cooking and Administration. The young attractive women look keen and appeared ready to embrace the challenges ahead. In June 1951 approval for the prefix Royal was granted by His Majesty King George VI in recognition of the AWAS wartime service, it is noted many ex-AWAS joined the WRAAC on its inception.

The history gathering never stops so if you have anything we can use for the Exhibition to be held at the Shrine of Remembrance February 2011 please contact a Committee member.

Yours in friendship

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar

The President and Committee wish
all a Happy and Safe Easter 2010



ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

ANZAC DAY Sunday 25th April 2010

We look forward to having you join us this ANZAC Day as we march along Swanston Street proudly behind our WRAAC Banner to the Shrine of Remembrance and then meet up for a welcome cuppa at the end of the march.

We form up behind the AWAS and in front of the Women's Land Army Girls to enjoy lots of hugs and good cheer. This year we will step off at 0900 hrs so plan to arrive at least 15 minutes earlier to catch up with friends. Form up area is Flinders Street West - South Side. Remember to check the paper the day before for any changes. If you do not have a blazer/jacket wear whatever is comfortable and remember to include shoes in the comfortable category. You are entitled to march so what's holding you back? Medals to be worn on left side and if you are wearing another person's they are worn on the right side.

To all attending ANZAC Day Ceremonies around Australia have a wonderful day with your mates.

AWAS/WRAAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE 11am Sunday 16th May 2010

A commemorative service will be held within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 16th May 2010 at 11.00am.

It will be a celebration of the close bond we share with the women who served our nation during WWII 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 or
Jude Pinkerton-Treloar Telephone 03 9874 7915 or Email:
johntreloar1@bigpond.com by the 10th May 2010

WRAAC 60TH 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 60th Anniversary of WRAAC.

Check: www.wraacmemories.com for more information.

WRAAC MEMORIAL ROLL

The WRAAC Association (NSW) sub committee 2011 plans to prepare a Memorial Roll to honour members of the WRAAC who have passed away. The list will include WRAAC ARA, CMF and Army Reserve containing service names with married names in brackets. Could you please send names of any WRAAC who has passed away to Cheryle Brown WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. Post Office Box 307, San Remo Vic. 3925. Or Email: rayhyd@bigpond.com.

DARWIN

It could be said for many years we have listened to and observed with a great deal of interest as Norma (Ned Kelly) Burns AWAS and WRAAC Association member talked about her many visits to Darwin to commemorate the Bombing of Darwin.

Norma served with the AWAS in Darwin during the war and is currently a committee member of the Darwin Defenders 1942-45 Inc.

If however, you were born post WWII the Bombing of Darwin was never really taught as part of our Military History and only if one had a relative involved in the Defence of Darwin did it appear as a significant event.

The Australian population appears to have been kept in the dark regarding the enormity of the Bombing of Darwin, seemingly as a security measure and to prevent panic. However, the general public were never fully aware of the damage sustained by the Territory but now after so many years the story can be told.

To our enemy Japan, Darwin was seen to be a strategic place to launch a counter attack against their plans to take New Guinea, forward thinking on their part. The Japanese knew Darwin held large oil and petrol supplies, operational airfields and a telecommunication facility at Adelaide River.

The Attack Begins

The attack unfolds on a unsuspecting Darwin on the 19th February 1942 when Japanese aircraft were seen over Melville Island and then again over Bathurst Island, warnings were sent but ignored. The Japanese air attack began at 9.58am when shipping was bombed in the Darwin Harbour and city area, 54 bombers attack Darwin RAAF base in a second wave of destruction. By noon another attack commences and within a few hours approximately 243 people are killed and hundreds of casualties to care for. 8 ships were sunk and 15 others disabled in the sustained bombing.

The question could be asked. Did we underestimate the Japanese? They were our allies in WWI but we did know of their brutality in the invasion of China (Nanking massacre) in 1937. In reality the Japanese had done their homework several years prior to WWII and had infiltrated the top end of Australia by land and sea disguised as seamen on fishing trawlers and pearling ships. They were observed and

recorded by local Aborigines living out in the bush, hence the accuracy of the bombing. The Japanese intelligence was specific they knew their targets. The majority of Japanese pilots involved in the Bombing of Darwin were the young hot shots that bombed Pearl Harbour in 1941 and they were highly trained and deadly. Japan had just experienced the Allies surrender in 1942 of Fortress Singapore, their confidence high and brimming with success. By 1944 there were over 63,000 men and women serving in the Northern Territory protecting Australia's north in extreme tropical conditions.

With the end of hostilities Darwin become a welcome sight for repatriating prisoners of war on their way home from the notorious Japanese prison camps.

National Treasures Darwin 2010

The welcome received by our ageing Veterans was heart warming and respectful to the memory of the men and women who defended Darwin during WWII.

The Darwin City Council organises a commemorative service every year which is a significant event in the Northern Territory where Veterans are referred to as National Treasures. At every function the Veterans are treated with genuine affection and their stories recorded for future generations to study.

