



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

Unit 73 – 2 Gremel Road
RESERVOIR VIC 3073

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

NEWSLETTER

September 2013 – No 3/2013

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members,

Welcome to your September newsletter. The last few months have been busy for the Association following a successful Reserve Forces Day Parade and our Annual Reunion Luncheon at the International of Brighton on the 20th July 2013. The feedback has been positive for both these significant occasions, pleasing to all concerned.

In the coming months we have the "Back to Barracks" reunion in August and the AGM to be held at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne on Saturday the 26th October 2013 with all information regarding the AGM in our current Newsletter. We look forward to your attendance on the day and get together following the meeting. We also have a Pilgrimage to the Ex-Servicewomen's Cairn in the Remembrance Garden at the Shrine on Saturday the 23rd November 2013, followed by lunch at the Botanical Hotel (Refer to our current Newsletter for further information).

This year we commemorate the 68th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific (VP Day) and Japans acceptance of unconditional surrender to the Allies on the 14th August 1945. The surrender was significant for Australia as it meant the war was finally over and as a nation we could rebuild with a degree of confidence in the future.

We also pause to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the end the Korean War (1946-1953) and should never forget Australia suffered 1,538 casualties with 231 killed or missing.

Yours in friendship,

Heather (Rankin) Fry

ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 26th October 2013

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 1100 hours on Saturday 26th October 2013, at the Shrine of Remembrance Education Centre. All Committee positions are declared vacant (See Attachment #3).

Following the AGM tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available. For catering purposes please contact Diane Sherry telephone 0408 553 412 or email dishe1946@yahoo.com.au if you intend to join us.

COUNCIL OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S

PILGRIMAGE 2013

Saturday 23rd November 2013



As promised at the winding up of the Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Association, we informally gather each year at the Ex-Servicewomen's Memorial Cairn situated in the Remembrance Garden, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. The date was to be nearest the rededication of the Cairn and this year is the 23rd of November 2013. We will meet at the Cairn at 1130 hrs and following a short wreath laying service to remember those who are no longer with us, we intend to gather at the Botanical Hotel for lunch at 1230 hrs.

We had a pleasant day last year and hope to see you all again.

If you wish to attend contact Jude Pinkerton-Treloar telephone (03) 9874 7915 or Cheryle Brown telephone 0400 482 992.

EX WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP

The Orrong Hotel

Saturday 12th October 2013

(Refer Attachment #1)

RESERVE FORCES DAY

Sunday 7th July 2013

Reserve Forces Day 2013 began as a perfect July morning in Melbourne. A day only our beautiful city can produce in winter with blue skies and sunshine ready to shine on this Parade.

This year was significant as we were celebrating the 65th Anniversary of post-World War II re-formation of the CMF, and the 60th Anniversary of the WRAAC into the Citizens Military Forces (CMF).

As directed several hundred marchers formed up in Government House Drive in readiness for the Ceremonial March to the forecourt of the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne where a formal Parade was to be conducted. This year our Association had the opportunity to lead the Army Service contingent of the Parade if we had 16 members ready to step off at 1020 hrs, and that we did! Our Association was proudly led by President Heather (Rankin) Fry with Margaret (Robinson) Jager (Association Standard Bearer), Lorraine (Atkinson) Onans (Association Banner Bearer) and Jude Pinkerton-Treloar (ASM).

The Band of the 4/19 Prince of Wales' Light Horse kept us in step as we set off towards the Shrine and for many of us the years drained away and magically we were 20 years younger. However, reality kicked in after about an hour and the usual aches and pains returned with a vengeance and the euphoria of feeling 40 years old abruptly left us.

The Victorian Chairman of the Reserve Forces Day Council (Vic) Inc Brigadier Neale Bavington RFD ED Ret'd addressed the Parade and welcomed all for their attendance and overall contribution to Australia's defence as former and serving members of the CMF/Reserve. Brigadier Bavington conveyed the words of Sir Winston Churchill who said "Twice the Citizen" as a measure of the value of Military Reservists who serve their nation in both Civilian and Military capacities.

