WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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Telephone: (03) 5678 5486 Website: www.wraacvic.com

NEWSLETTER

September 2009 – No 3/2009

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Fundraiser Co-ordinator

Margaret (Robinson) Jager Telephone: 03 9743 8267



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members.

Welcome to the Spring edition of your Newsletter and trust you all survived the Winter free of the nasty flu and virus bugs aggressively invading our space.

The Association has been busy with lots of functions to attend and it's wonderful catching up with so many of you recently retired girls, a retirement that has enabled you a little more time to enjoy the company of your Service friends.

I detect the faint sound of muffled laughter at the thought of "spare time" when in fact our generation is in great demand of our time and energy, not only with ageing parents but with our darling grandchildren as well. I sometimes think that paid employment was a breeze.

Our Association enables us to join together and enjoy the company of women spanning several generations of Service to Australia each with a story to tell and interesting company over a meal and a glass of wine.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Ex-WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch on Saturday 10th October 2009.

Yours in friendship

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar



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.

ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1100hrs Saturday 24th October 2009

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on Saturday 24th October 2009 at the Shrine of Remembrance Education Centre (Refer Attachment).

Following the AGM tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available in the Lone Pine Room. For catering purposes please contact Cheryle Brown 03 5678 5486 or Email rayhyd@bigpond.com if you will be joining us.

EX-WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP (VIC) 1200 noon Saturday 10th October 2009

The Ex-WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch will be held at the Orrong Hotel Bistro, corner Orrong and High Streets, Armadale (Melway Ref. Map 58 J:7) on Saturday 10th October 2009 from 12 noon onwards. This is always a great day and another opportunity to catch up with old friends.

The cost is governed by you with meals at bar or blackboard prices and drinks at bar prices. If you have not attended a Pub lunch before don't let that deter you just come along and join in the day.

We have many new Association members and this is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow ex-servicewomen in an informal environment. Just walk in and make yourself known.

If you wish to attend the Pub Lunch RSVP by Wednesday 7^{th} October 2009 to Liz Maclaine 03 9397 1043 (my answering machine is always on), Bev Bond 03 5952 3096 or Lyn Board 03 5989 2553.

SWAN HILL EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S REUNION Sunday 11th April 2010

The Swan Hill Ex-servicewomen's Reunion 2010 will be held on the second weekend in April, the reunion luncheon is Sunday 11th April. We suggest you think about booking accommodation very soon as Swan Hill is a popular destination during April. More information to follow.

POLAR FLEECE JACKETS

If you wish to purchase a green polar fleece jacket as seen at the luncheon recently Brenda has sourced a supplier as we looked for the best option with cost a priority. The cost of a Blazer is astronomical with several Associations looking at purchasing fabric and members having their own tailor made, once again at significant cost. We know a jacket does not look as smart as a blazer but the jacket is another option. The committee is looking at woven badges to go on the jacket with the cost once again a consideration. If you have any contacts regarding Blazers and or fabric please contact Brenda Walters on 03 9846 2152.

If you have a blazer continue to wear it as the polar jacket is an option for members unable to source a blazer.

To order a Ladies Polar Fleece Jacket contact: www.gcapparel.com.au.
Order on line robyn@gcapparel.com.au
Biz Collection PF631-Colour Forrest
Telephone: 1300 663 890
Approximate Cost \$36.00 per garment (includes postage)

COUNCIL OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE AND LUNCHEON Saturday 21st November 2009

On Saturday 21st November 2009 at 1100 hrs a Service of Remembrance will be held at the Memorial Cairn, Kings Domain Melbourne (Melways Ref Map 2G:A10) situated in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden. The service commemorates the 23rd Anniversary of the Dedication of the Ex-Servicewomen's Memorial. The Cairn is dedicated to the 70,000 women who served Australia in the Navy, Army, Air Force and Auxiliary Forces.

Following the service a luncheon will be held at RSL House, 4 Collins Street, Melbourne at 12 noon for 12.30pm, the cost of the two course luncheon is \$35:00 with drinks at bar prices. The luncheon this year will have a festive theme and as Christmas is nearly with us it should be a great day. There is car parking available in the two car parks in Little Collins Street opposite the former Naval and Military Club so you will need to be aware of parking fees on a Saturday. Tram and train (Parliament Station) access is excellent with trams stopping close to the venue and would be good option.

