Patron
Jessie Perkins MBE RFD ED

Honorary Chaplain
Rev W.G. (Bill) Pugh
Telephone: 03 9598 5841

President and
Newsletter Editor
Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar
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Vice President
Brenda (Ruby) Walters
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Liz (Stone) Maclaine
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History Co-ordinator
Heather (Rankin) Fry
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Fundraiser Co-ordinator
Margaret (Robinson) Jager
Telephone: 03 9743 8267

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.
Post Office Box 307
SAN REMO VIC 3925
Telephone : (03) 5678 5486 Website : www.wraacvic.com

NEWSLETTER
May 2010 – No 2/2010

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VALE

The Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria) Incorporated
mourn the passing of our Patron F31703 Major Jessie May Perkins MBE RFD ED
(Ret’d) on Tuesday 11th May 2010.

Rest in peace dearest Jessie, a life of service, goodness and kindness.
It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of our much loved and respected Patron Major Jessie May Perkins on Tuesday 11th May 2010. Jessie had been unwell for several months and was admitted to Cabrini Hospital, Malvern, where she passed away peacefully in the loving care of her family and the dedicated hospital staff.

Jessie was a loved and respected Soldier and a wonderful role model for us all to follow, we were never left in doubt, Jessie was a true leader and those fortunate to have been guided by her have been truly blessed.

We think of Jessie’s sister Norma and the wonderful family and friends that shared Jessie’s personal and private life and extend our deepest sympathy to you all.

To Jessie’s dear friend Captain Gwenda Walker our sincere condolences on the loss of your AWAS/WRAAC fellow servicewoman, our thoughts are with you.

We will never forget you dear Jessie.

LEST WE FORGET

So many of you have special stories to share about Major Jessie Perkins and in conjunction with the AWAS Association (Vic) Inc. there will be a service to commemorate her outstanding life encompassing her AWAS and WRAAC service.

We will notify the date and venue in due course possibly September 2010.

Funeral Service

The welcome sound of peeling church bells called on us to gather together to celebrate the life of Major Jessie May Perkins MBE RFD ED (Ret’d) on the 17th May 2010 at St Peter’s Anglican Church Murrumbeena.

The large crowd of mourners was a rich tapestry of Major Perkins’ wonderful and full life joining as one for such a gracious lady.

Personal reflections of Major Jessie Perkins were lovingly conveyed by her family and friends with a Service Tribute by Brigadier Keith R. Colwill CBE, Patron, Royal Australian Signals Association (Vic). A heart warming tribute to Major Jessie Perkins was given by her Nieces and Nephews who loved her dearly. The service included Major Perkins’ favourite hymns and readings such as Be Still My Soul and Jerusalem.

We all stood to honour Major Jessie Perkins as her casket was led from the church flanked by an honour guard from Scotch College Cadet Unit Melbourne. This was a difficult moment for many of us and we sought the comfort of our fellow servicewomen who understood our sadness and loss.

As we left the Church to join Major Perkins’ family at the Hearse where the Officiating Father Tom Jewell offered Committal Prayers and Major Perkins final good bye from her loved ones.

Following the service Norma (Jessie’s sister) and family invited all to join them in the Parish Hall for refreshments.

A private service was held for Major Perkins at Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

REQUIRE FORCES DAY

Sunday 4th July 2010
1000hrs to 1200hrs

The Reserve Forces Day Council (Vic)
All Reserve (CMF) members are invited to attend this day.
The intention of the Day is to be a Parade, not a March.

This day will be open to all Army, Air Force and Navy Reservists.

It is just over 60 years since the Reserves (CMF) Forces were reformed and the celebrations this year will pay special tribute to those Reservists who have served overseas since the end of WWII and have been awarded a medal for that service.

Form up point – Government House Drive
Form Up Timing - 1000hrs
March Off – 1030hrs

DRESS: Blazer or Jacket, beret, scarf and medals, if you do not have a blazer wear warm comfortable clothing and shoes.

MEDALS: Officially issued decorations, campaign and service medals should be worn as appropriate. Medals such as commemorative or souvenir medals – i.e. medals that are purchased not issued by the Government – must not be worn.

Saluting with Head wear: Leading members of Contingents are requested to salute, with the remainder giving an “Eyes Right” to the Eternal Flame when marching past the dais and then marching off to the Eternal Flame and senior Reviewing Officer who will be positioned in the same location.

