WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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

NEWSLETTER

December 2008 - No 4/2008

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2008, could someone please tell me where the past 12 months have gone, I would be extremely grateful. The Association has had a busy year with lots of opportunity for all to attend the various functions and events, thus enabling us to keep in touch with each other and that's a positive thing. Social contact is very important as we grow older and the shared memories of a happy time in ones life are priceless. The Pub lunch held on the 10th October is a classic example of friends getting together and enjoying the moment, at times accompanied by a chilled ale.

With the prospect of a tumultuous 2009 the simple things in life such as a phone call or a note to a mate saying "just thinking of you" are diamonds.

On behalf of the Association we wish you a peaceful Christmas Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Yours in friendship

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar



THANK YOU FROM OUR PATRON

Our Patron, Jessie Perkins wishes to thank all those who have sent Get Well and Birthday Cards over the past few months.

To quote Jessie "I'm overwhelmed and unable to personally acknowledge them all, but want you to know how much I appreciate your concern and good wishes."

ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

WRAAC AGM Saturday 4th October 2008

The current committee were elected for a further twelve months. The President's, Membership, and History Reports refer attachments 1, 2 and 3.

DEFENCE RESERVES SUPPORT DAY MARCH Sunday 31ST August 2008

The changeable Melbourne weather seemed to do everything possible to deter the marchers as they gathered in small groups at the new step off area to begin the march. (Formally known as Reserve Forces Day) The weather played a huge part in the low crowd attendance watching the march and commemorative service at the Shrine this year. The freezing cold wind and rain certainly tested everyone that day.

It was disappointing for all at the apparent lack of communication from the Council (Reserves Forces Day Council) such as the sudden change of step off area and the availability of seating for our special members in the VIP area.

We hope to overcome this situation with Heather Fry as our delegate on the Council as this will give us direct access to feedback and future planning.

It is important we continue marching and supporting the Defence Reserves Association as it is a way to encourage more people to join the Reserve and for many of us the acknowledgement of our contribution to the Nation.

Following the service we gathered at the WRAAC Plaque where Sheryl English placed a wreath on behalf of the Association in memory of our fellow servicewomen.



BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA COMMEMORATION SERVICE Wednesday 3rd September 2008

A service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on Wednesday 3rd September 2008 to honour the courage, sacrifice and service of Australians and her Allies who repulsed attacks on Australia, on the Kakoda Track, at Milne Bay, on the Coral Sea and in other fiercely fought actions during the days of the Pacific War.

Our members Gwenda Walker and Norma Burns were invited guests on the day with Gwenda on behalf of the AWAS and Norma with the Darwin Defenders, over 50 exservice personnel representing service organizations placed floral tributes at the eternal flame during this moving and significant service.

There were over 2000 school children involved with the service and it is reassuring to know the sacrifice so many young people made over 65 years ago was not in vain nor forgotten.

The address was given by two exceptional Australians, Peter Davidson, hero of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race and Nathan Buckley, former Captain of Collingwood Football Club, Nathan's father served in Vietnam.

The children of today appear to have a greater understanding of the contribution Australian men and women made so many years ago. This is evident on and around ANZAC Day or when you visit the Shrine of Remembrance and observe the children participating in the service at 11am daily.

Thanks to Gwenda Walker and Norma Burns for their contribution to this article.



Gwenda Walker and Norma Burns with an American Sailor and school girls who participated in the service.

COUNCIL OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE MEMORIAL CAIRN

22nd November 2008

Freezing cold wind, rain and hailstones made it impossible to conduct the service at the Memorial Cairn on Saturday 22nd November 2008. However, the thought of a welcome glass of sherry and the warmth of a comfortable chair at the elegant English Speaking Union (ESU) to thaw out chilled bones made us feel a lot better. The helpful staff at the ESU allowed us to conduct the service in the Ante room and then we all adjourned to the Dining room for a great lunch.

The day was a great success with lots of chatter in abundance, it is wonderful to catch up with ladies from the various services and learn about the role they played in the Service of our Nation during war and peace. The feeling of goodwill and friendship is evident in the close bond we share as ex-servicewomen.

Our speaker was Colonel Jan McCarthy former Matron-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps who enthralled us with stories from her tour of duty in Vietnam, Jan is a wonderful speaker and we all wanted to hear more.