Former WRAAC member WO2 Cheryle (Howes) Brown had the honour of saying the Ode and placing a wreath on behalf of the Association at the Eternal Flame. Major Maggie More RFD ED Shrine Governor and a former member of the WRAAC placed a wreath on behalf of the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

WRAAC Association Victoria acknowledged our Official guests at the Parade Captain Gwenda Walker RFD ED and WO1 Elizabeth Gibson. Our

Patron Captain Iris Petrass was unable to attend the Parade due to recent surgery. This was a time to acknowledge our sisters of the RAANC CMF and their contribution was recognised in the welcome address.

This year the Reviewing Officer for the Parade was Major General, The Honourable Justice Greg Garde AO RFD. The Federal Government was represented by Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, Member for Wills.

Memories of Reserve Forces Day 2013.

The anticipation of having the required number of former members ready to join us at Government House Drive.

Finally, having enough members to make 16 and lead the Army Service contingent of the Parade.

Thinking how special our girls looked marching in step and in line

Having sunshine, dry conditions and to be able to feel your feet as you march off after standing for an hour.

Not having to wear a poncho!

Imaging you have suffered a massive hearing deficit when you fail to hear a command.

The relief you experience when you know the sound system was not functioning at optimum capacity.

The awareness of a slower response time to a verbal command.

Greeting members you have not seen for a while and catching up with their news.

The realisation that the WRAAC will be Commemorating its 65th Anniversary in 2016!

Basking in the reality of how special we were and how important it is to keep our traditions alive.

Sharing the pride of seeing Kathy Murnane and her daughter, Jacinta (4th year ADFA) joining her on Parade.

Conveying to Sheryl (Stewart) English how proud we are of her being a recipient of the Australian Medal.

Espirit de Corps

WRAAC ANNUAL LUNCHEON

(Incorporating the 60th Anniversary of WRAAC into the CMF)

At the International of Brighton
Saturday 20th July 2013

We all knew it was going to be a day to remember from the moment we heard the first stirring sounds of our Corps March "Soldiers of the Queen" accompanied by our Standard, Banner and Flag paraded before us in the spacious International of Brighton dining room. Margaret (Robinson) Jager proudly carrying our Standard joined by Carol (Hamilton) King, with our Banner and Lorraine (Atkinson) Onans with our WRAAC flag to the sound of enthusiastic clapping and cheers.

Vice President Liz (Stone) Maclaine gathered us together and introduced our President Heather (Rankin) Fry. Heather then welcomed all for their attendance and introduced our special guests for the day.



The Ode was read by Major Maggie More as we paused to remember those who are no longer with us.

We were entertained by Miss Rebecca Dupuy-Purcell singing Love Changes Everything (Aspects of love) as the words reflect a time of hope and love. Our Chaplain the Reverend William (Bill) Pugh reminded us of our service personnel serving Australia in many parts of the world and wished them a safe tour of duty and homecoming. We gave thanks for the friendship and camaraderie we have in abundance.

As the day progressed we listened to our Patron Captain Iris Petrass pay a moving tribute to our former DWRAAC the late Colonel Kathleen (Kath) Fowler and paused to remember a truly exceptional woman and leader.

Our sisters in the RAANC (CMF) celebrated their 60th Anniversary this year and we acknowledged their significant contribution to Australia's overall defence. We welcomed former Nursing Corps members to our Luncheon drawing their attention to

RAANC Corps flags displayed on each table. The flags were placed side by side with a WRAAC flag, a symbol of a shared past.

A formal presentation of the spouse medallion by Reserve Forces Day Council Victoria Executive Officer, Lt Colonel John Stevens, RFD (Ret'd) to



Luise
(Nardella)
Laudani and
Carol
(Hamilton)
King to honour
their



encouragement and support during

their husbands service as a member of the CMF/ARES (Australian Army, Navy or Air Force).

Several members of the WRAAC Association have been proud recipients of the medallion as were their family members, congratulations to all for your support of Defence Personnel. Lt Colonel John Stevens had a few stories to relay about former WRAAC CMF/ARES members, all in the true spirit of the day.

Guest speaker WO1 Ian (Wardy) Ward (Chief Staff Officer of the RSL State Branch Remembrance Ceremonies) spoke of a time when he too served with members of the WRAAC at Camps, Bivouacs and Training Exercises. We loved the friendly jibes with WO1 Elizabeth Gibson as they remembered a time of transition and change. He had us all laughing as he recalled the many altercations with males as the WRAAC produced highly skilled and talented drivers, at times far superior to the men! You ask our Girls!!



