



# WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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## NEWSLETTER

May 2009 – No 2/2009

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome to the winter edition of your Newsletter, perhaps to many the best time of the year to live in or visit Victoria.

Winter has so much to offer, the promise of a bumper ski season, rain, watching AFL Footy on television as you curl up in your favourite chair wearing tracky pants that should have been in the re-cycle bin years ago.

However, winter has a down side as we reflect on members who may not be enjoying the best of health and perhaps facing a few hurdles along the way, be assured we are thinking of you and hope our sincere wishes will be of some comfort.

We think of our members and their loved ones in NSW and Queensland as they cope with the devastating floods and admire your strength and courage.

To our members their families and friends touched by the recent bushfires we think of you as the rebuilding begins and life goes on around you, we wish you peace and goodwill.

Our thanks to all for your support of the Association and we value your feedback and interest, keep warm and safe,

Yours in friendship

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar

## ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

### RESERVE FORCES DAY 2009 Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009

This year honouring the 39ers who served part time in the Services prior to WW11.

The Reserve Forces Day Parade is to be held at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009, assemble at 1000hrs at Princess Bridge and we march to the Shrine Forecourt where a short service will be conducted.

The Parade will pay tribute to those thousands of Australian Citizens, who as members of the Royal Australian Navy Reserve, the Militia and the Citizens Air Force, were at the forefront when war was declared in 1939.

As per last year there could be an unexpected change to the march off area, therefore it is suggested you check with Marshals along the way.

**DRESS;** Blazer, beret, scarf and medals, if you do not have a blazer wear warm comfortable clothing and shoes. Don't forget to bring an umbrella.

Following the service we will gather at the WRAAC Plaque and place a wreath in Remembrance.

### WRAAC ANNUAL LUNCHEON Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009

A reminder that the Annual Luncheon will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009. **(Booking form attachment number 1)**

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

### 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

Cost: \$30.00 per person.

**(See attachment number 2 for booking form)**

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

ANZAC Day Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009 was expected to be fine with rain and windy conditions predicted later in the day. The Weather Bureau was spot on and the March was enjoyed under excellent conditions. The fun part of the day began when there appeared to be another change to the March off area and amid much laughter and raised eyebrows we fell in behind the AWAS and in front of the Land Army Girls. The experience was similar to our Recruit Training

days when Instructors forgot to inform us there had been changes made to our Training Program. Judith Kennedy called the step as we briskly marched to the stirring sounds of the Pipes and Drums. We had to be fast as the march started in such a hurry our feet barely touched the ground. This would be the first time in years we have actually had a band to march along with and it was a wonderful experience.

We were joined on the day by Sophie (8) who attends South Yarra Primary School who proudly carried the WRAAC sign. There were lots of school children participating in the march this year, a positive way to have them involved and meeting the veterans. Sophie conveyed her thoughts on ANZAC Day, as she said "lots of people got killed but today we remember them". We send our grateful thanks to Sophie and her peers for their participation. In recognition of Sophie's great work a certificate of appreciation was sent to her on behalf of the Association, we can rest easy our Nation and its History is in safe hands.

Following the March we joined together for a welcome cuppa before heading off to our various re-unions. Please join us next year and help make it a great day.



Callam Hamilton wearing his Great-grandmother's medals and Grandmother's (Cheryle Brown) hat with two WW2 diggers at Cowes RSL.

### RACV

Our grateful thanks to the RACV as they continue the tradition of helping to transport our treasured Veterans on ANZAC DAY as many of them would be unable to participate in the March without such help.

The RACV has been involved in the transport of veterans since World War 1 when it's members welcomed the hospital ships carrying sick and injured back to our shores and if needed assisted in their transfer to the Caulfield Military Hospital.