It was nice to meet family and friends of members who joined us this year, their company is greatly appreciated, and we hope to see them at other functions.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Tears on My Pillow Australian Nurses in Vietnam By Narrelle Biedermann Random House Australia

SWAN HILL EX-SERVICEWOMEN REUNION Sunday 19th April 2009

The Swan Hill & District Ex-servicewomen's Association will host the 2009 re-union on Sunday 19th April 2009.

Venue – RSL Club, Curlewis Street, Swan Hill. (Cost S20.00) Please send cheque made payable to Swan Hill & District Ex-servicewomen's Association, and self-addressed envelope to Isobel Pearce, "Forestvale", Koraleigh NSW 2735, Telephone 03 5030 2138. Please note RSVP date is 5th February 2009. Receipt of remittance and name tag will be sent to you.

DUE TO SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION BOOK EARLY

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

THINKING OF YOU

Our warm wishes to Brenda Boswell from all your friends.

Hello to Woodsy (Ann Wood).

Best wishes to Margaret Roberts.

Thinking of you Toddy.

Our thoughts are with Heather Hyatt on the recent loss her dear Father.

ON THE MEND

To Norma (Ned Kelly) Burns, we hope you are feeling better and getting ready for the Christmas season.

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

TRAVEL NEWS

A cruise on the Baltic Sea from Budapest to Istanbul with a visit to ANZAC Cove was on the agenda for our inspirational member Pat Cooper during October. Pat informs us she had three days retail therapy in Dubai on the way home. GO GIRLL

Brenda and Rod Walters and friends had a great time on their recent Pacific Cruise. Brenda looks radiant and recommends we all go on a cruise.

Jude caught up with Sue (Browne) Logan in November to help celebrate Sue and Malcolm's 40th Wedding Anniversary on beautiful Bribie Island. Sue was a member of 3 WRAAC Coy training wing and used to enjoy an advocaat and cherry brandy in the Sgt's Mess after parade on Wednesday night. The things we remember after so many years. Sue and Malcolm enjoy a wonderful life in sunny Queensland.



Sue (Browne) Logan receiving her Defence Force Medal from Mal Brough then Minister of Defence.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Maxine (Turner) Pettingill Lorraine Jacobs Vera (Dickenson) Duane

CARO
3 WRAAC Coy
AHQ Sig Regt

Edith (Johnstone) Lay 30 WRAAC Bks & 3 Camp Hosp.

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 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

BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA 31 October 1917 91st Anniversary Eastern Visitor Centre 12th September 2008 – 8th February 2009

Historical memorabilia borrowed from Victorian families and private collectors will be combined with images from the collection of the Australian War Memorial to tell the story of the charge at Beersheba, of the units and the men who were there and the circumstances in which it occurred. This exhibition will be enhanced by the inclusion of contemporary drawings by artist Susan McMinn whose work is focussed on the horse as warrior.

PEACE

90th Anniversary of Armistice Day 1918 Western Visitor Centre 3rd October 2008 – 1st February 2009

On 11th November each year we continue to celebrate peace among those countries that fought as allies during the First World War (1914-18). The story of the signing of the surrender on 11th November 1918 after the years of war will be told and responses to this great day around the world in 1918 will be explored. The evolution of Armistice Day, later renamed in Australia as Remembrance Day, has since provided the occasion for many important events including the dedication of the Shrine of Remembrance.

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.

Telephone (03) 9654 8415

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AUSTRALIAN SERVICE RECORDS World War I 1914-1918 World War II 1939-1942

The National Archives of Australia holds over a million service records of Australians who served during World War I and World War II in the:

Army, including the AIF (1st and 2nd Australian Imperial Forces) and the CMF (Citizen's Military Forces) Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Royal Australian Navy (RAN)

The records

The format and contents of service records vary depending on the arm of the defence force in which the member served. **Army** service records usually consist of a file of papers including:

the attestation paper, which was completed on enlistment;

the service and casualty form (known as the B103) which contains details of the member's service and postings; and

additional papers and correspondence.

During World War II identity photographs were taken on enlistment, and these have survived on about 50% of WWII Army files.

