



# WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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SAN REMO VIC 3925

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## NEWSLETTER

March 2011 – No 1/2011

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CAPT Iris Petrass

### Honorary Chaplain

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Already our short lived summer has passed by and we are well into our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, it has been a hectic start to 2011. As we go about our busy lives we should take time out for thoughts of our fellow Australians and New Zealanders as they come face to face with awful disasters in floods, bushfires and earthquakes. The elements continue to push us to extremes and never seem to let up. We can only hope family and friends of those facing adverse conditions will see them through and help them to rebuild their lives. It is heartening to see the coverage of the huge effort underway to assist in this time of need, Espirit de Corps is alive and well! Our thoughts and thanks also go to our Defence Forces serving at home and overseas.

### A Thank You from the President

To Liz MacLaine, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar, Cheryle Brown and Diane Sherry a massive thank you for all your help with the highly successful WRAAC Social Group luncheon held at the Orrong Hotel on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February, we all had a great day catching up with everyone. A sincere thank you to Diana (WRAAC) from SA and the WRAAC contingent from NSW, it was lovely to meet you all, also several of our country members were in attendance plus a few new welcome faces.

### Flag Raising and Exhibition Launch.

To the hardworking WRAAC Association Sub Committee a huge thank you for your great work and dedication to the task that ensured the flag raising ceremony and exhibition launch at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2011 was a day to remember. To our Chaplain the Reverend Bill Pugh, Piper Hawthorn Agnew and the wonderful Shrine Staff many of whom support us from behind the scene, thank you so much. To Margaret, Ian, Mark and Amy Jager the Association wishes to convey our thanks to you for your excellent catering and goodwill you had in abundance on our special day. To our Association members, family and friends thank you for your support and encouragement in the lead up to our 60<sup>th</sup> celebrations, it was indeed a great weekend.

Yours in friendship

Brenda (Ruby) Walters

*a fine career for you!*

The President and Committee  
wish all Members and Their Families  
a Happy and Safe Easter 2011



## PROFILE : PATRON

### CAPTAIN IRIS (JACKSON) PETRASS (Ret'd)

Iris (Jackson) Petrass enlisted at 2 WRAAC Coy (CMF), Sydney in July 1961 and on completion of recruit training became a Recruit Instructor gaining promotion to Corporal then Sergeant whilst in this role. On gaining commission in 1965 became WRAAC administration officer of 126 Sig Sqn (prior to its move to Melbourne) and 8 Sig Regt and soon after was appointed OC Signal Centre. In 1967 was requested to undertake full time duty as a Staff Officer HQ Eastern Command, Sydney. Iris was successfully transferred to the ARA in 1968. In January 1969 a posting to Central Army Records Office (CARO) brought her to Melbourne. And in September 1970, Iris was appointed OC 31 WRAAC Barracks, St Kilda Road which accommodated 89 WRAAC personnel of all ranks.

In December 1970 Iris married Bill Petrass, an RAE officer and in 1973 they were posted to HQ Central Command/4MD. Iris was appointed as Camp Commandant Keswick Barracks for approx three months, a role that held various responsibilities. She was then appointed Staff Officer, HQ Central Command/4MD. In mid 1974 Iris returned to Melbourne as a Staff Officer 3MD, and remained in this posting until her first daughter was born in 1977 when she resigned her ARA Commission but was granted the right to use the title of "Captain". Iris then returned to the Army Reserve in Ordnance where she remained until the birth of her second daughter in 1979.

Iris became a Life Member of the WRAAC Association (Victoria) Inc. in 1980.

To summarize the military life of Iris (Jackson) Petrass; is to say she has been a member of WRAAC CMF, ARA and ARes and is a Life Member of the WRAAC Association (Victoria) Inc. – the complete WRAAC package.

Capt Iris Petrass, we welcome you as the Patron of the WRAAC Association (Victoria) Inc.

By Heather Fry

## ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

### ANZAC DAY

#### ANZAC CHURCH SERVICE

The ANZAC Church Service this year will be held at St Pauls Cathedral on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30hrs

#### ANZAC DAY 2011 March Plan

This year we will step off at 0910 hrs so plan to arrive at least 15 minutes earlier to catch up with friends. Form up area is Flinders Street West - South Side. .

This is our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year so let's have a huge turnout of former members of the WRAAC and make it a good one. If you have a green jacket and beret wear it with black slacks and comfortable shoes.

NOTE: 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.**

#### NO BANNER, NO MARCH!

It has been noted that many Associations have decided not to join the Commemorative March this year due to the decision of the Commemorative March Committee not to allow them to march behind their Banners on this significant day. Their Banners will be literally thrown in the mix with other Associations; similar to American's attending a Rodeo with a mass flag display. Associations consider this is not acceptable as there is no dignity or respect in this head in the sand attitude. There are many Associations whose constitution states that they march behind their banner until the last man standing.