The commemorative service held at the Cenotaph on the Esplanade, Darwin pays tribute to those who lost their lives during and following the raids. The service is significant and the reality of the raids is brought home as an air raid siren is sounded and planes fly low over head with guns firing as Diggers re-enact a time when war came to Australia.

Cheryle and Ron Brown were at the service to honour Cheryle's late Mother (Ella Forsayeth) an AAMWS stationed at Adelaide River. One of Ella's tasks during her tour of duty was to assist the entertainer Gracie Fields on her visit to the Top End. Cheryle recalls her Mother saying that Gracie was a charming lady and easy to look after.

It was inspiring to be with Cheryle as she traced her Mother's journey. Cheryle placed a sheath of wildflowers at the Adelaide River Memorial Cemetery in memory of her mother.

Jude and John Treloar also attended in memory of Jude's late Uncle SGT Norman Lindsay Wood who served with the 7th Bn and to the other wonderful boys of the 7th.

We also wanted to be there to support Norma Burns who made us feel so proud as she was escorted to the Cenotaph by a young servicemen. Tears flowed freely during the service as loved ones and fellow service mates were remembered.

The estimated 2500 strong crowd consisted of United States Ambassador to Australia Jeff Bleich, politicians, school children, Veterans and their carers, family and friends.

It truly was a moving service and one we will never forget.

THE AVENUE OF HONOUR BACCHUS MARSH

It saddened so many of us to learn of the proposed road works at Bacchus Marsh (Victoria) as Vic Roads plans to insert a new road and roundabout in the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour.

A National Trust spokesperson said the proposed works could compromise the historic and aesthetic importance of the Avenue and the 312 Canadian Elm Trees lining the route. The Elms appear to form a protective canopy over the road as you drive into Bacchus Marsh, and you gradually absorb the relevance of the area.

The importance of the Avenue is significant as the planting of the Elms in 1918 was to commemorate the brave men who lost their lives during WWI and was a peaceful refuge for their grieving families and friends. It should be remembered that the families had nowhere to visit and reflect upon a loved one killed on foreign soil. The Avenue represented a Nation who said to the families, we will not forget, however, it now appears very easy to forget such a promise.

I can remember visiting the Marsh many years ago with my parents and they explained the history of the area and the young men from the local farming community who went away to war and never returned. The Avenue is significant to so many people and there are many families with a direct link to the fallen and their feelings should be considered.

The Local Council involved in part of the decision making is Moorabool and they appear to be working closely with the Bacchus Marsh RSL who suggest that many trees need replacing and some have already been replaced along the Avenue due to drought and disease.

If one was to walk the length of the Avenue and read the names of the soldiers etched on metal plaques attached to each tree it appears nothing short of desecration to relocate one Elm tree from this sacred area.

Bacchus Marsh is situated 55 kilometres west Melbourne.

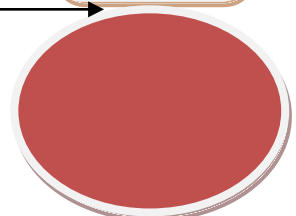
WRAAC COLLECTORS

Our fundraising representative Margaret Jager reports all is on track with members returning their containers back full of loose spare change, our sincere thanks to all for your participation.

For more information contact Margaret on (03) 9743 8267.

The current contributions are approximately \$500.00.

\$500



AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

VALE

COMMANDER PATRICIA CATHERINE VINES RRC (RET'D)

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Patricia a former Director Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service and former Chairman of the Council of Ex-Servicewomen in Victoria. Patricia was a former Trustee and a current Life Governor of the Shrine of Remembrance. Patricia Vines was dedicated to Navy and other Service Organisations and we will miss her greatly.

Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

THINKING OF YOU

COMMANDER KENNETH (BILL) WALTERS

Our sincere condolences to the Walters family on the recent passing of Rod's Father Bill.

LEST WE FORGET

To our Queensland sisters and their families who are experiencing the devastating floods and weather at this time our thoughts are with you.

SICK PARADE

Best wishes to our treasurer WO1 Elizabeth Gibson following her recent altercation with a vehicle in Dandenong. Elizabeth was attempting to cross the road, when unfortunately she was struck by a vehicle. Elizabeth sustained two broken bones in her right foot and has been confined to barracks for many weeks. She can no longer be referred to as canary legs as there was quite a lot of swelling involved. Elizabeth assures us all is going well and hopes to be on parade soon.

If you wish to contact Elizabeth please forward all correspondence care of the Secretary (Post Office Box 307 San Remo 3925)

Our best wishes to Margaret (Toddy) Brookes and Husband John from all your mates.

Hello to Margaret Roberts we are thinking of you.

Best wishes to Bernadette Ackland following her back operation. You are in our thoughts.

Julie (McPherson) Young we hope to see you at the next luncheon, we all missed you at the Pub Lunch.