The visual display depicting past parades (Disbandment March 1974) driving courses, Camps and Bivouacs plus the 4/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse key to the City Parade (Melbourne) this together with our extensive uniform display made the years peel away exposing a special time in our lives.

Our Raffle is always a highlight especially with Margie (Robinson) Jager, Carol (Hamilton) King, Amy Jager and Ella (Brown) Burton directing the event. It was great!



The traditional cutting of the cake was quite a celebration with two amazing cakes the order of the day. This year our Patron, Captain Iris Petrass (Ret'd), Gwenda Walker

(President AWAS Association Vic) and a former member of the WRAAC joined Major Val Walsh AM RFD (Ret'd) (RAANC) shared the honour.



As this wonderful day drew to a close our President Heather (Rankin) Fry thanked the Committee and the very special daughters of our members who joined so enthusiastically with their mothers and fathers to make the day a success.

Our attention was then focused on the beautiful voice of Rebecca Dupuy-Purcell as she began to sing the Vera Lyn classic, "Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye" followed by "We'll meet again" as guests began to leave the venue. There were lots of hugs and a few tears but with the promise to do it all again next year.



Espirit de Corps

Special Guests in Attendance

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc Patron Captain Iris Petrass (Ret'd)

WO1 Ian Ward (Remembrance Ceremonies Staff, RSL State Branch) and Mrs Irene Smith

Lt Colonel John Stevens RFD (Ret'd) and Mrs Cheryl Stevens

Mrs Norma (Perkins) Smith and Mrs Judy (Smith) Reynolds

The Reverend William (Bill) Pugh and Mrs Lesley Pugh

Miss Rebecca Dupuy-Purcell

A Snapshot Of Highlights

On Saturday 20th July 2013

Parading of the WRAAC Association Standard, Banner and Flag to our Corps March, Soldiers of the Queen

The warm glow of nostalgia as we revisited the Kew training depot depicted on our placemats, you could almost hear WO1 Elizabeth Gibson calling the step!



Miss Rebecca Dupuy-Purcell with her magnificent voice and sensitive interpretation of a beautiful lyric.



Captain Iris Petrass (Ret'd) (WRAAC), Captain Gwen Walker RFD ED (Ret'd) (AWAS/WRAAC) and Major Val Walsh AM RFD (Ret'd) (RAANC) cutting our cakes



in a tribute to a proud shared history.

Sheryl (Stewart) English and her moving words as she proposed the toast to the Association.

Observing our members' adult children so involved in helping our Association with grace and dignity.

Thinking how lucky we were to have had former AWAS members in the WRAAC to teach us Vera Lyn and WW2 songs!

Our magnificent fruit cake decorated with our Corps badge and colours made with great affection by Cheryle (Howes) Brown's sister-in-law, Mrs Sandra Howes.

Having a former (3 WRAAC Co) Admin Comd with us and enjoying the day, our much loved and respected Captain Ruth Durance (Ret'd).

Visual displays bringing our past to life.

Knowing our past was significant and meaningful in the overall defence of Australia.

The warmth and dedication Amy Jager displayed in her painting of our revered Corps badge.

Sensing the pride we have in past achievements as former members of the WRAAC.

The magnificent cake made by our much loved Brenda (Ruby) Walters' daughter Marnie (Walters) Tobin.

Watching a dapper Hugh Fry receive warm greetings and lots of hugs from "his" girls as we recalled a time 40 plus years ago (at Puckapunyal) when he met a young WRAAC driver named Heather.

Catching up with fellow servicewomen we have not seen for many years.

To be able to recognise someone after so many years! (Bonus)

Acknowledgement

To the families and friends of the Association, our sincere thanks to you for your commitment and ongoing support of the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. We thank each and every one of you for your goodwill and uncompromising spirit that enabled us to hold such a successful celebration on the 20th July 2013.



Heather Fry and Members of the Committee.

MATESHIP

For many years I have sought this story from a special group of former Servicewomen as it has always set me thinking about friendships made during our service years and the special something that seems to keep us together.

Heather Hyatt, Rhonda Moore, Marianne (Dobin) Raymond, Robyn (Reid) Nash, Julie (Hancock) Gunstone and Shirley (Don) Tunaley meet each year around the same time they enlisted into the CMF and as Caroline Jones would say "Here is their story." (Refer Attachment #2)

Collector Tubes

Thank you to the following members Diane Sherry, Joy Simms, Emma Jager-Wiley, Amy Jager, Ruth Durance-Sloss, Sheryl English, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar and Margaret Prowse for your recent contribution.