The views expressed by other Service Organisations in respect to the March Committees decision is heart breaking; however the sadness this has caused is disturbing in its apparent disregard for veterans feelings and the sense of pride we all feel when we march as one behind our respective Banners and or flags

#### In the interest of fair reporting here is the ANZAC Day Commemoration Councils side of the story.

The ANZAC Day 2010 Commemoration March was a disaster when you think back to the potentially fatal vehicle incident that occurred half way through the March; spectators were traumatized as they watched in horror as a vehicle slammed in to a group of Veterans. This and the age of the Veterans were foremost in the thoughts of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Council as they planned this year's march hence the decision to attempt to shorten the March by having Banners en masse and all WW2 Veterans in vehicles.

As a direct result of that incident we understand that the Victorian Police have stipulated that all trucks must be

deployed en masse for safety with descendants also marching en masse behind the veterans.

To help you form an opinion here is a list of Commemoration Council Member positions.

4 RSL Representatives, a State Government Representative (Premier), City of Melbourne (Lord Mayor), Shrine of Remembrance CEO, Shrine of Remembrance (Trustees), RSL State Council Representative, Representatives of WW2 ARMY, NAVY and AIR FORCE, Post 1945 ARMY, NAVY and AIR FORCE, (Kindred Organisations) and Legacy Representative.

## **EX-WRANS ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

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: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Cost: \$30:00 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:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

Mrs Pauline Hirons

30 Ruby Street

EAST BURWOOD VIC 3151

## **Combined AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 1100hrs**

**at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne.**

The Commemorative service this year is significant as we celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the AWAS and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the WRAAC. The year 2011 also celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WAAAF and WRANS (WW2) and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary post war WRANS. The Navy girls will be joining with us on the day and we look forward to their company.

The service will comprise of a wreath laying ceremony and following the service we will have a light lunch in the Education area of the Shrine.

It is the perfect opportunity to catch up with our fellow servicewomen and time to visit the Exhibition, A fine career for a woman.

For catering purposes please contact Jude Pinkerton-Treloar (03 98747915) Brenda Walter (03 98462152)

## **RESERVE FORCES DAY**

**Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.**

**Sunday July 3, 2011.**

The 2011 celebrations we have been told will be bigger and better than ever. So we hope to see you there.

This year's Reserve Forces Day theme is in recognition of the support of the family.

A medallion is to be awarded to the eligible spouse (wife, husband or partner) of a serving or former CMF member or Reservist.

To be eligible to nominate for the medallion for your spouse or partner the following criteria applies:

- Both persons must still be living i.e. the CMF member/Reservist and the medallion recipient.
- The medallion recipient must be the spouse/partner you were with whilst serving as a CMF member/Reservist and is still your spouse/partner now.
- The medallion recipient must attend the Reserve Forces Day Parade at the Shrine on Sun July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011.
- The Nomination Form is only available from the respective associations (not from Reserve Forces Day Council).
- Nomination form is included with newsletter. Please read carefully prior to completion.
- Nomination Forms must be returned by April 15 to the Secretary, WRAAC Association (Victoria) Inc.  
P.O. Box 307, San Remo. 3925
- For further information or enquiries contact Heather Fry:  
Phone: 03 9795-8472 Mobile: 0417 979 826  
email: [hfy44@bigpond.com](mailto:hfy44@bigpond.com)

## **WRAAC ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011**

A reminder that the Annual Luncheon will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011. **(Booking form attachment number 1)**

If you wish to bring along a female family member/friend or carer to the luncheon this year include name on attached booking form.

## **AWAS LUNCHEON/AGM**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

The Annual Luncheon/AGM venue: ANZAC House. 4 Collins Street Melbourne.

Time: 12 noon for 1230 hrs lunch

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

## **WRAAC PLAQUE**

**At Austin Health (Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital)**

Prior to the sad passing of our late Patron Major Jessie Perkins she mentioned we should investigate the possibility of having a WRAAC Plaque in the memorial garden at Heidelberg. Jessie had hoped it could be placed near the AWAS Plaque or within the same area.

We can now report that the caring folk at Austin Health and with the generous help and support from Mr Robert Winther (Veteran Liaison Officer) Jessie's idea is now about to be realised.

The Plaque will be dedicated at Austin Health, Heidelberg on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at their Remembrance Day Service and our Plaque will be with the AWAS as Jessie had hoped.

The Association will keep you updated with contact details if you wish to attend the Ceremony.

## **RUTH (McCOMB) BROWN**

On December 7, 2010 Gwen Walker, Brenda Walters, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar and Heather Fry visited Ruth (McComb) Brown at Capel Sands Aged Care, Rosebud where Ruth now resides. It was a very special day. In conjunction with management at Capel Sands Aged Care and with the approval of Ruth's husband Bill, Ruth was presented with her

Australian Defence Medal by Gwen Walker and Jude Pinkerton-Treloar presented Ruth with a WRAAC jacket complete with a WRAAC badge. The presentation was held in a small tea room at Capel Sands Aged Care with some staff and fellow residents as well as Ruth's husband Bill, and her brother John, present to share in this memorable occasion. We were all gathered in the tea room and watched with great pride as Ruth entered the room to the tune of 'Soldiers of the Queen' and all of us clapping enthusiastically along with the music. The smile on Ruth's face set the mood for an unforgettable day. After the presentation we were all treated to a wonderful afternoon tea prepared by the staff at Capel Sands Aged Care. Special thanks are extended to Jill Bell the Facility Manager and Jill Barclay the Activity Manager of Capel Sands Aged Care for allowing us the opportunity to conduct this medal presentation, and our thanks to Ruth's husband Bill for giving us his approval and the catering staff at Capel Sands for the wonderful afternoon tea we all enjoyed.