The RACV not only co-ordinates volunteer transport for veterans unable to march the distance to the Shrine of Remembrance, volunteers later if required, then transport the veterans safely home. Our Association proudly boasts a member actively involved with this service Glenys Williamson and her husband David plus their baby, a stunning two door Rover Cabriolet. Sincere thanks to you and all the volunteers for a job well done.

We enjoyed seeing AWAS and WRAAC Association member Norma (NED KELLY) Burns sitting back in a

magnificent Rolls Royce on ANZAC Day, the girls agreed it was an appropriate choice of vehicle for such a great lady.



The AFL acknowledged Veterans on ANZAC DAY with a motorcade around the MCG, we spotted two of our members proudly waving to the crowd, Helen Littlejohn and Betty Davis. Well done to the Footy crowd for their recognition of the girls we think they are pretty special too.

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

A beautiful Autumn day greeted us as we joined together to commemorate our service to the Nation in both war and peace. The combined service was held within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance with Major Jessie Perkins President of the AWAS Association Victoria and Patron of the WRAAC Association Victoria placing a wreath in memory of all Servicewomen, Major Perkins was accompanied by Brenda Walters, Vice- President WRAAC Association Victoria.

The magnificent wreath of yellow roses entwined with green and gold ribbon signifying Corps colours was designed and made by Committee Member Margaret Jager.

Our Chaplain, the Reverend Bill Pugh conducted the service with WRAAC and AWAS members saying our respective prayers with Hawthorne Agnew piping the Lament, all present were invited to place a poppy in remembrance.

The service over we adjourned to the Lone Pine Room in the Education Centre where we gathered for a welcome cup of tea and tasty finger food prepared and served by Ian and Emma Jager. The area designated enabled us to spread out and feel very comfortable, we are fortunate to have such a venue, this enables us to make the day special and relaxed. The dedicated Staff at the Shrine continue to support and encourage us and we appreciate their help.

After the service WRAAC members walked to the WRAAC Plaque resting in the peaceful Remembrance Garden area where a sheath of flowers was placed in memory of our Sisters. Memories were shared and for many of us laughter replaced tears for the first time, as we left the Plaque arm in arm to rejoin our fellow servicewomen.

The service is an annual event in May each year and we hope to see you there in 2010.

### **58<sup>th</sup>32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion Luncheon March 2009**

Following a wreath laying ceremony at the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cenotaph situated at the Army Depot Pascoe Vale Road Moonee Ponds we adjourned to the Brass Tavern Restaurant for another great luncheon and the Pompey Elliot Annual Address.

The guest speakers this year certainly left us informed but to many a moral dilemma, should the remains of hundreds of Diggers missing since 1916 be exhumed from a French Battlefield where they were buried by the Germans and individually re- interred. The bodies will each be buried with full Military Honours at a new cemetery near Fromelles. (Pheasant Wood)

The quest to find the mass graves, the last resting place of our soldiers began with an obsession with Fromelles and the respect one man nurtured for the survivors, many of whom he met in the 1990s, his name is Lambis Englezos a teacher and amateur Historian.

Joining Lambis in his quest is former Australian soldier Tim Whitford a country lad from Tallarook Victoria, Tim went along to watch the archaeological dig at Fromelles as he hoped it would reveal the resting place of his great uncle, Private Harry Wills who was only 21 when he was killed in the July of 1916.

One can only imagine the heartbreak and uncertainty families have had to suffer not knowing where a loved one is buried and Tim Whitford's Family is one of many to endure this sadness. It never goes away and it continues to engulf each generation, young Harry Will's family understand this.

The family of Private Harry Wills were able to accurately find his burial area as a medallion was recovered that had been issued to soldiers from Alberton, Victoria Harry's home town. Only one missing man from Fromelles was known to have such a medallion Private Harry Wills. Following the discovery of the soldiers remains a new battle erupted as many people felt the site should remain untouched and to leave them in peace.

To quote the words of Tim Whitford "Harry was proud to be an Australian Soldier, it's proper they have a decent burial, they will no longer be a corpse, but soldiers again."