For information regarding Collector Tubes contact Margaret (Robinson) Jager on 03 9743 8267.

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

Former 126 Sig Sqn soldier awarded the Australia Day Medallion

Group Captain Given presents Sheryl with her award and citation.

The Chief of the Air Force, Air Marshall G Brown AO, has awarded former 126 Sig Sqn soldier and current Australian Commando Association (Victoria) member Sheryl English the Australia Day Medallion. Sheryl was recognised for her defence force service and for her service to the community with Red Cross and for emergency management.

The medallion was presented at a ceremonial parade for graduates at Laverton RAAF Base just before Australia Day. Sheryl says she was 'ambushed', but after getting over the shock was presented with the medallion and a citation – only three are awarded in Australia.



Sheryl's defence service since discharging from 126 Sig Sqn included service with the Air Cadets, within her own squadron and assisting other squadrons, and managing Air Cadet exchanges within Victoria (Wing), Australia-wide, and last year internationally, to Turkey.

The award also recognised her service with the Australian Red Cross and as Municipal Emergency Resource Officer with Latrobe City in Gippsland.

Sheryl said later she was quite humbled by the whole experience.

Note. Service runs in the family. Sheryl's son is an Air Force pilot currently flying as a member of the Roulettes demonstration team – and presently flies one of the two planes that create an extra thrill for the audience when he flies - upside down - 'face to face'!

We apologize for poor copy of this article in the last Newsletter. Liz Maclaine was able to supply us with a better copy.

Thanks to Liz Maclaine for this article.

APOLOGY

Sincere apologies have been extended to Leila Brady (Ex-WRANS) who is very much alive and well.

We have spoken to Leila and she has accepted our apologies with grace and dignity. Editor

A footnote to this is our Editor has had Cataract surgery performed recently.

CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts are with Maxine Pettingill and Family on the recent passing of her dear sister Colleen.

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

Mrs Lulla Robinson Nee Johnston NFX205885 Annual Member	AMWAS	Feb1945-Jul 1946 113 Concord Mil Hosp
Mrs Helen Meyer Nee McLeod F58107 Annual Member	ARA	1963-1966 HQ CARO SComd
Mrs Jennifer Gillan Nee Brinkley F38052 Annual Member	ARA	May 1962-Feb 1965 AQMG Melb, WRAAC Clerical Balcombe, CARO & BHQ 1RTB
Mrs Janice De Witte Nee Lennox F3135820 Annual Member	Ares	1978-1991 1992-2000 3 Ord Svcs, 2ARRU Syd, 3ARRU Melb
Mrs Vivian Fisher Nee Riss & Kirkman F35125 Annual Member	ARA/Ares	1967-1977 6 Sig & 126 Sig
Ms Robyn Hepner F35077 Annual Member	ARA	1967-1970 5 Sig & Balcombe Sig Trg
Ms Patricia Ranford Nee Prendergast F65068	ARA	19771-1974 3RTB Annual Member
Ms Annette Robinson 8536246 Life Member	Ares	RAANC 2007-current 15 Tpt Sqn & 6 HSC

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

If you have any photos of your time in the CMF/Ares WRAAC our Association member Judy Landau would like to hear from you.

Judy plans to compile a DVD and explains the photos must be "High Definition" quality. If you can assist Judy she can be contacted at president@jewishmilitaryvic.org.au

All the best Judy, this sounds really interesting.
Editor

Lost Contact with Life Members

We have lost contact with some of our life members. Can you help us to locate the following members:

CPL Dorothy Berry
Ms Shirley Brown
Ms Jeanette Coburn
Ms Marilyn Dell
Miss Joanne Doolan
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 ATTACHMENT

- ATTACHMENT #1:** Ex WRAAC Social Gp Information flyer
- ATTACHMENT #2:** Mateship Reunion
- ATTACHMENT #3:** AGM Nomination Form

EX WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP

You are invited to join us for another pleasant afternoon catching up with old friends and maybe meeting some new ladies.