If you wish to attend the Luncheon please send a cheque made payable to The Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Association (Vic) Inc with a stamped self addressed envelope by the 10th November 2009 to:

The Treasurer
Miss Jessie Perkins
25 Alma Street
MAVERN EAST VIC 3145

Plans to relocate Memorial Cairn



There are plans to re-locate the Memorial Cairn from its present site to the Remembrance Garden at the Shrine of Remembrance by 2010. This is an appropriate move and would be a fitting tribute to the Women of Australia who served our Nation with such pride and dignity. The peaceful garden area within the Shrine of Remembrance will enable visitors safer access to the Cairn as opposed to its present position.

The Association will keep you updated on the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's progress with the proposed move.

News of Patron Nancy Wake

Our thanks to Elizabeth Marchant (Ex-RAAFNS) for the current update on Nancy's health. It would appear Nancy is in good spirits and comfortable, she is able to sit out of bed more often these days and enjoys listening to music, so that's good news.

It would appear a new care facility in Hampton Park is on the agenda for Nancy, the property is due for completion in 2013.

We wish her all the very best.

Kindred Organisation and Unit Associations News

Proposed changes to the Melbourne ANZAC Day order of march 2010. A decision on the format will be announced at the next KO & UA meeting on 12th October 2009. We will keep you informed of any change in the next newsletter,

RESERVE FORCES DAY 2009 Sunday 5th July 2009

Reserve Forces Day 2009 was a disappointment all round. It was down in numbers participating on the day plus the added combination of rain and cooler conditions predicted certainly played a huge part in the smaller than normal turnout.

Our Association had four brave souls willing to confront the elements and commemorate the exemplary service given to our Nation by the Citizens Forces of the Defence Reserves, the day offers us the time to reflect and acknowledge friends and colleagues we had the honour to serve with.

It appears the day may have lost its significance to many and warrants the question should we bother to attend as an Association and maybe just allow it rest in the past, we noted with interest the small numbers marching with other Associations and on asking around they felt the same way.

We would certainly appreciate your comments.

WRAAC ANNUAL LUNCHEON Saturday 25th July 2009

A great time was had by all attending the 36th WRAAC Association luncheon held on the 25th July 2009 at the International of Brighton. The day had a simple format, relax and enjoy yourself in the company of friends and most appeared to do this judging by the feedback and the buzz in the room.

The new Association Banner was proudly marched into the dining room for the first time by Margaret Jager and Joy McLaren to the stirring sounds of the Corps March "Soldiers of the Queen", much to the delight of all assembled. The classic words to Soldiers of the Queen penned by 3 WRAAC Co girls so many years ago resonated throughout the room and we loved to sing it again.

The President Jude Pinkerton-Treloar (MC) then welcomed all present and acknowledged our Patron Major Jessie Perkins who is looking fit and well. Jessie is much loved and respected by all. There were members from country Victoria and Interstate joining with us and it was so good to see them again.

Our Chaplain, the Reverend Bill Pugh said Grace and we then sat down to a great meal, so beautifully presented by the staff at the International. The Association asked Mrs Lesley Pugh to accept our best wishes for her 80th Birthday and presented Lesley with flowers and a framed WRAAC Corps badge. (made and designed by Cheryle Brown) Lesley is our Chaplain's wife and a keen photographer. Her excellent photos provide us with a record of past events and we love to have her with us. Lesley then joined Jessie Perkins in the cutting of the cake. Jude's parents, Mr and Mrs Wood donated the cake as a thank you for the happy times they shared with the Association. The toasts this year were proposed by Major Val Walsh (the Queen), Major Jessie Perkins (absent friends) and Liz Maclaine (the Association).



Our guest speaker Colonel Jan McCarthy RAANC talked about her experiences as a nursing sister with the Australian Army and her tour of duty in Vietnam 1968-1969. Jan is a great lady and it was an honour to have her with us on the

day. Liz Maclaine and Jenny Hamilton (Cheryle Brown's daughter) dressed in WRAAC sport and summer uniforms stirred up memories of a time not so long ago when we were young and gorgeous and could still manage to fit into our uniform. Liz and Jenny looked pretty good and we thank them so much for a great effort. The idea of the uniform display was to inspire us for the February 2011 WRAAC celebrations when we in Victoria intend to have a display of WRAAC memorabilia at the Shrine of Remembrance. Where did the last 60 years go?

The Association once again acknowledged several members for their contribution and Certificates of Appreciation were given to Brenda Walters, Heather Fry, Ann Wood and Dawn Ciechomski. The day finished on a happy note with the promise to do it all again next year.