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

WRAAC ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Saturday 24th July 2010

A reminder that the Annual Luncheon will be held on Saturday 24th July 2010. (Booking form is attachment number 1)

If you wish to bring along a female friend/carer or family member to the luncheon this year include their name on attached booking form.
ANZAC DAY
Sunday 25th April 2010
ANZAC DAY 2010 Melbourne

Melbourne had a buzz of anticipation at 8.15 am on a sunny ANZAC Day morning with the knowledge of a special day ahead. The large crowd appeared to be lining up earlier than in previous years with small children eagerly seeking to gain the front row position under the barriers to wave on the Marchers, eyes scanning the ranks to seek out a loved one to acknowledge.

WRAAC Association members gathered ready to take up position behind the AWAS and in front of the Land Army Girls and we all looked fantastic.

This year WWII veterans were allotted vehicles to encourage them not to attempt the march on foot but many felt they could do it unaided and so they did.

As a marcher following directly behind a slow moving vehicle the fumes were not compatible with our ageing lungs and at times became quite overwhelming.

Our girls numbered 20 in total and as we marched towards the Shrine of Remembrance with Judith Kennedy keeping us in step, we received lots of cheers and the usual good humour that goes with it. However, we did think we were back in the 70s when a chap called out to us “I just love a woman in uniform” Somethings never change do they?

Margaret Jager did a fine job as our Banner Bearer and there were lots of positive comments as to how good our new Banner looked, it really stands out when the sunlight gently reflects the silver and gold corps badge.

It was a joy to have Luise (Nardella) Laudani and Jenny (Pinchen) Simpson join us this year and do they look good, the girls have both promised to be with us next year for the 60th, they are treasures and we love them dearly.

We had a phone call from Carol King (S.A) wishing us all the best for the day and Captain Gwenda Walker came over to check on us as she made her way to a vehicle to join the AWAS, she never forgets her girls.

We welcomed Maxine Pettingill, Virginia Austin and Heather Morris who joined with us this year and it made the day very special as it’s all about Esprit De Corp and it was in abundance on ANZAC Day.


ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE
Friday 23rd April 2010

I had the honour of joining the AWAS Senior Vice President Captain Gwenda Walker on Friday 23rd April 2010 at the ANZAC DAY OBSERVANCE held at Austin Health (Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital)

There were approximately 600 people in attendance and as I looked around at the assembled gathering there was a sense of pride and yet a greater sense of loss as the service began to commemorate the sacrifice and courage of Australians in all conflicts. There is always sadness at such an occasion and there were heartfelt words for the brave war widows and their children and for the families of loved ones lost.

There were Veterans from WWII inpatients at the hospital participating in the service from the shelter of an upper balcony overlooking the assembled guests below. If it was needed they were assisted to the stand position for the Last Post by caring staff at Austin Health, dignity and courage were the thoughts in my head that day.

Local school children accompanied by their Teachers were encouraged to place a poppy in Remembrance and the welcome visit of Simpson (Tim Faulkner) and his Donkey (Jim) brought History to life for the little ones. A sheath of gold and green flowers was placed on behalf of the Association in memory of all Servicemen and women.
It is so predictable that around ANZAC Day the same old story is given a spit and polish and paraded before us by the usual suspects namely disgruntled Academics and Historians, perhaps wishing to promote their latest book or theory.

This year we were subjected to their ‘in’ words such as Relevance, Mythology and Mateship, great words but awful in the context in which some folk tend to use them.

Relevance, this is to suggest ANZAC Day is becoming less important to Australians as the number of World War 11 and Korean Veterans dwindle in number. Therefore, in their humble opinion ANZAC Day should not appear to be one of National pride and respect. So now you have been told!

Mythology, the very idea that Australia’s Nationhood could even be remotely connected to the disaster that was Gallipoli which in turn led a few Academics to dream up the Militarization of Australia’s History theory is leaving them all hot and bothered, the poor dears.

There should be another good book in that one worthy of a grant.

Mateship, the idea that mateship reflects only the male view is a concept many Servicewomen would find unacceptable and perhaps dispute the latest ramblings of the misinformed.

If only they took the time to listen to Servicewomen who served Australia during WWII, Vietnam and in Peace keeping roles they would understand that women have a deep belief that mates helped them endure the terrible things that ultimately war and peace forces upon you.