Ruth (McComb) Brown enlisted in 3 WRAAC Coy in Aug 1956 and became a driver. Most of her army years were spent at Grosvenor, Queens Road with the latter years at 399 Transport Platoon, Wadey St, South Melbourne. Ruth was an excellent driver, having the ability to drive any vehicle under any conditions with apparent ease. Ruth attained the rank of sergeant, leaving the army in the mid 1960's to marry her husband Bill.

Heather (Rankin) Fry



Ruth (McComb) Brown proudly displaying her medal and Association Jacket

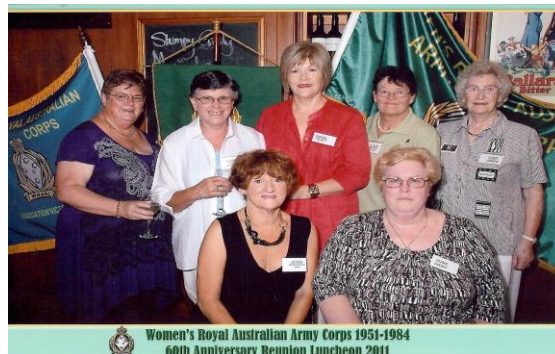
## WINDING UP OF THE COUNCIL OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.

Following the February meeting of the Council of Ex-Servicewomen the Delegates agreed to the winding up of the Council at the next meeting in June. The decline in membership of the participating Associations had led to this decision and with the Memorial Cairn now at the Shrine of Remembrance it was an appropriate time to finish. The Delegates agreed we should continue to hold an informal Pilgrimage to the Cairn each year with a luncheon to follow, this would ensure the respect and valued friendships we have nurtured between the Service Associations would not be lost. The next gathering at the Memorial Cairn will be in November 2011.

## 60TH WRAAC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 2011 Saturday 19th February & Sunday 20th February 2011

### Reunion Pub Lunch

The Reunion Pub Lunch at the Orrong Hotel on 19th February was attended by former members of the WRAAC and AWAS to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps. The WRAAC Social group together with the WRAAC Association (Vic) welcomed all in attendance and the luncheon began in the true spirit of friendship. We were thrilled to catch up with our Sisters from NSW, SA and country Victoria who made the journey to be with us. The delightful Orrong Hotel owner Irene, allowed us to 'take over' the Hotel for a few hours and that we did, our Membership Officer Diane greeted all on arrival with a name tag and a chat, Brenda Walters dressed up the tables with white paper and then complemented the look with green and gold serviettes. We then placed miniature WRAAC Flags on the table for decoration, Cheryle Brown made up the Roll Call lists for each member with all receiving a WRAAC pen, flag and WRAAC coasters as a memento. Our WRAAC Banner, Flag and Standard were placed as a backdrop for photos with some girls hamming it up others keeping it nice. Liz McLaine (WRAAC Social group first lady) welcomed all present with members joining together to toast HM Queen Elizabeth, the Corps and absent friends, the beautiful and much loved Brenda (Rusty) (Henderson) Johnson the original significant person to lead the WRAAC Social Group was our guest speaker and explained to us the origins of the group from a chance meeting of two former WRAAC members to the much enjoyed and can't miss gathering it has become. The camaraderie between us all was a highlight of the Reunion Pub lunch and set the theme for the next day at the Shrine of Remembrance.



Your Committee Cheryle, Heather, Brenda, Liz, Elizabeth  
Sitting Jude and Diane



NSW Girls  
Standing- L-R Betty Layt, Nora Fisher, Gai Hutchison,  
June Faber, Louise Green, Barb Wasson,  
Sitting – Pam Richardson and Libby Rowe

# Flag Raising/Wreath Laying Ceremony

## Sunday 20th February 2011



Escort and Flag Party



Flag in the care of the Shrine of Remembrance



Shrine Staff Raising the Flag



WRAAC Flag flying high



Patron, President and Chaplain observing WRAAC Flag raising



## FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

The Melbourne weather was rather intimidating on the Sunday morning as a large crowd of members and guests assembled on the Shrine forecourt flagpole area to witness the blessing and hand over of our WRAAC Flag to the Shrine of Remembrance. It would appear the weather could not make up its mind if it would rain, hail or shine, how unusual! Our WRAAC Flag was escorted by 6 former members of the WRAAC together with a Flag Party comprising of (Margaret Jager) Flag (Liz McLaine) Banner with (Margie Brown) Standard bearer under the Command of WO1 Elizabeth Gibson. Two members of the escort party carried WRAAC hats in memory of our sisters who are no longer with us. The President of the WRAAC Association (Vic) Brenda Walters presented the folded flag to our Chaplain, The Reverend Bill Pugh for the traditional blessing. Brenda and our WRAAC Patron Captain Iris Petrass then handed our flag into the care of the Shrine of Remembrance to be flown on significant occasions. The haunting sound of Green sleeves was played by Piper Hawthorn Agnew as the WRAAC flag was slowly raised to the top of the flagpole.