Rest in Peace dear boys Australia never forgot you.

The Australian Army is searching for relatives of those who may be buried at Fromelles.

For more information, call the dedicated public inquiry line on 1800 019 090 or visit [www.defence.gov.au/fromelles](http://www.defence.gov.au/fromelles).

### **SWAN HILL EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S REUNION Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

We arrived in the beautiful city of Swan Hill approximately 400 km NW of Melbourne, ready to enjoy the company and friendship of ex-servicewomen this year being the 37<sup>th</sup> reunion year. A significant part of any reunion is the catching up with friends and reminisce of past times and thanks to the relaxed planning of the day we had time to do this. The ex-service associations represented on the day were WAAF, AWAS, WRANS, RAAFNS, INDIAN NURSES, AAMWAS, ENGLISH WAF, QARANC, LAND ARMY and WRAAC.A wreath laying ceremony was held prior to the luncheon with our much loved and respected member Margaret Dark placing a wreath on behalf of the WRAAC Association.

As we adjourned to the Dining area the sound of the local Bush Band had our feet tapping to the beat, we were ready to join in the sing-a-long and the fun time ahead.WW2 songs

are the best tunes to sing a long to and even Baby Boomers know most of the words, thanks to our parents 78rpm records, MGM musicals and assorted camps and Bivouacs so naturally we starred in the singing.

We had just finished our main course when Jean Kelly (AWAS) had us up and formed in to a long Conga line, arms and legs flying in all directions and as we snaked our way around the room all aches and pains seemed to disappear for a few precious minutes. The traditional Happy Hour follows the afternoon festivities usually before going out to dinner, however, a new custom has invaded the turf known by its generic title "Nanna Nap" and is warmly embraced by many thus enabling one to truly enjoy the Happy Hour experience.

It's a wonderful weekend at Swan Hill and our thanks to Swan Hill and District Ex-Servicewomen's Association President Mrs Doss Jenkins and her hard working Committee, the Swan Hill RSL Club for their hospitality and support and to the people of Swan Hill who make us feel so very welcome. The reunion will be held in Swan Hill again next year in early April, check December newsletter for further information.

Did you know, When the explorer Thomas Mitchell camped on the banks of the mighty Murray River he named the spot Swan Hill because of the black swans that had kept him awake all night.

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

For those attending the EX- WRANS luncheon held at Legacy House we can certainly say a great time was had by all, the ladies were in fine form with several ex-service organizations in attendance. It was during the luncheon a poem was read to us by Jo Faulkner, the poem was written by the mother of a friend of Jo's daughter and is a tribute to the brave men of the HMAS SYDNEY that was sunk in 1941 by the Germans off the WA coast tragically with no survivors. To the families and a grieving Nation how do you make sense of such sadness and loss.

We have included the poem in our Newsletter, the words convey the Spirit of the time.

The WRANS are a great group and we always look forward to catching up with them at various functions throughout the year.

Our thanks to their President Jo Faulkner, the Committee and members of the Association for making us feel most welcome.

#### **A PRAYER**

By Margaret Ellen Wade

Turn your head to the westward  
And bow it silently in prayer,  
For the sons of the ocean waywards  
Buried – on duty there.

Fill not the wind with your crying  
Lest their watching spirits here,  
For though ocean be their burial ground  
Their souls are ever near.

There is something more in their dying  
More than the breath of sorrow, -  
There's a light if worthy sacrifice  
In the free dawn of tomorrow,

So turn your head to the westward  
Pray – then look ahead,  
And hear in the shadow of distance  
A loved voice, that would have said –

"Mourn not for our missing presence"  
Nor we - you cannot see,  
For we died as we'd have wished –  
As fighting men and free.

Think of us as not lost forever  
Nor grieve our loss in pain,  
For our ghostly hands will guide your ship  
Bring them safe to post again

This verse was written after HMAS Sydney was sunk. The rest was written in January 1942.  
Copyright 2009 Alexander Wade.