AWAS LUNCHEON/AGM Wednesday 12th August 2009

There was lots of chatter and catch up talk at the AWAS reunion luncheon held at Legacy House in Swanston Street, Melbourne on Wednesday 12th August 2009. The day had a typical Melbourne in August feel to it with a cool breeze and just a hint of Spring around the corner. There were several WRAAC girls at the luncheon and the feedback suggests they had a wonderful day in the company of such great women. We are so fortunate to have such strong ties with the AWAS Association here in Victoria and we look forward to joining them at various functions throughout the year.

We were delighted to meet LTCOL Mary Johns, a former AWAS who joined the WRAAC on its formation. She was one of two officers in charge of courses at Studley Park and Lonsdale Bight Victoria when recruiting began in 1951. Mary was Acting AD WRAAC in 1953 when WRAAC CMF started and can be seen on the website with the first enlistees.



LT Mary Johns Acting AD WRAAC SComd with first intake of WRAAC CMF 8 WRAAC Co in July 1953

If you wish to attend the luncheon in 2010 check the diary entry in the May/June newsletter.

ASSOCIATION BANNER

Our grateful thanks to Carol and Grant King for their generous gift to the Association. Carol and Grant kindly donated the magnificent Association Banner paraded for the first time at the Luncheon held on the 25th July 2009.

Carol (Hamilton) King is a life member of the Association and a much loved former member of 3 WRAAC Co and on disbandment of the WRAAC continued her service career at 126 Signals Sqn attaining the rank of Sergeant.

Carol and Grant are a great team and we are humbled by their generosity. The Banner will be blessed next year at the combined AWAS/WRAAC Service by our Chaplain the Reverend Bill Pugh. The blessing will take place at the WRAAC Plaque situated in the Shrine gardens.(Photos next Newsletter)

WRAAC 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 2011

A sub-committee has been formed to co-ordinate the celebrations for this special year.

The committee is currently discussing with the Shrine of Remembrance an exhibition of WRAAC History to be held in conjunction with Corps day celebrations. We need you to clear out your cupboards and check for any WRAAC uniforms, stories, photos or history you may have. More information will be available at a later date.

Other states will be holding celebrations for 60th Anniversary of WRAAC.

Check: www.wraacmemories.com for more information.

WRAAC MEMORIAL ROLL

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

THE WEARING OF HONOURS, AWARDS, MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

It would appear many of our members are not quite sure when it is deemed appropriate to wear decorations when attending various functions throughout the year such as our Association Luncheon. One does not have to be asked to wear them, it is your choice.

A simple guide would be

DAY DRESS

Day Dress Ladies	Medals	Full Size
Formal Day Dress Ladies	Medals	Full Size

EVENING WEAR

Short Dress	Medals	Miniature
Long Dress	Medals	Miniature

FUNERALS Medals Full Size

There will be occasions when attending a function that you may be requested to wear medals such as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Remembrance Services and Unit gatherings. The full-sized medals may be worn on an over coat on the left side.

Remember as general practice, miniature orders, decorations and medals are worn with evening dress.

Breaking News - Replacement Medals Policy Relaxation

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr. Mike Kelly AM MP, announced on 20th March 2009, that the Defence Replacement Medal policy will be relaxed for those family members who have lost the medals of loved ones in the Victorian bushfires and Queensland floods.

Family members wishing to obtain replacements may now apply, using the application form which can be obtained on the website at www.defence.gov.au/medals or by calling the toll-free Customer Response Team on 1800 111 321.



How appropriate that one of the recipients of the RSL ANZAC of the year award went to Lambis Englezos who has contributed so much time and energy into raising awareness of our soldiers lost and buried at Fromelles 19th July 1916 (refer last newsletter) and those who are buried at Pheasant Wood are properly remembered.

Lambis Englezos also became an Officer (AO) in the General Division for service to the Community through research and advocacy roles relating to Australian soldiers of the Great War buried in Fromelles, France. *A truly great Australian*.

The other ANZAC of the year award went to Humanitarian Moira Kelly, guardian of conjoined twins Trishna and Krishna, now awaiting separation at the Royal Children's Hospital. Moira is a worthy recipient of the award for her ongoing work with underprivileged children.

Restoration of War Memorials in Victoria

It was heart warming to learn that more than \$191,000 is being spent this year on restoring War Memorials around Victoria and work has started on a register to list all the memorials and avenues of honour situated outside country towns. War Memorials were erected all over Australia following WWI as our Nation grieved for children, husbands, brothers and friends killed in battle. The bereaved families were unable to visit their loved ones final resting place so War Memorials and tree lined avenues were a great source of comfort to them. If you visit country towns on significant days of Remembrance you will notice the War Memorials have wreaths and flowers around them suggesting remembrance is alive and well.

