



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

Unit 73 – 2 Gremel Road
RESERVOIR VIC 3073

Telephone: 0408 553 412 Website: www.wraacvic.com

NEWSLETTER

March 2013 – No 1/2013

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2013 with the beginning of another great year for our Association.

This year we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the WRAAC CMF (now Reserve) and look forward to your company at the Luncheon on the 20th July at the International of Brighton. We have a happy day planned and from the feedback received, know you enjoy the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of the venue. This year we have extended the invitation to include Members Husband, Partner, Friend or Carer to attend the Luncheon. The next Newsletter will include a booking form and further information relating to the day.

The hot and dry climatic conditions experienced by all this summer have been horrendous and once again we turn to our Emergency Services for help and support. Our Association has many members currently involved in all branches of Community Service, such as the CFA and the SES. To them we extend our grateful and sincere thanks. We acknowledge the men and women of our Military who participate in the Defence Aid Civil Community (DACC) whose expertise is frequently required with evacuation and clean-up activities in time of emergency. Well done to you all.

As we approach the Easter Season we ask every one of you to keep safe and enjoy a happy and peaceful time with family and friends.

Yours in friendship,

Heather (Rankin) Fry

The President and Committee wish
all a Happy and Safe Easter 2013



ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

WE NEED YOU AT THE WRAAC Fund Raising Sausage Sizzle

Sunday 21st April 2013
At Bunnings Warehouse,
259 Middleborough Road, Box Hill

The Committee is urgently seeking volunteers to help with our fund raising Sausage Sizzle.

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

We need your help between the hours of 8.30am to 4.00pm and anticipate three shifts of 2.5 hours.

TASKS include chopping onions, cooking sausages, taking customer orders and collecting money, keeping area clean and tidy plus hosting a WRAAC memorabilia/membership table. If you can assist the Association with a few hours of your time please contact Heather Fry on telephone 03 9795 8472.

ANZAC Day 2013

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Annual ANZAC Day Church Service

The ANZAC Day Church Service will be held at St Pauls Cathedral on Sunday the 14th April 2013 at 10:30am.

St Pauls Cathedral is situated on the corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets Melbourne.

All invited to attend

ANZAC DAY Thursday 25th April 2013

WRAAC Association members form up at Swanston Street West (next to Station) at 0845 with step off time 0912. Therefore, if the weather is fine we can assume more members will join us on this special day. Let's make 2013 the year we make the effort to catch up with each other and renew past friendships, perhaps to enjoy a meal following the march.

Order of dress

Green blazer/jacket with black slacks, scarf and beret. Comfortable walking shoes and depending on the weather suggest you pack an umbrella.

Medals to be worn.

RACV VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

There is a service provided by volunteer RACV drivers to transport Veterans from their homes to the March on ANZAC Day and then transport you home again. If you require the use of this wonderful service suggest you contact; Lisa Hogan RACV Public Affairs on 03 9790 2975.

BALCOMBE BARRACKS COMMEMORATION - 2013 3rd-5th May 2013

The Balcombe Barracks Commemoration 2013 is to be celebrated from Friday afternoon 3rd May 2013 to Sunday 5th May 2013. The event is open to all personnel (service and civilian) who served at Balcombe. Two events are open to the general public – Saturday afternoon 4th May 2013, 2.00 pm at Balcombe Grammar School for the unveiling and dedication of the refurbished existing features (gates, plaques etc.) and Sunday 5th May 2013 a Remembrance Service is being held at the Mornington War Memorial at 9.00 am.

On the Bandwagon

In recognition of the Balcombe Barracks Commemoration radio station 103.7FM and www.cityparkradio.com have dedicated the radio programme "On the Bandwagon" to all those who served at Balcombe. Please tune into this programme 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm Monday 22nd April 2013 and it will be repeated on Saturday 27th April 2013 midnight – 1.00 am.

Our thanks to Lyn Board who assisted with the publicity of this radio programme.