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 do not hesitate to contact a committee member (telephone numbers on front cover) or our Chaplain Rev. William (Bill) Pugh – Editor

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Our much loved Vice President Brenda Walters has just celebrated her 60th birthday in style. Rob and Brenda joined by close friends chose a cruise to Vietnam to celebrate her birthday. Brenda reports a great time was had by all.

This however is not the only news Brenda has to share, Rod and Brenda will be first time Grandparents in July and August with Daughter and Daughter-in-law expecting bubs just weeks apart.

GO NANNY GIRLFRIEND

WEDDING NEWS

It was a great day to catch up with old Army mates as they gathered to celebrate the recent marriage of Ella Brown (Honorary Member) to Rob Burton (Formerly of York, UK) at scenic San Remo, Victoria. The weather bureau predicted a hot and windy day with a cool change followed by rain later in the day and it certainly lived up to expectations. Ella's parents-in-law had only arrived in Australia one week prior to the wedding and we all felt they coped admirably with the heat considering the freezing cold temperatures recorded in England recently. Ella and Rob exchanged wedding vows under a decorated canopy with a picturesque view of Western Port in the background. Following the service family and friends enjoyed a sit down luncheon in a balloon festooned marquee.



WRAAC Association Girls at Ella and Rob's Wedding.
L to R Jude, Ella, Cheryle, Marg and Diane

Also in attendance and looking as good and handsome as ever were the RAASC/RACT boys Bob English, Ron Brown (father of the bride), Ian Ward and Peter (Oil Can) Stannard. Rex, Kim and Andrew Howes represented the RAE

PROUD MUM



Standing proudly beside daughter Jacinta at her Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) march out parade on 27th February 2010 is Kathy (Donohue) Murnane. Kathy served with 3 WRAAC Co. Well done Jacinta, our best wishes for a successful career with the Australian Army.

BABY NEWS

Congratulations to Denise (Mitchell) and Peter Hodder on the safe arrival of their second Grandson Max, baby brother to Yves. Best wishes to Aunt Maggie.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Lorraine (Field) Coleman WRAAC 1964-9
Gay (Abberfield) Markey WRAAC 1968-76
Betty (Jenkins) Holman AWAS 1943-46

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 (03) 9478 1073 or email at dishe1946@yahoo.com.au and she will post out the application 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.

Can You Help

We have lost contact with some of our life members. Can you help us to locate the following members:

CPL Dorothy Berry
WO1 Jenny Brown
Ms Shirley Brown
Mrs Judith (Dunn) Bulleid
Ms Marilyn (Stephenson & Murray) Dell
Mrs Pat (Harvey) Franks
Ms (Christina) Robyn (Vincent) Gibson
Ms Pamela (Walsh) Hunt
Ms Angela Jones
Mrs Irene (Trench) Lakeman
Ms Cynthia Neal
Mrs Joan O'Brien
Mrs Joyce (Cory) Payne
Ms Marilyn (Bates, Wuchatsch) Ross
Ms Debbie Umpleby
Ms Winifred Webster
Ms Sallyann Welton

Please contact Diane Sherry on telephone (03) 9478 1073, mobile 0408 553 412 or email: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au.

SHRINE NEWS

EXHIBITIONS

A building with a soul.... A history of the Shrine of Remembrance

Eastern Visitor Centre
1st January – 2nd May 2010

Phillip Hudson wrote of his design for the Shrine that it would be ... *a building with a soul* ... A temporary exhibition has been developed to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the dedication of the Shrine in 1934. The evolution of the Shrine, and its place within Victoria as a site for public and personal reflection, is traced using memorabilia, photographs, sculptures, original designs and watercolours.

Threads of connection

Embroidery and textiles from the WWI to the present

Western Visitors Centre
29th January – 16th May 2010

Threads of connection has been developed by the Victorian Embroiderers Guild and the Shrine to celebrate the Guild's 50th Anniversary. Personal collections and stories from the WWI (1914-18) to the present show how embroidery and crafts were practised at home and on the front line, contributing to the war effort with originality and creativity. Creators include refugees, prisoners of war, service men and women, the embroidery industries in Northern Europe, Middle East and Asia, those on the home front and repatriated soldiers.

History of the Shrine Travelling Exhibition March to May 2010

This exhibition is touring regional Victorian centres until 2011. For a complete listing please visit www.shrine.org.au/exhibitions.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Wyndham City Arts and Cultural Centre	16 Apr – 16 May

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 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 or Telephone (03) 9661 8100

Shrine Web Site:

For all information about Shrine programs visit the website at www.shrine.org.au. or Telephone (03) 9654 8415

FOR THE DIARY APRIL – JULY 2010

11 th April 2010	Swan Hill & District Ex-Servicewomen's Association Re-union	RSL Club Curlewis Street Swan Hill
25 th April 2010	ANZAC Day	Refer note in Newsletter
16 th May 2010	AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service	Shrine of Remembrance
24 th July 2010	WRAAC Luncheon	International of Brighton Bay Street, Brighton.