NAVAL AND MILITARY CLUB AUCTION

The Naval and Military Club saga continues to amaze and provide us with a clear message to loved ones, that when making available precious war medals, documents and art works to any organization, make it very clear and have it documented that it is only on **LOAN**. We can only sit back and shake our head in disappointment at the loss of historically important documents sold into private hands. The "Instrument of Surrender" which marked the end of hostilities between Australians and the Japanese in Papua New Guinea, Bougainville and surrounding islands is a significant loss to our nation. However, with legislation passed in 1983 to ensure important Crown documents do not fall into this category is reassuring.

RAZOR GANG STRIKES AGAIN

A definite sign that the infamous razor gang is on the move with news that the Army School of Signals has been earmarked to be sold for Residential Development. This is part of a plan that ensures millions of dollars will flow into Government Coffers when more Military properties are sold off. The hit list includes the School of Military Engineering at Moorebank in Sydney's West, Keswick Barracks in Adelaide and many Reserve depots and bases. It is suggested that all base functions will be absorbed into proposed super bases such as Puckapunyal. This will ensure funds from land sales will supplement Defence's \$20 billion savings target over 10 years.

There are many of us who remember with sadness at the closing and subsequent demolition of the much loved Drill Hall situated in the stately tree lined Highbury Grove Kew, home to 8/3 WRAAC Co for many years. The area now has a low level town house complex on the site certainly worthy of the area but the history and romance of a bygone era is lost forever.

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

40 YEARS OF SERVICE F32166 MAJ VAL JONES

It is with great pride the Association acknowledges Life Member Val Jones on reaching 40 years of service with the Army Reserve. Major Jones enlisted into the WRAAC (CMF) as a member of 3 WRAAC Co on the 4th May 1969. Following completion of recruit training, Val became an instructor and attained the rank of 2LT. On the disbandment of WRAAC she was posted to RACT.

Well done Val from all your friends.

VALE



It is with great sadness we inform you of the passing of Beverley (Bev) Kenny F31783 on 16th August 2009. Bev was a member of 8 WRAAC Co 1954-1958 and attained the rank of Corporal. The Association was represented by Cheryle Brown at a service held at the Anglican Church, Cowes on the 20th August 2009. Following the service memories of Bev were shared at the Ward Room, Phillip Island RSL. Bev was a member of several service organizations and will be sadly missed.

Lest We Forget

SICK PARADE

We can report that Margaret (Toddy) Brookes is back in her home town of Bairnsdale undergoing rehabilitation following hip surgery last month. A few of her Army mates were able to visit her post-op at the Dandenong Hospital and said she was in good spirits. We wish Toddy a speedy recovery and will keep you updated on her progress. Our best wishes to Toddy's husband John who also has a few health issues.

Our Vice President Brenda (Ruby) Walters is undergoing Physiotherapy at this time following a fracture to her shoulder after a fall whilst on a holiday in Queensland, we wish Brenda all the very best and a pain free time ahead.

Our President Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar is feeling bruised and battered following a car collision in August. Jude's vehicle was stationary at a red light when a car ran into the rear of her little car causing major damage, three other vehicles involved in the incident looked sad too. Jude and all the other drivers consider themselves fortunate to have escaped serious injury. (Jude's "BLUEBELL" is still undergoing surgery in car hospital)

Hello to our dear Jean Evans from all your friends at the Association and look forward to catching up with you at the next WRAAC luncheon.

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

Carol and Grant King proudly announce the arrival of their first Grandchild Haley Marie.

Congratulations to the Family

TRAVEL NEWS

Maggie More enjoyed a break in Bali during August and looks fit and well.

Heather and Hugh Fry are still touring Australia and report life is good on the road, they have met lots of interesting people with great stories to share.

Ruth Durance and husband John enjoying a well deserved Winter in sunny Queensland.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen (Dipietro) Rokesky ARA

MEMBERSHIP

We would like YOU to contact any ladies whom you may know who were in the Army (ARA CMF ARes) regarding joining the Association.