The sun came out fleetingly and our WRAAC flag looked magnificent as it proudly joined the Australian and Victorian flags watching over the Shrine.

There was not a dry eye amongst the former Servicewomen who witnessed the event as we all have our special thoughts of that moment.

The assembled Servicewomen were then invited to form up behind the WRAAC Banner, Flag and Standard Bearers as the President of the WRAAC Association (Vic) Brenda Walters lead us past the Eternal flame and to the WRAAC Plaque for the Wreath laying ceremony to the sound of our Corps March, 'Soldiers of the Queen.'  
(See photos attached)

## WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The wreath laying ceremony took place at the WRAAC Plaque situated in the Remembrance garden area of the Shrine of Remembrance. We were thrilled with the large attendance and the weather held back from completely drowning us. Vice President Jude Pinkerton-Treloar welcomed all to the service with WRAAC Association Chaplain The Reverend Bill Pugh giving the blessing. Major Maggie More (Shrine Governor) welcomed us on behalf of the Shrine and also said the WRAAC Prayer. Wreaths were placed in memory of all Servicewomen with the wonderful Shrine Guards holding ground. AWAS/WRAAC member Brenda (Rusty) Johnston read the Ode. The National Anthem was performed by Miss Rebecca Dupuy-Purcell and we have never heard our Anthem sung with such strength and feeling. Rebecca is the daughter of Association member Myrene Purcell. At the conclusion of the Service all in attendance were invited to place floral tributes and join in the poppy laying ceremony as Hawthorn Agnew piped the Lament.

## EXHIBITION: A Fine Career for a Woman

The Exhibition launch was held in the Theatre area of the Shrine of Remembrance following the Wreath laying ceremony to a large crowd of members and guests. The Patron of the WRAAC Association (Vic) Captain Iris Petrass opened the Exhibition with a wonderful speech relating to her Service in the CMF/ARA and Professional life. Iris has been a great supporter of the Exhibition with her knowledge and expertise.

We were enthralled with the Guest speaker Wing Commander Annette Houlian an Air Force Reservist since 1991 whose duties have taken her to East Timor and Thailand where she worked in the heartbreaking area of retrieving bodies following the devastating Tsunami. She then went on to Aceh to assist with the repatriation home of the nine Australians whose lives were lost following the tragic helicopter crash. Her story is inspirational and leaves one aghast as to what these brave Australian Service personnel endure.

Annette has completed two tours of duty in Afghanistan working aboard a Naval ship, in Civilian life Annette is an Orthopaedic surgeon has her own medical practice, is a Shrine Trustee, a Mother and Partner.

We were honoured to be in her company.

At the conclusion of her speech Annette was afforded a standing ovation.

Following the Exhibition Launch we were treated to a fine array of food and tasty snacks, a great end to a wonderful weekend.

The Exhibition has received excellent feedback and is a tribute to the AWAS and WRAAC as it's their story.

Mr Neil Sharkey  
Curator, Shrine of Remembrance  
Melbourne



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Association throughout the year receive many letters, emails and phone calls from members and we appreciate your input and thought you may wish to share one from our fellow member Margaret Roberts who was a vital contributor to the Exhibition, a fine career for a woman.

Margaret writes,

I was unable to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Celebrations in February due to ill health but felt part of the 60<sup>th</sup> celebrations via feedback from Jude who kept me informed and up to date, it really seemed as if I was there. My congratulations to all concerned with the planning of the memorable weekend and the success of the Exhibition. I have been told by many how special and significant the Flag raising ceremony was and the ultimate accolade in my own experience was being informed by Lt Colonel Duckworth, CO of 8/7 Battalion that he knew the late Lt Colonel Bev Blanksby and her inspirational leadership of the WRAAC CMF/ARES.

To the dedicated and hardworking Association Committee my sincere thanks to you all and to all former members of the WRAAC my best wishes to you all in this our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year,

In friendship, Margaret Roberts



Lest We Forget – Shrine Guard, Jude P-T, Brenda Johnson



Rebecca Dupuy-Purcell Singing National Anthem



WRAAC Standard, Banner and Flag



Val Jones and Elizabeth Gibson



Family and Friends



### **WRAAC Flag**

The WRAAC Association wishes to convey our thanks to Ben Adams and Carroll and Richardson (flag makers) for their expertise and support in guiding our Committee through the minefield that is involved in the design and purchase of our stunning WRAAC flags.