#### **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.

#### **AROUND THE WRAAC PACK**

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**

Margaret Bull welcomed a great-grandchild to the family.

#### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Maralyn Toppinen	ARA
Dorothy Holmquest	AWAS
Shirley Cornish	AWAS

#### **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.

## 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.

### **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>
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 JUNE – AUGUST 2009

5 <sup>th</sup> July 2009	Reserve Forces Day	
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

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**Attachment No. 1 - WRAAC Annual Luncheon 2009 Booking Form**

**Attachment No. 2 - AWAS Annual Luncheon/AGM 2009 Booking Form**

# WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

## 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Members are invited to a luncheon to celebrate the 33<sup>RD</sup> Anniversary at

THE INTERNATIONAL OF BRIGHTON  
81 BAY STREET, BRIGHTON  
ON SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009  
AT 11.30AM FOR 12.30PM

Cost is \$45.00 which includes a 2 course luncheon, 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

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BOOKING FORM 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009  
(BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009)  
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)

NAME:( please print).....

ADDRESS: .....

.....

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

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

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PAYMENT ..... Lunches at \$45.00 each ..... \$ .....





**AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE  
ASSOCIATION (VIC.) INC.**

**NOTICE/BOOKING FORM FOR RE-UNION LUNCHEON  
AND**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2009**

*To celebrate the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE*

<b>PLACE:</b>	<b>LEGACY HOUSE:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor 293 Swanston Street Melbourne (Situated between Lonsdale and Little Lonsdale Street)
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>12 Noon for 12.30pm Lunch</b> - Check in, collect your Name Tag, Consult the Seating Plan. Bar will be open, drinks at own expense.
<b>LUNCHEON COST:</b>	\$30:00 per person. Drinks at own expense.
<b>ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:</b>	Due and payable 1 <sup>st</sup> August each year – Cost \$10:00 <b>Please ADD to your luncheon booking.</b>

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

Seating is limited for the Luncheon – **PLEASE PAY BY Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009.**

We will allocate seating – please indicate below with whom you wish to be seated.

**COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS:**

Nominations for committee must be sent to the Secretary, 11/2 Gareth Avenue, BEAUMARIS VIC. 3193 by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**PLEASE CUT OFF THIS BOTTOM SECTION AND RETURN TO:**

Hon. Treas. Miss Jessie Perkins, 25 Alma Street, MALVERN EAST VIC 3145 – **No later than 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

✂ .....

**SEND CHEQUE or MONEY ORDER made payable to "AWAS Assoc. (Vic.) inc.", together with a self addressed stamped envelope for return of Entrée Card**

**Financial Members:**

I wish to attend the Re-Union Luncheon	COST \$30:00	\$30:00
PLUS I am a Member and wish to renew my Annual Subscription due 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2009	ADD \$10:00	\$
<b>(Financial Member)</b>	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Non Members and Carers:**

I wish to attend the Re-Union Luncheon with .....	COST \$30:00	\$30:00
If you are an Ex-AWAS and wish to join the Association and receive Newsletters etc. also enclose the Annual Subscription of \$10:00. An application form will be returned to you.	ADD \$10:00	\$
<b>(Non-Member /or Carer)</b>	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$</b>

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:**

<b>ARMY NO:</b>	<b>NAME:</b>	<b>Ne</b>
<b>ADDRESS</b>		
<b>POSTCODE:</b>		<b>PHONE:</b>
<b>UNIT/CORPS:</b>		
<b>NAME OF CARER:</b>		

**TABLE RESERVATION:**

Please indicate Name of person or Unit with whom you wish to be seated: .....

Do you require a Vegetarian Meal? Yes Do you require a Diabetic Dessert? Yes

**If you want notices sent to Ex-AWAS/friends, show names and addresses on the back of this notice..**