For more information refer www.austarmyapprentice.org

AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service



Sunday 19th May 2013

This year the Commemorative Service will be held on Sunday 19th May at 1100hrs within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. Please join with us as we commemorate the friendship and camaraderie of service to our Nation.

Following the service refreshments will be served in the Education Centre of Shrine.

If you wish to attend on the day please contact: Jude Pinkerton-Treloar on 03 98747915 for Catering purposes. RSVP 12th May 2013.

RESERVE FORCES DAY

Sunday 7th July 2013

This year we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the WRAAC CMF and it is a great opportunity to acknowledge the inspirational women past and present who contributed to the overall success of the Corps. It is important to remember this could be the last opportunity to celebrate such a significant event. We have our magnificent Banner, Standard and Australian flag to rally behind, all we need is you. Don't just leave it to a few to accept the gratitude of the crowd on this day. In recognition of the 60th anniversary of WRAAC CMF we will be given the honour of leading the 'Services' section of the parade providing we have a significant number of girls marching.

Further information will be in the next Newsletter.

31 WRAAC Barracks Reunion

A reminder to all that a reunion is planned for Melbourne in September 2013 at 31 WRAAC Barracks, 478 St Kilda Road Melbourne. If you are interested please contact the organiser; Helen (McLeod) Meyer (08) 7007 8575 or 0415 192 980. It will be a wonderful reunion with lots of great stories to share. See also Attachment #2

WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP PUB LUNCH

The management finally changed at the Orrong Hotel on 29 Jan 13. When I rang to book the luncheon I was advised that the kitchen area was being renovated, so I was unable to make a February booking for the luncheon. Sat 2 Mar 13 was booked. 28 ladies attended including Julie and Kate who attended for the first time, both girls were ex Regular members. Had 16 apologies. The renovations only have been done in the kitchen/dining area. First we noticed the wooden floor boards, then saw the white table cloths on all the tables, then noticed the kitchen area, it was built up higher and the area cover in with stainless steel. It looked great. The rest of the hotel is still the same. All in attendance had a great afternoon, talking, listening and of course laughter.

Thanks Liz Maclaine for this Report. Editor

BESIDE THEM (ARMY CHARMS)



If you are looking for Sterling silver/Yellow gold charms and assorted bracelets and necklaces with a Military theme suggest you check this website. We particularly liked the sterling silver slouch hat charm. If you are familiar with the brand "Pandora" several of the shapes appear about that size.

www.besidethem.net/Army-Charms.html

Medics and Vietnam (1964-1972)

It is now revealed that hundreds of Civilian Doctors and Nurses have not been entitled to veterans' healthcare benefits following their service in Vietnam.

It stems from the fact that the Doctors and Nurses allegedly were not under the control of the Military when they worked to save the lives of our Boys during the Vietnam War. We can scratch our heads and wonder why, when these young men and women unselfishly gave their time and expertise to assist our sick and



wounded in such appalling conditions. It seems that many of the Civilian Medical team suffer from war related illnesses similar to our Vets. In the United States of America it is now accepted that Doctors and Nurses who served in Vietnam suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome with the explanation that they have seen more death and suffering than the troops.

As former members of the WRAAC we know how special Army and Civilian Medics are.

It is time to cut through the red tape and accept responsibly for these heroes who need our help and respect now.

More Cut Backs Forecast

Reforming and Rationalising

In a leaked draft of the Gillard Government's 2013 white paper it's reported that several Military bases and ARMY Reserve depots face possible closure in the latest rush to save money. This is due in part to a \$5.5 Billion cut to Defence spending. The severity of the cuts will certainly impact on

enlistment applications to Reserve Units as prospective Reservists attempt to juggle work, family and service commitments all with the burden of extra travel time. Imagine having to drive for another 90minutes after work to attend a Parade night. The Defence Minister must let us know soon which bases are safe and those marked for the chopping block.

The pressure not to sell a prime piece of real estate such as the depot in the leafy suburb of upmarket Hawthorn (Melbourne) would be too much for the bean counters. As former members of 8/3 WRAAC CO would know, how many units were developed on the former site of the classic Drill Hall in Highbury Road Kew.