We really appreciated their professional approach and care.

### **Government to Replace Medals Lost in Natural Disasters**

**(Senator the Hon. David Feeney Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, 10 February 2011)**

There has been a relaxation of the Defence Replacement Medals Policy for the benefit of those who lost their medals or those of loved ones during the recent Victorian and Queensland floods. This also includes the impact of Cyclone Yasi and the fires in Western Australia.

It was Government policy for many years that medals could only be issued to the ADF member who earned them, therefore if the member had passed away the treasured medals could not be replaced. The tragedy of the Victorian bush fires in 2009 appeared to soften the Governments view on medal replacement.

The medals can be reissued to the next of kin or other appropriate relative of the deceased ADF members if the medals have been lost or destroyed in the current natural disasters. The sad news is that only medals dating from the First World War can be replaced, as medals prior to this are no longer in production.

Applicants are invited to use the application form and statutory declaration located on the Defence Honours and Awards website at [www.defence.gov.au/medals](http://www.defence.gov.au/medals)

Enquiries may be directed to Defence Honours and Awards toll free on 1800 111 321

### **ADF Online for 'Old' Recruits.**

(Melbourne Age, 2 February 2011)

Do you feel you still have what it takes, then the Department of Defence wants you! It would appear Defence is creating a social net-working site to entice former members back into the Armed Forces. The Defence Department has tendered for a contractor to develop and manage the Defence Alumni Network (DAN) which will enable us to 'get connected'. From this network outside consultants will harvest the information to construct profiles of former servicemen and women. It is expected Service career management agencies will use the DAN to select key targets for recruitment with the required skills. The target group is former permanent Defence Personnel who are positively disposed to the Service, tough if you are a former Reservist and not positively disposed. Good luck with your projects, Defence.

### **Weighty Issues**

If you are thinking of taking up the invitation to re-join the Army it may be a good idea to drop a few kilos if you wish to be declared fit for active duty. The recent figures are alarming as there are a reported 5500 Australian Military Personnel declared unfit and to our great shame and dismay over 12,000 Reservists have been declared overweight or dare we say obese. We have been assured by the Head of Defence Health, Major General Paul Alexander that we do

not have Burger King outlets on base as the Americans appear to have but instead have healthy eating options on our all bases. If this is so what is the problem, lack of exercise or too much drinking in the mess?

This is not good enough girls and boys, healthy eating and less drinking start now!

### **HEROES IN YOBBS ROUT (Dumb and Dumber)**

We loved this story from the UK, it would appear two drunken yobbos attempted to start a fight with three strangers who just happened to be highly decorated Military men. The yobbos had a Staffordshire bull terrier with them as they began their tirade of abuse at the three men in suits; they pushed and shoved the trio attempting to provoke them into retaliating. Dumb and dumber had no idea that the intended victims were a Royal Marine, an Army Captain and a VC winning SAS hero. After ignoring polite advice to move on the Yobbos found themselves on their backs while their dog fled away yelping.

The suits just happened to be L/Cpl Matt Croucher (26), Captain Peter Norton (47), both George Cross winners and Cpl Mark Donaldson (31), VC recipient.

### **War Memorial, Cash Crisis Stage 1**

The Federal Government was under mounting pressure to find \$5 million dollars to help our War Memorial out of a potential crippling financial crisis. The Gillard Government was certainly well aware that the War Memorial in 2015 will be the focal point to commemorate the centenary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli, so why this hard nose attitude.(excuse the pun). The War Memorial Council is in the process of planning for the centenary and would be shaking their collective heads in disbelief considering Ruddy and Jules have not worried about spending our hard earned tax dollars before. The options available to the Memorial would have been to reduce operational hours, cut back on the dedicated and highly skilled staff and generally run the place down. The problem with this tactic is that it would diminish the high standard and credibility of the Memorial or was that the plan?

Our Prime Minister was recently at the War Memorial to open the Hall of Valour honouring Victoria Cross recipients and described it as 'Australia's pre-eminent temple of honour' and was committed to ensuring it remained so.

### **War Memorial Cash Crisis Stage 2**

Well done to our Prime Minister Julia Gillard, she listened to our Veterans and fellow Australians as they pleaded for funding that staved off a national embarrassment if our War Memorial was not granted a much needed cash injection of funds.

The Veteran Community was about to launch a campaign to embarrass the Government into rethinking their attitude. The Government has pledged \$8million dollars more a year with an extra \$1.7million to redevelop the World War 1 galleries. The extra cash would be indexed and would support its operations on top of its \$38million a year funding. An excellent outcome.

## Sidney Nolan (The Gallipoli Series)

If you are a Sidney Nolan devotee, we suggest you visit the Geelong Gallery, Little Malop Street Geelong. Telephone; (5229 3645)

The Exhibition features drawings and paintings donated to the Australian War Memorial in 1978 in memory of Nolan's brother Raymond, who died in an accident towards the end of WW11. The story of Gallipoli is a constant theme in Nolan's Art and the 10 paintings and 70 works on paper date from 1955 to 1978 and considered some of his best work. The series is grouped around other themes as origins, landscapes, battle, the sea and Australian identity. The Exhibition opens on February 19<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

## AROUND THE WRAAC PACK VALE

### F31869 WO2 Moira May Clarke (March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011)

It is with great sadness we report the passing of our dearly loved and respected member of the Association Moira Clarke. Moira joined 3 WRAAC Coy in 1961 and attained the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2.