How could young Servicewomen leaving the safety of Australia cope with boarding a ship on course for the Middle East in the early days of WWII, leaving behind family and friends to help set up Hospitals and aid posts. It was just expected that they would cope with tending the wounded and comfort the sick and dying. The girls could not have endured with such courage and compassion if not for their fellow servicewomen, their mates to share the pain. Nurses assigned to help with the rehabilitation of our Boys (POWs) in 1945, how did they cope and make sense of such cruelty without the empowering strength of mateship.

So, who is there, always there for you, Mates

I know I’d be lost without mine.

We all have our own thoughts on this but all would agree war is a chilling chapter in the history of the world and peace always comes at a high price therefore whatever we do let’s not allow them to re-write our history.

Jessie enjoyed this day as it brought together former AWAS and WRAAC members and she really encouraged us to keep the commemorative service in our diary each year. In memory of Jessie all present received a sprig of Rosemary tied in the St Kilda Football Club Colours of red, white and black. Jessie loved her Saints.

On commencement of the service Major Maggie More on behalf of the Shrine Trustees welcomed us to the Shrine, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar President of the WRAAC Association paid tribute to the AWAS and WRAAC for their contribution to our Nation in war and peace. WO1 Elizabeth Gibson then came forward to say a prayer for peace, this prayer was taken from Readings and Prayers for members of Army Women’s Services 1942 and the words are so relevant today. The haunting sound of the piper playing Amazing Grace gave us time to reflect and the comforting words of our chaplain William (Bill) Pugh helped join us together as one in the sadness we all felt. Acting President of the AWAS Association Captain Gwenda Walker joined with WO1 Elizabeth Rouse in the wreath laying ceremony as the Piper played the Lament, the wreaths were in our respective Service and Corps colours.

The AWAS and WRAAC prayer were said by Captain Gwenda Walker and Major Maggie More, the prayers are a significant part of the service and a special reminder of our past. Following the service within the sanctuary of the Shrine we gathered at the WRAAC plaque for the blessing of the WRAAC Banner and a tribute to Major Jessie Perkins. Margaret Jager placed a sheath of golden wattle in her memory and a minutes silence was observed. A WRAAC hat, one that we always admired on Jessie was reverently carried to the plaque on our green and gold WRAAC cushion by Sergeant Liz Maclaine where all present were invited to place a poppy in remembrance.

Our piper Hawthorn Agnew played Be Still My Soul as we filed past our beautiful plaque and tree situated in the peaceful remembrance garden area where our Chaplain invited us gather together for refreshments in the Lone Pine Room. It was indeed comforting to be in the company of fellow ex-servicewomen.

Our grateful thanks to the very special Jager family for their wonderful catering and care on the day, the tasty food Margaret, Ian, Emma and Amy prepared for us was much appreciated. The welcome homemade soup Margaret and the girls always prepare was a favourite of Jessie’s and has always been included on the must have list following the combined AWAS/WRAAC Service. If we saw Jessie prior to the service she would enquire if soup was to be on the menu, Margaret never said NO.

The magnificent wreaths and flowers we all admired at the Shrine and at Major Jessie Perkin’s Funeral Service has a very special story. One of Jessie’s girls lovingly made and arranged the casket flowers and the AWAS and WRAAC pillows that proudly stood either side of Major Perkin’s casket. The beautiful girl is Margaret (Robinson) Jager who designed and arranged the casket flowers in Major Perkins beloved Saint Kilda Colours, the design included red and white roses entwined with black ribbon. Margaret with the help of her daughters Emma and Amy also made and designed the wreaths for the Shrine Service and our heartfelt thanks for...
your care and kindness. Major Perkins would have been so proud.

38TH REUNION OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN
SWAN HILL
Sunday 11th April 2010

The 38th Reunion Of Ex-Servicewomen on Sunday 11th April at Swan Hill

A wonderful weekend was had by all ex-servicewomen as they once again gathered at the great city of Swan Hill (Victoria) to join together to celebrate the 38th reunion of ex-servicewomen, the weekend is a celebration of friendship that embraces all the Women’s Services pre and post WWII.

The highlight of the reunion is the welcome luncheon at the Swan Hill RSL Club where a sense of unity and goodwill prevails and the only order of the day is to join in and have fun. This year approximately 70 women attended the luncheon with many of the girls travelling from Melbourne by train to catch up with their mates.

The luncheon is a sit down meal and in compliance with service tradition meals are traded with the person sitting beside you and always with the following words ‘wanna swap”? Lamb or Chicken, Apple Crumble or Trifle. Sometimes a protective arm appears to encircle a much sought after Dessert accompanied by a stare that would make a Pit Bull Terrier cringe, it is then understood swapping is not appropriate at this time.