Short term gains are not always the answer!

Collector Tubes

Our Fundraising Officer, Margaret (Robinson) Jager wishes to convey her thanks to all for the ongoing support of the Collector Tubes. Margaret suggests contacting her on 03 9743 8267 if you need help with the collection of tubes.

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

VALE

Jeanne Worth OAM (nee Cook),

Deepest sympathy to the family of Jeanne Worth OAM (nee Cook), friends and members of WRAAC ACT, War Widows Association, RSL and many other groups. Jeanne fell and broke her hip during the week of 15th February and passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at 12pm on 20th February. She was a 1950's WRAAC who served with Nancy (Schofield) Carlson in Canberra. Her funeral service was held at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Amoroo on Wednesday 27th February. Rest in Peace dear friend, you will be missed.

Our deepest sympathy to Lorraine (Atkinson) Onans and family on the recent passing of her dear Mother, Eileen Atkinson. Our thoughts are with you.

Our thoughts are with Heather and Hugh Fry and family on the recent passing of Hugh's brother Ron.



BABY NEWS

Congratulations to the Blanksby Family on the arrival of Fox James on Christmas Eve 2012.

← Grandad Don and baby Fox

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

Ms Wendy Rundle (nee Head) ARes 1977-81
F3143105 1984-87
Life Member 7 Fd RAE

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 Secretary/Membership Officer Diane Sherry on 0408 553 412 or email 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
Mrs Brenda Boswell (nee Booth)
Ms Shirley Brown
Ms Marilyn Dell
Ms Robyn Gibson (nee Vincent)
Ms Pamela Hunt (nee Walsh)
Ms Angela Jones
Mrs Joyce Payne
Ms Debbie Umpleby
Ms. Sallyann Welton

Contact Diane Sherry on telephone 0408 553 412 or email: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au please.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT #1: ANZAC Day Commemorative March Medical Identification Card 2013

ATTACHMENT #2: Back to Barracks (31 WRAAC)



**ANZAC Day 2013
Medical Identification Card**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Brief Medical History: _____

Allergies: _____

Medications: (name, dosage, and frequency)

Next of Kin:

1. Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Home _____ (Mobile) _____

2. Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Home _____ (Mobile) _____

TO BE RETAINED BY MEMBER

Back to the Barracks

Now you've registered your interest with us, please make sure you contact the Charsfield Boutique Hotel (contact details at the bottom of this form) to book your room with them. They cannot guarantee the actual room you request, but the hotel will endeavour to provide it, or guarantee to give you a room of the same type.

Although you will be advising the Charsfield, and paying them direct for meals and afternoon tea etc, we need to know the number of people who will be attending the following:

Please tick box if you are attending

Friday evening meet and greet	(nibbles cost \$19)	Yes	No
Saturday Film and afternoon tea	(afternoon tea cost \$8)	Yes	No
Saturday evening Dinner	(evening meal cost \$70)	Yes	No

*Friday evening meet and greet – you will buy your own drinks on the night
Evening meal is choice from a 3 course set menu @ \$70 (not including drinks)*

Please note that we are endeavoring to get a grant to cover the Friday meet and greet costs.

****Any special dietary requirements.....****

Places are filling fast and there are limitations on the number of people who can fit in the restaurant area and the film area, so please contact the Charsfield to make your bookings. Advise them of your wish to attend any meals, the meet and greet and the film.

Also, fill out this form and forward it to: Betty Layt
61/2 Malloway Road
CHAIN VALLEY BAY NSW 2259

or email the completed form to 31wraac@adam.com.au after you've contacted the Charsfield

NAMEplease print clearly

Maiden name..... (if applicable)

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

EMAIL.....

PHONE.....MOBILE.....

When were you at 31 WRAAC Barracks, and why?.....

.....

Hotel Charsfield: 03 9866 5511 or 1300 301 830 email: info@charsfield.com