Please contact our Membership Officer Diane Sherry on (03) 9478 1073 or email at dishe1946@yahoo.com.au and she will post out the 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 Ms Barbara (Hutton) Birthisel SGT Kerrie Brindell 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 Miss Kerrie Hurley (Neely ??) Ms Angela Jones Mrs Irene (Trench) Lakeman CAPT Barbara Lewis Ms Cynthia Neal Mrs Joan O'Brien Mrs Joyce (Cory) Payne Ms Marilyn (Bates, Wuchatsch) Ross Ms Debbie Umpleby Ms Winifred Webster

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

Ms Sallyann Welton

SHRINE NEWS

Shrine of Remembrance Water Sayer

The Shrine of Remembrance Reserve is home to 250 significant and commemorative trees, ceremonial lawns and gardens. Victoria's major War Memorial, education centre and tourist attraction realised that a sustainable solution was needed to offset the deteriorating effect of drought and water restrictions on the Shrine Reserve. Its rainwater harvesting project has implemented an innovative plan to harvest storm water from the roof and terraces of the Shrine and store the water in a one million litre underground tank.

The tank, installed in the western sector of the Shrine Reserve, treats rainwater and then pumps it into the existing irrigation system to water the grounds and commemorative trees.

The water savings from the project are estimated at 15 million litres annually, making a major contribution to the preservation of the gardens. The project includes a program to educate visitors to the Shrine about water conservation.

More: www.shrine.org.au (Herald Sun dated 1/03/09)

EXHIBITIONS

The Origins of the second World Walf 70th Anniversary

Eastern Visitor Centre 14th August – 1st November 2009

For Australians 3rd September 2009 will mark the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War (1939-45). This exhibition examines the path towards this conflict from the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, which many foresaw would lead to a further, inevitable conflict within 20 years. The exhibition depicts a world under economic stress, destabilised and polarised along ideological lines, and traces the events leading up to the outbreak of war and the entry of the allies into this global conflict.

A voice from the deep story of an Australian Sallof

Western Visitor Centre 23rd October – 31st December 2009

Petty Officer Ted McHaffie's story is told through his sketchbooks, family memorabilia and interpreted through the art of his nephew, Robert Hoskin. A career sailor, Ted was the ship's painter on HMAS Sydney II and lost his life when it sank with all on board in 1941. He sailed with the Sydney on its maiden voyage in 1935-36. Correspondence from Ted to his mother and sisters continued until his last letter, sent from Fremantle before the ship's final voyage.

History of the Shrine 75th Anniversary

Eastern Visitors Centre 6th November – 31st December 2009

Architect Phillip Hudson wrote of his design for the Shrine of Remembrance that it would be "a building with a soul." A history of the Shrine exhibition has been developed for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Shrine in 1934. A rich archive of images, Shrine memorabilia, sculptures and a model of the Shrine traces the evolution of the Shrine and its place within Victoria as a site for public and personal reflection.



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

<u>Location</u> <u>Dates</u> **Broadmeadows** 28 Aug – 1 Oct

Hume Global Learning Centre

Bright 09 Oct – 22 Nov Bright Art Gallery& Cultural Centre

Yarra Plenty 27 Nov – 18 Dec

Watsonia Library

Yarra Plenty 23 Dec – 8 Jan

Diamond Valley Library

SHRINE LEARNING PROGRAMS

The Shrine of Remembrance has an inspiring range of learning programs for students of all ages. All of the programs are provided free of charge and schools may be eligible for travel assistance kindly provided through Metlink. Bookings essential.

Enquiries: education@shrine.org.au or

Telephone (03) 9661 8113.

Storytelling for Children

First Sunday of the month, 2pm. These sessions are the ideal way to introduce young children to the Shrine for the first time. A discovery tour follows each storytelling session. Bookings Essential: programs@shrine.org.au or Telephone (03) 9661 8100

Shrine Web Site:

For all information about Shrine programs visit the website at www.shrine.org.au. or

Telephone (03) 9654 8415

FOR THE DIARY SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2009

10 th October 2009	Ex-WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch	Orrong Hotel
24 th October 2009 at 1100hrs	WRAAC Annual General Meeting	Education Centre Shrine of Remembrance
21st November 2009	Council of Ex-servicewomen's Association (Vic) Inc. Annual Pilgrimage and Luncheon	Memorial Cairn and RSL House

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment No. 1 - AGM attendance and Nomination Form



WOMEN'S ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INCORPORATED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 24th October 2009
Starting at 1100 hrs
Education Centre
Shrine of Remembrance
Melbourne.

NOMINATION FORM

Position:
Nomination: (Name)
Nominated by: (Name)
Seconded by: (Name)
I accept the nomination (Signature)
To reach the Secretary by the 16th October 2009 (one week before AGM)
Secretary Women's Royal Australia Army Corps Association (Vic) Inc. Post Office Box 307 SAN REMO VIC 3925
will be attending AGM on Saturday 24th October 2009.
Signature