Once again the Catalina Bush Band belted out familiar tunes and our own Diane Sherry displayed her new found skill of playing the spoons much to the delight of our WRAAC and AWAS table, Diane played in tune so that was a bonus.

We missed Jean Kelly (AWAS) this year as Jean is our official Conga Leader so we expect you next year Jean to lead the group. WRAAC Association member Margaret Dark celebrated her birthday at Swan Hill and she was serenaded by all present, naturally we are all gifted in the voice department and the harmony was truly magnificent.

This is the last year the Reunion will be hosted by the Swan Hill and Districts Ex-servicewomen’s Association and 2011 will see us returning to Swan Hill as a group in a less formal manner, we may have a short wreath laying service and then meet up in the Dining area for a Luncheon and catch up time, there will not be any correspondence from Swan Hill relating to the 39th Reunion so we intend to keep you informed via the December Newsletter.

Our grateful thanks to the women of the hardworking Committee at Swan Hill who have ensured the success of the Reunions for so many years and we understand their reluctance to do so in 2011.

We loved this photo of our girl in Swan Hill, Maralyn Toppinen (pictured) who looks stunning as she prepares for the ANZAC Day march this year. Maralyn was a stewardess (WRAAC) posted to Sydney for two years where she met and married her soldier Laurie (Vietnam Veteran) and in retirement settled in Swan Hill. Maralyn was quoted in the local paper as she referred to the very special friendship servicewomen share as it is different from other friendships and always relates these special words from the late Major Patty Rawlings,

It doesn’t matter how rich you are or how poor you are, you can’t buy your way into our membership.

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 $725.00.

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

RUTH (MC COMB) BROWN

Recently Gwen Walker and I had the pleasure of visiting Ruth (Mc Comb) Brown. Ruth permanently resides at Capel Sands Aged Care, Rosebud West, Victoria. Ruth was very pleased to see both of us and the conversation quickly turned to ‘remember when’. Ruth was a driver for 3 WRAAC Co, enlisting in 1956 and serving for many years before leaving to marry her husband, Bill Brown. Many of our members would remember Ruth driving the large International trucks and collecting and delivering briquettes for the elderly as well as being involved in transporting pensioners to and fro from the 3 WRAAC Co Christmas party. Ruth always handled the army vehicles, irrespective of their size, with such apparent ease and left the army with a perfect driving record.

The visit to Ruth was very special for Gwen Walker, as not only were Gwen and Ruth both involved with 3 WRAAC Co
transport wing but they were also, as eight/ten year olds, neighbours in St Kilda.

Ruth is very happy at Capel Sands Aged Care, well looked after by the excellent staff and frequently visited by her husband Bill and much loved dog, Cindy.

Heather (Rankin) Fry

**SICK PARADE**

Norma Burns

Norma (Ned Kelly) Burns AWAS and WRAAC Association member.

Our much loved Ned is in hospital and we wish her all the very best and hope she is home very soon.

Margaret Roberts

We have been in contact with our girl and she is feeling a little better after her recent hospital stay, we are thinking of you Margaret.

Gnarie Foster

Gnarie is in Cabrini Hospital and we send our love and best wishes to her.

Gnarie was WRAAC ARA and is a great supporter of the Association.

Captain Ruth Durance

Our dearest Ruth (Former Admin Comd 3 WRAAC Co) is also in Cabrini Hospital undergoing treatment for her leg and we wish her all the very best. Ruth’s husband John is keeping us updated on her progress.

Betty Slater

We were happy to read that Betty Slater (former Cadre staff 3 WRAAC Co) was returning home after a stay in hospital in her home state of Queensland.

We have fond memories of Betty whenever we hear Beautiful, Beautiful, Queensland, you see Betty taught us that song one balmy night in Pucka over a few chilled ales.

Margaret Brookes

It was good news from Margaret (Toddy) Brookes in April informing us she is now home from Hospital and feeling much better.

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

**BABY NEWS**

Congratulations to Sheryl English on the arrival of her first Grandchild Hannah Charlotte born in Western Australia on the 26th April 2010.

Sheryl reports her son is a pilot in the Air Force and baby Hannah was good enough to wait until Dad’s ANZAC Day Commitments were over before she made her entrance.

Baby Hannah is so lucky to have such a beautiful Grandmother, enjoy your first visit Nanna.

Sheryl also reports a trip to Canada is coming up soon, have a great time.