For other defence service records contact the National Archives Reference Service

National Archives of Australia PO Box 7425 Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Within Australia

Telephone: 1300 886 881 Facsimile: 1300 886 992

Medals information

Directorate of Honours and Awards Department of Defence Russell Offices Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone: 1800 111 321

Email: dpe.honoursandawards@defence.gov.au

Pension information

Veterans' Affairs Network Department of Veterans' Affairs Telephone : 1300 551 918

Freedom of Information requests

Directorate of Freedom of Information Department of Defence Russell Offices Canberra ACT 2600

VIETNAM VETERAN'S COUNSELLING HELPING SERVICE

VVCS is a specialised, confidential service that provides nationwide counselling and support to Australian veterans, peacekeepers, their families and eligible ADF personnel. For more information or to contact VVCS call 1800 011 046 or www.dva.gov.au/health/vvcs

MELBOURNE CITY TOURIST SHUTTLE

The Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle is a free bus service, stopping at key tourist attractions and destinations in and around the city.

On board you can view the city in comfort while listening to an informative commentary about the city's attractions. You can hop on and off at any of the eleven stops.

The shuttle runs daily, every 15-20 minutes from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle stops

Stop 1 Arts Precent

Stop 2 Federation Square

Stop 3 Exhibition Street

Stop 4 Melbourne Museum & Carlton Gardens

Stop 5 Lygon Street

Stop 6 University of Melbourne

Stop 7 Queen Victoria Market

Stop 8 William Street

Stop 9 Southbank

Stop 10 Sports and Entertainment Precinct

Stop 11 The Shrine and Royal Botanic Garden

City Circle Tram

You can explore even more of Melbourne on the burgundy - coloured City Circle Tram. These iconic Melbourne trams provide a free and convenient way to tour the city centre including Docklands - Melbourne's waterfront precinct.

The City Circle Tram operates from 10am to 6pm every day except Christmas Day and Good Friday, with extended hours during daylight saving, until 9pm every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

For more information contact Tourism Victoria Telephone 132842 or www.visitvictoria.com

MCC WAR VETERANS GROUP

If any member is a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club and served in the Army, Navy or Air Force he or she would be eligible to join the Melbourne Cricket Club War Veterans Group. This group has three lunches per year and can bring guest to the lunches. We have interesting and varied speakers. Further information can be obtained from Betty Davies phone 03 9509 7772

The President & Committee would like to wish you a MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HEALTHY 2009!



FOR THE DIARY DECEMBER 2008 – MAY 2009

February 2009	Ex WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch	Date to be advised
	Orrong Hotel	
8 th March	Sandakan Memorial Service	For more information contact
2009	Crooke Street Park	Bendigo RSL
	Strathdale, Bendigo	· ·
19 th April	Swan Hill Ex-servicewomen's Reunion	Swan Hill RSL
2009		
25 th April	ANZAC Day	Form up to be advised
2009	·	·
16 th May	AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service	Time to be advised
2009	At Shrine of Remembrance	

 President's Report from AGM
 Membership Report from AGM ATTACHMENT:

3. History Report from AGM

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a great honour to be part of such a pro-active and dedicated committee, each member has contributed to the overall success of the past year. The goals for 2007-2008 were based on the continued promotion of social contact and the need to provide a welcoming environment for all our members thus encompassing the true meaning of Espirit de Corps, not for the chosen few but for all.

Last year as we reviewed plans for the next term, which included incorporation, planning events and our long term survival as an Association. Your Committee took the initiative and asked members to vote on a change of name. The Association name now being Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria) Inc. The Association now offers membership to all women serving or have served in the Australian Military Forces. The name change in its current format brings our Association in line with the other WRAAC Associations in the country and to our knowledge in line with other service associations throughout.

Whilst there has been some opposition to the change we could not sit back and watch the Association remain static. The alarming trend at present is the declining membership of so many ex-service associations and our association is not immune to this. We were saddened to learn of the SA WRAAC Association's decision to windup in 2009. As we did not want this to be the fate of our Association, a fresh approach to membership was needed, as we all know membership is the life blood of any association. The fact is our membership is now gaining momentum and this has given us the strength to grow and plan for the future, preserve history and welcome the company of former members of the WRAAC and to encourage and support women who are currently serving.