The memories we have of this dear lady is one of compassion and kindness and the gentle way she looked after her soldiers in their time of need. A rare commodity in this sometimes harsh world. Our deepest sympathy to Moira's family and friends.

Rest in peace dear Moira, you will never be forgotten by your girls.

Major Val Jones and Captain Gwenda Walker attended the thanksgiving service for Moira on behalf of the Association



**The Late WO2 Moira May Clarke**

### Mrs Norma Jones Mother of Major Val Jones

The President and members of the WRAAC Association (Vic) extend their deepest sympathy to our member Major Val Jones and family on the recent passing of her dear mother in January 2011. The late Mrs Jones will be remembered as a great supporter of Val and her Service friends in the days of 3 WRAAC Coy and the loss is shared by many. Val was blessed with loving parents and our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

## BIRTHDAY BOY

Happy 80th Birthday wishes to WO1 Ian (Wardy) Ward, a dear friend of the Association who recently celebrated this significant milestone in February. A surprise party was the order of the day with Service mates joining family and friends on Phillip Island to acknowledge the occasion.

We all have a special story to tell about Wardy when 3 WRAAC Coy were part of 1 Spt Gp, 3 Div.

## BABY NEWS

Our best wishes to future Grandparents Margaret (Margie) and Ian Jager on their happy news, we will keep you posted when "Brussel Sprout" arrives.

## SICK PARADE

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

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

VFX64964	Mrs Jean Parry Nee Grenda	VAD & AAMWS 1941-43
F3/188	Mrs Barbara Gardener Nee Swainger	EX WRAAC ARA 103 TPT PL 1952-54
F3/77	Mrs Barbara Penn Nee Hardman	EX WRAAC ARA 103 TPT PL 1951-54
F3585	Mrs June Faber Nee	EX WRAAC ARA WRAAC SIGNAL 1958- ??
F22258	Ms Carolyn McMahon	EX WRAAC ARA 8 SIG REGT
F38528	Mrs Gloria Pearson Nee Hollingworth	EX WRAAC ARA 1 BOD (QLD) 1966-68
F58213	Mrs Sylvia (Ann) Roberts Nee Phillips-Jones	EX WRAAC ARA HQ E COMD
F3/214	Mrs Elizabeth Stuart Nee Michaels	EX WRAAC ARA 1952-54 EX RAANC 1954-56
F317872	Mrs Dexter Purcell Nee Hill	EX WRAAC ARA 2 SIG REGT 1975-1996
F3143305	WO1 Lynette McLindin Nee Heath	WRAAC ARA/ARES 7FER, HQ 6 ENGR, CARO 22 CONST REGT, HQ 4BDE 1980-NOW
F48097	Mrs Meredith Harris Nee Colbert	EX RAANC ARA 3 CAMP HOSPITAL 1965-66

# MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership fees are due 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011, remembering fees can be paid at the July luncheon.

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](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.

## 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 Jennifer Brown  
Ms Shirley Brown  
Ms Marilyn Dell  
Ms Robyn Gibson (nee Vincent)  
Ms Pamela Hunt (nee Walsh)  
Ms Angela Jones  
Ms Cynthia Neal  
Mrs Joan O'Brien  
Mrs Joyce Payne  
Ms Marilyn Ross (nee Bates)  
Ms Debbie Umpleby  
Ms. Sallyann Welton

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

# SHRINE EXHIBITIONS

February – July 2011

**A fine career for a woman  
Australian women in the army 1941-84  
11 February – 3 July 2011  
Eastern Visitor Centre**

The exhibition examines the proud history of two of Australia's most significant military services, the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS), formed in 1942 at the height of the Second World War (1939-1945) and disbanded in 1947, and its successor, the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) created in the 1950s into the response to the new challenges arising in the Cold War era. Created with the assistance of women who served in these organisations, the Shrine hosts this exhibition in 2011 to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of AWAS and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WRAAC.

**Care, Compassion, Community  
70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital  
4 March – 31 July 2011  
Western Visitors Centre**

To celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital the Shrine has developed this exhibition featuring memorabilia and images from the hospital archive as well as historical images from the Australian War Memorial. From its proud origins as a military establishment the hospital emerged as a centre for critical care with a particular sense of community. It has nurtured and rehabilitated shattered people, served as a centre for innovation in the treatment of physical and mental illness and as a teaching hospital for the nursing and medical professions. Heidelberg has also evolved as an important commemorative site.