Beautiful Baby – she salutes just like grandma!

The stunning baby you see is Asa Blanksby Granddaughter of our late President LtCol Bev Blanksby and husband Don, she is a little charmer and has recently celebrated her first birthday.

**TRIPS/HOLIDAYS**

I was not surprised to see our own Posh and Becks (aka) Heather and Hugh Fry featured in a layout for the Herald Sun Travel section on Sunday 18th April 2010, the fun couple are seen taking a leisurely walk along a path way and next they are spotted sunning themselves by the pool at rural Cobram situated on the Murray River, Victoria.

We have offered to manage the Celebrity couple but so far they are not answering our calls.

We wish them both a great trip to Western Australia and a safe return home.

Judith Kennedy

Caught up with Judith Kennedy who informs us she will be visiting Colorado USA in December 2010 to catch up with her son and daughter in-law for a white Christmas then it’s off to Ireland for a visit.

The young lady looks fabulous and we wish her all the best.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES**

80TH Birthday wishes to May Brookes from your fellow Servicewomen as you celebrate this significant milestone, well done May. A family party for May was attended by many of her WRAAC friends.
Captain Gwenda Walker

Our best wishes to our own Captain Gwenda Walker who was made an Honorary Life Member of the Sigs Association, a badge was presented to Gwenda on ANZAC Day at the Sigs reunion at the South Melbourne Town Hall following the March.

Colonel Jan McCarthy

Colonel Jan McCarthy was one of four regional women formally inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll for Women in March 2010 held at the National Gallery of Victoria.

The awards celebrate women who use their tenacity, vision, outstanding leadership, commitment and plain hard work to succeed in their chosen field

Janice McCarthy has been an exemplary professional and community leader and has filled a variety of hospital roles since starting her Nursing career in 1958.

Colonel McCarthy is a decorated Veteran following service in Vietnam and went on to be a leader in Military Nursing, prior to her retirement she was appointed Matron in Chief/Director of Nursing Services of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps.

Well done Jan and thank you for your ongoing work within the Veterans community. Jan also has a Leadership role with various communities in her local area.

Colonel Jan McCarthy was the Guest Speaker at our Association Luncheon last year.

It is amazing how a fleeting moment can trigger a memory of a time so long ago, it happened to me recently when I had cause to use the services of the RACV.

The unit sent to rescue me was a large recovery vehicle and as I nimbly pulled myself up into the passengers seat much to the surprise of the very young duty mechanic who thought he might have to assist me, I suddenly became Cpl Wood of 3 WRAAC Co on my way to join the advance party at Puckapunyal, Victoria.

Although being part of an advance party could be hard work it was a great time to get to know your mates and have the site up and running when the remainder of the Company arrived days later.

I was fortunate to meet Heather (Rankin) Fry on such an occasion and could that lady drive a truck, Heather would pick us up at designated spots around Melbourne ready for the Camp or Bivouac, the supplies had been gathered from the Depot earlier in the day, we were ready to roll.

We all looked spick and span in our WRAAC uniform and full of anticipation for the adventure ahead plus there were lots of laughs along the way.

That memory stayed with me for quite a while as I recalled the fun and friendships made over 40 years ago and that I could still mount the vehicle unaided was a bonus.

Dismounting, now that’s another memory.

Shirley (Morton) Morton-Bell Ex ARes 7 FER 1979-85
Virginia (Mahoney) Austin Ex WRAAC ARA 1973-80
Myrene Purcell 3 WRAAC Co/3 Div Int 1970-77

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.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th July 2010</td>
<td>Reserve Forces Day Parade</td>
<td>Form Up Point – Government House Drive, Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th July 2010</td>
<td>WRAAC Luncheon</td>
<td>International Of Brighton Bay Street, Brighton.</td>
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<td>18th August 2010</td>
<td>AWAS Annual Luncheon/AGM</td>
<td>ANZAC House 4 Collins Street Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2010</td>
<td>WRAAC AGM</td>
<td>Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne</td>
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</tbody>
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Attachments: #1 Annual Luncheon Booking Form
WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

34TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Members are invited to a luncheon to celebrate the 34th Anniversary at

THE INTERNATIONAL OF BRIGHTON
81 BAY STREET, BRIGHTON
ON SATURDAY 24TH JULY 2010
AT 11.30AM FOR 12.30PM

Cost is $47.50 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

BOOKING FORM 24TH JULY 2010
(Bookings close on Friday 9th July 2010)
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)

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