Being incorporated affords the protection of members and office holders against personal liability and other legal obligations of the organization, it now offers the ability to accept gifts or bequests and greater eligibility to apply for grants – much needed for our ongoing plans to purchase a WRAAC flag, history projects and ongoing costs.

Our sincere thanks to Cheryle Brown for her total commitment and leadership role in steering us through the complex process of incorporation. We fully understand the reason it was placed on hold for so long.

On your behalf we attend various service organisation meeting and through this exchange of ideas we gain invaluable knowledge and friendships, this enables the committee to pass on information to membership and keep you informed

This term of office your representatives have been:

Brenda Ruby-Walters - Kindred Organisations and Unit Associations Committee

Cheryle Brown liaises with Reserve Forces Day Council, with Heather Fry our delegate for the new term.

Jessie Perkins and I are the delegates attending the Council of Ex-servicewomen's Association Vic Inc.

Maggie More and I attend the AWAS Association meetings. Maggie More being the Junior Vice President of the AWAS Association.

We attended various social functions throughout the year and this enables us to meet other service association members in a relaxed and informal manner. We have noted the trend to invite carers/friends to functions which was previously not acceptable. This again is a change to keep the function viable and preserve the history and story of the Unit/Association. The declining membership of so many ex-service Associations is a huge issue.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

As a Committee we hold regular meetings at the Shrine of Remembrance and value the commitment from the Shrine staff who ensure our needs are met at all times.

EVENTS

2008 Luncheon

The luncheon held at the International of Brighton was classed as a great success, those in attendance appeared to have a great day, numbers were up and we want to build on that for next year. Thanks to Vice-President Brenda Ruby-Walters and Margaret Jager for their organizing skills and artistic endeavour with flowers and the general hosting of the day. At this stage we will continue to hold the luncheon at the Brighton but we are always open for suggestions.

Combined AWAS and WRAAC Service

On Sunday 19th May 2008 a combined AWAS/WRAAC service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance to commemorate the strong bond between us. It was a simple yet significant service with women from both services embracing the ties that keep us united in history. The AWAS flag flying proudly overhead defined the significance of the occasion.

We intend to have the combined service again next year with a wreath laying ceremony at the WRAAC plaque prior to the commencement of the combined service. The mini luncheon was a great success and this enabled so many of us to meet in a relaxed and friendly environment, once again the staff at the Shrine of Remembrance ensured we had a wonderful day.

ANZAC Day

The weather was kind to us this year and we had a wonderful day, we invite all to march with us next year. We have the right to march so please accept that and join your Association as we proudly follow the AWAS along Swanston Street to the Shrine of Remembrance Forecourt.

Commemorative Service for CAPT Bette McLaren

A commemorative service was held on 3rd November 2007 for the late Bette McLaren, she was much loved and respected member of the Association and a great supporter of all our endeavours, we miss her dearly.

Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting was held on the 3rd November 2007 to ask membership to incorporate the WRAAC Reserve Association (Vic) as the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria).

Web Site

The WRAAC web site has been a great success and our thanks to Heather Fry and Ella Brown for their excellent work in bringing our site to the standard we have today. The

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web site is a significant boost to our communication with members and the ongoing history of the WRAAC. Thank you to those who have contributed to the site but we always need more information to keep the site interesting and fresh.

Ex-WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch

The Ex WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch is always a great day to enjoy the company of fellow ex-servicewomen. The lunches are held in February and October each year at the Orrong Hotel. Our congratulations to Liz Maclaine, Bev Bond and Lyn Board for their enthusiasm and goodwill in making this a must go to day.

WRAAC Plaque

When visiting the Shrine of Remembrance please remember to visit our WRAAC Plaque in the peaceful Remembrance garden area. There is a bench seat situated near the Plaque and our Cypress pine tree is growing stronger each year. We should all feel proud that our Corps is part of the history in this sacred garden.

Woven Badges

We are exploring woven badges to be available to membership similar to the badge on our current blazer pocket. Our next committee meeting will begin the research process.

<u>Jackets</u>

There have been requests for a new look to our image so we are considering a jacket similar to a polo fleece fabric a longer length type style in bottle green. This would give members the option of a blazer or a jacket, what ever you feel comfortable wearing. Brenda Ruby-Walters is exploring this option with cost a major consideration. Our thinking is a detachable badge for the jacket, a white cotton V neck tee shirt underneath with a scarf and beret to compliment the look, we are following up on leads regarding berets.