# 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). or Telephone (03) 9654 8415

## FOR THE DIARY APRIL – AUGUST 2011

<b>1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011</b>	<b>Swan Hill Get Together</b>	<b>RSL Club Curlewis St Swan Hill</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> May 2011</b>	<b>Ex-WRANS Association Annual Luncheon</b>	<b>Legacy House Swanston St Melbourne</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> May 2011</b>	<b>AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service</b>	<b>Shrine of Remembrance</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011</b>	<b>Reserve Forces Day</b>	<b>Shrine of Remembrance</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011</b>	<b>WRAAC Annual Reunion Luncheon</b>	<b>The International of Brighton 81 Bay Street Brighton</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> August 2011</b>	<b>AWAS Annual Luncheon/AGM</b>	<b>ANZAC House 4 Collins Street Melbourne</b>

### ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1 – Booking form Annual Reunion Lunch 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011

Attachment #2 – Vic – Nomination Form For Reserve Forces Day Recognition Medallion

Attachment #3 – NSW WRAAC 60<sup>th</sup> Celebrations by Liz Maclaine



## WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

### 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION LUNCHEON Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Formation of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps 1951-1984

Members are invited to a luncheon to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at

THE International of Brighton  
81 Bay Street, Brighton.  
On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011  
At 11.30am for 12.30pm

Cost is \$50.00 which includes a 2 course luncheon, canapés, drinks including beer, wine and soft drinks. Followed by tea, coffee and chocolates.

Pre-lunch drinks will be served from 12.00pm

DRESS: Neat Casual

.....

Booking Form 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011  
(BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011)  
To: Mrs Liz MacLaine, 16 Richard Street, Williamstown, Vic. 3016  
Telephone: (03) 9397 1043

PAYMENT: By cheque or money order made payable to "WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc."  
or pay into bank account of WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.  
Bank: Westpac. BSB No.: 033135, Account No.: 30-5304.  
(Please post booking form and copy of bank deposit to Mrs Liz MacLaine)

Regt. No.....Name:(please print).....Nee.....

Address:.....

.....  
(if booking for another member please include their name/s on this form)

Type of Membership (please circle) Life / Annual / other .....

Meal Requirement (please circle) Vegetarian / Diabetic / Other .....

Transport Requirement Willing to pick up another member .....

(please tick) I need a lift to attend .....

Seating I would like to be at a table with the following ladies: .....

.....  
.....

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PAYMENT ..... Lunches at \$50.00 each ..... \$ .....



## VIC - NOMINATION FORM FOR RESERVE FORCES DAY RECOGNITION MEDALLION

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE "FAMILY THEME"

#### THE THEME FOR 2011

"The Reserve Forces Day Council's objective is to:

*Raise the profile of the Reserve Forces and to thank serving and former members for their service along with their families and employers for their essential support. "*

*A Reservists service is unique and this is the reason the RFDC will acknowledge the family and in particular the wife, husband or partner of a serving or former Reservist by awarding them with a Medallion in recognition of their wonderful support.*

*The Medallion (see above) is 50mm in diameter and has the inscription "AWARDED IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR SUPPORT TO RESERVE FORCES" bordering the face of the medallion within a reflex blue infill and a clear cover of epoxy. The RFD logo is in the centre. The attractive medallion is in "gold" and the logo and inscription are surrounded by gold. A royal blue neck ribbon adorns the Medallion within a presentation box. A space on the reverse side provides for the recipient's name and the member's to have engraved his own words of thanks for the years of support - which can be done later. The Medallion can be kept as a keepsake.*

*The medallion will only be presented to the eligible spouse (wife, husband or partner) in person when they attend an RFD Launch or parade. The first 40 special medallions with ribbons were presented to family members by the National RSL President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN Rerd and the representative of the Prime Minister the Honourable Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Defence Science and Personnel and Indigenous Health at the National Launch of RFD 2011 on Sun 27 Nov 10. The average length of time the 40 recipients supported their spouse/partner in the ADF was 20 years.*

The Recognition Medallion will be presented at the RFD (Vic) Parade at Mentone Grammar on Sunday 20 February (30 medallions) and at The Shrine on Sunday 3 July 2011 (balance of medallions).

**NOMINATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED FROM ASSOCIATIONS (not direct to RFDC from Individuals). IT IS HOPED THAT YOUR ASSOCIATION WILL GAIN NEW MEMBERS.**

The Association contact details are on the RFDC web site [www.rfd.org.au](http://www.rfd.org.au) • The TV, radio and media commercials and articles will refer to the website.

**ONLY COMPLETE THE DETAILS BELOW IF YOUR SPOUSE/PARTNER IS ABLE TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL RFD PARADE AT THE SHRINE ON SUNDAY 3 JULY 2011 or the parade In your local city.**

**AFTER COMPLETION THE FORM SHOULD BE RETURNED TO YOUR ASSOCIATION SECRETARY FOR PROCESSING ASAP. AT THE LATEST BY 15 APRIL 2011**

#### DETAILS OF THE PERSON BEING NOMINATED:

Spouse/Partner's Title/Rank ..... Given Name/s ..... SURNAME .....

Address ..... P/code ..... Mobile Ph No .....