DETAILS:

Place: The Orrong Hotel
Address: Cnr Orrong & High Streets, Armadale
Date: Saturday, 12 October 2013
Time: 1200 pm onwards
Cost: Depends on what you order from the menu

You order and pay for your food and drinks as required.

For those travelling by private transport car parking is on the street. It is easy to reach by public transport, the number 6, tram is the one to catch from Swanston Street, City. The Toorak Station is also very close to the Orrong Hotel which can be found at Melway reference Map 58 J:7. Please contact us by Wednesday, 9 Oct as we need to confirm the numbers attending.

We look forward to seeing you on the 12 October 2013, if you have any questions, give us a call.

Liz Maclaine
9397 1034

Lyn Board
5989 2553

Bev Bond
5952 3096

PS. If you are advising of attendance in August, ring Lyn Board, if advising in September give either Lyn or Bev a ring. In October, you can reply to all of above.



Annual Reunion

Back Row Left to Right: Shirley (Don) Tunaley, Julie (Hancock) Gunstone, Marianne (Dobin) Raymond and Heather Hyatt
Front Row Left to Right: Robyn (Reid) Nash and Rhonda More

We have been meeting for 16 years and it all started when Robyn (Reid) Nash came over for her annual holidays from the Nullabour in W.A. and she decided we should get together for a BBQ lunch at her parent's house in Glenroy. It was 1997 and some of us hadn't seen each other for over 15 years.

The group consists of Shirley (Don) Tunaley, Julie (Hancock) Gunstone, Heather Hyatt, Rhonda Moore, Robyn (Reid) Nash and Marianne (Dobin) Raymond and so the scene was set. Old photos produced and WRAAC memorabilia brought along to lunch as we had a great time looking back on our army days. Rhonda has a fine collection of photos from over the years and it was great to see her collection which she brings along annually.

Each year we took it in turns to have our annual lunch at someone's house. Then in 2003 Robyn suggested that we go back to Portland for a weekend reunion. We had all been at camp there in 1974 with the Signals Unit and so we returned to Portland and went looking for our base camp which of course had changed since 1974. I think that it is now a water treatment plant and we couldn't get into where we had previously camped all those years ago because of the fences. Heather did not attend the Annual Camp in Portland as she was overseas. The weekend was very interesting reminiscing what we did at Portland and dragging the husbands and Heather around Portland.

The weekend proved a great success with us going to the RSL for tea on the Saturday and we all decided that in future we would make our annual reunion a weekend affair. We have since been to Swan Hill, Healesville, Ballarat, Alexandra, and Euchua twice, once on a house boat and this year we have just been to Bendigo. Each year we bring along our old photos and sing the WRAAC song and relive old times. Our husbands also come along and the boys have got use to putting up with all of our reminiscing each year. Julie was the only one who met her husband Keith in the CMF.

We know we talk about the same things each year but we all love it. And you know what they saw "What happens on the weekend stays on the weekend." Needless to say we all have a great time catching up after another year with plenty of photos taken and the obligatory RSL dinner in which ever town we are in. We have also celebrated all the "O" birthdays with a cake and of course with candles and a glass of something.

Even though after basic training at 3 WRAAC Co. we all met at the 118 Signals Sqn, then we all moved onto 108 Sig Sqn and then a couple of us went onto 126 Sig Sqn at Watsonia. Heather who was the last serving member of the group finished her Army Reserve life with HQ 4BDE. Each year some of this group march with the WRAAC at Anzac Day and Reserve Forces Day and also attend the annual dinner and annual lunch. We consider ourselves WRAAC first, Signals second.

Without friends the world is but a wilderness and this group of girls is very special indeed. May we all be able to meet for as long as we can? Rhonda keeps adding to your fabulous photo collection and gets it up to date for us by next year please!



WOMEN'S ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 26th October 2013
Starting at 1100 hrs
Education Centre
Shrine of Remembrance
Melbourne.

NOMINATION FORM

(Please Print)

I (your name) Being a financial member of the Association, nominate

(Name)..... for the position of

..... On the committee

Signed

Proposer

Seconder Print Name

I accept the nomination

(Signature)..... Print Name

Returns are to be sent to the Secretary, Diane Sherry, Unit 73-2 Gremel Street, Reservoir Vic 3073, by Friday 18th October 2013.

Only financial Members may nominate, second, or be nominated

Secretary's use only

Date Received All Financial Yes / No

Diane Sherry
Secretary