#### NOMINATED BY (insert RESERVIST'S details):

Reg't No.IPMS Keys ..... Title/Rank ..... Given Name/s ..... SURNAME .....

The person I have nominated supported me during my Reserve Service: From ..... To ..... Total ..... years

**These are the dates the person you have nominated supported you during your service in the Reserves.**

**(The award is to recognise your spouse/partner for their significant contribution and support in caring for the family etc. while you were actively engaged in attending training exercises, camps, and courses. It does not include service on a Reserve list where no training was undertaken or where you could be called back to duty e.g. National Servicemen had to stay on a Reserve List for 3 years without a training commitment.)**

Relationship of person nominated to the Reservist: .....(e.g wife, husband etc)

Association/Organisation Name .....

Mobile Ph No: ..... Home No: ..... Signature ..... 1

# WRAAC 60th Celebrations in Sydney

13 - 15 Feb 2011

By Liz Maclaine

WOW!! What a weekend, it was full of friendship and fun. The weekend for me started back in Feb 2010 at the WRAAC Social Group luncheon, when a few of the girls who had been to the 55th WRAAC celebration in Sydney, decided that they were going to Sydney for the 60<sup>th</sup>. Once I indicated that I was interested in going, my accommodation was booked at the YHA at The Rocks, Sydney and my flights were booked for me by one of the girls also attending.

On Friday 13 February 2011, seven of us caught a flight to Sydney and on arrival we met a few girls who had travelled on the same flight as us, also met other girls from Tassie and Brisbane. We then went to our accommodation at YHA in the Rocks area and there were six of us in a dormitory, (just like old times). After a long lunch we went back to the YHA, as there was a Registration for the weekend taking place at 1600hrs. We all received a goodies bag, with a medallion to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the WRAAC, a hand held fan with WRAAC printed on it, tickets to the events, a name tag on a lanyard, a map of the old WRAAC school area now called Headland Park and looked after by the Harbour Trust.

At 1800hrs we all attended a meet and greet at Kirribilli RSL where 400 ladies were in attendance. There was lots of talking, laughter and remembering when. A photo display of the all the various WRAAC school courses, and many others that had been donated for the event. I have never seen so many women, of all about the same age in a room before.

Next morning we caught a bus to visit the old WRAAC school site at George's Heights Mosman. Many of the old buildings are still standing, some of the accommodation, Mess, Q Store and most importantly the parade ground. There were over 600 ex WRAAC members in attendance. We all lined up on the road way outside the area and had a few practice drill sessions. We then marched onto the old WRAAC School parade ground. Before we got to the parade ground, there was a surprise for all. The WRAAC Assoc NSW had recreated replica gates know as the Kathleen Best Memorial Gates, for us all to march through. Once on the parade ground, we practised our drill again, then Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of NSW arrived, followed by the Chief of Army Lt Gen Ken Gillespie, AO, DSC, CSM arrived. Both addressed the parade. Then we all marched off to "Soldiers of the Queen". A moving ceremony was held dedicating a WRAAC plaque at the site of the old WRAAC School. The ceremony comprised of the saying of the WRAAC Prayer and the WRAAC Flag Prayer as the WRAAC flag was raised then lowered. Following the formalities Lyn Board and myself had our photo taken with LT GEN Ken Gillespie. We were then invited to collect our lunch box and enjoy a walk around the old WRAAC School area. A of the girls to their surprise found the building that was their accommodation whilst they were at WRAAC School. We also visited the tunnels that were part of the fortifications.

A group of us caught the local bus and ferry back to Circular Quay, and then walked to the YHA to get ready for the Dinner on the Saturday night, once again at the Kirribilli RSL. MAJ GEN Liz Cosson was guest speaker for the evening with 350 ladies in attendance. A Roll of Honour of WRAAC members was displayed during the evening, you could have heard a pin drop, as all present reflected on the names listed.

It was a fun night with plenty of photos taken, continuous laughter, and great memories, the night ended with auld lang syne. which also occurred at the end of the Meet and Greet on the Friday night.

Sunday morning, again it was overcast, but no rain. We all headed to The Holy Trinity Garrison Church, Millers Point for a Church Service, I was privileged to carry our Victorian WRAAC Banner, with Gai Markey and Lyn Board as its escort. Banners from Tassie, Qld and NSW were also display at the Church Service. Then it was a short walk down to the Quay area to catch the John Cademan for a Harbour Cruise. The Cadet band who had played at the WRAAC parade on the Sat, were in Attendance, and played Soldiers of the Queen, as we boarded the John Cademan for a 3 hrs cruise of Sydney Harbour, which included lunch. When the cruise finished it was the end of the official celebration, but of course they continued. A large group went to a local pub for dinner, and then took over the lounge area at the YHA for coffee and more chatting. Next morning, as each group left, they were choruses of "Wish me lucky as you wave me goodbye". We finally left the YHA about 1000hrs for our return flight to Melb, after a wonderful weekend of friendship, fun, laughter and many happy memories.