Reserve Forces Day

Reserve Forces Day was held on Sunday 31st August 2008 and we were joined by 12 members to brave the changeable Melbourne weather. The usual lack of communication with the Council has made things a little difficult at times such as the sudden change of step off area and availability of seating for our special members in the VIP area. However with Heather Fry as our delegate on the Council we will have direct access to the feedback and future planning. It is important to continue marching on Reserve Forces Day as it is a way to encourage more people to join the Reserve and for many of us the acknowledgement of our contribution to the Nation. After the service Sheryl English placed flowers at the WRAAC Plaque on behalf of the Association.

Swan Hill Ex-Servicewomen's Re-union

The April 2008 re-union was a wonderful weekend for all those able to attend, we enjoyed the hospitality of the Swan Hill RSL and the beautiful city with its interesting history, there was a luncheon and fun entertainment following the service held on the Sunday. Check newsletter/web site for details regarding the 2009 re-union planned for Sunday 19th April 2009.

Newsletter

Thankyou for the feedback regarding the Association Newsletter but more information is needed to keep it interesting and topical. The newsletter is an important communication tool as for many members this is the only contact they have with the Association, this can be due to the tyranny of distance or ill health.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge OUR PATRON JESSIE PERKINS for her guidance and support of the Association. We wish her good health and happiness for the future. We owe so much to this wonderful woman.

To the dedicated and truly motivated women serving on the Committee, thankyou for your commitment throughout the year.

Thankyou members for your contribution and ongoing support of the Association and we look forward to your company at future events.

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. MEMBERSHIP REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2008

OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP AS AT TODAY STANDS AT 159 MEMBERS.

THIS MADE UP OF 112 LIFE MEMBERS, 36 ANNUAL FINANCIAL MEMBERS, 2 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS, 1 HONORARY MEMBER AND 8 ANNUAL UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS.

THE UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS ARE JUST FOR THE 08/09 YEAR, I WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW UP ON THESE MEMBERS AND HOP THEY WILL RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP.

AT OUR LAST COMMITTEE MEETING WE INDUCTED AN HONORARY MEMBER. I PERSONALLY NOMINATED ELLA BROWN. ELLA HAS BEEN OF GREAT ASSISTANCE TO CHERYLE AND HEATHER AND I THOUGHT IT ONLY FITTING THAT ELLA IS RECOGNISED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR ALL THE HELP SHE HAS GIVEN US.

IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS WE HAVE ENLISTED 16 NEW MEMBERS AND HAD TWO FORMER MEMBERS REJOIN THE ASSOCIATION. THIS IS VERY ENCOURAGING.

I HAVE SENT A LETTER TO "MUFTI" FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR "CAN WE HELP" SECTION AND I HOPE IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN NEXT EDITION.

WE WILL KEEP ON TRYING TO ENLIST NEW MEMBERS AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED ON THE NAMES OF PEOPLE THEY HAVE MET DURING THE YEAR. SO IF YOU HEAR OF SOMEONE WHO MAY WANT TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION PLEASE PASS THEIR NAMES ONTO ANYONE ON THE COMMITTEE.

THANKYOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

DIANE SHERRY
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 4, 2008

HISTORY REPORT

The history of 8/3 WRAAC Coy is still ongoing. To the people who forwarded stories and photographs since our last AGM we sincerely thank you.

During the year the committee took a 'side step' and created a website — www.wraacvic.com – the website was launched at our Annual Luncheon in July this year. We are deeply indebted to our members have were kind enough to donate funds to establish the website. The website will be used as an informative tool e.g. newsletters & news items etc. as well as the history of the WRAAC. We were advised by our webmaster, Clive Budd, as to what we could and could not place on our website and every care has and will be taken to ensure that photographs and stories that will placed on our website would not offend any person or persons.

In recognition of our members who have passed away, we have included our Roll of Honour on the website. We aim to include a photograph of each member as well as a brief summary of their service. Unfortunately we don't always have this information available so we are relying on our members to assist us with photographs, service history or any information that may be of interest.

Our webmaster is now Ella Brown with the assistance of Clive Budd whenever required.

We were greatly over whelmed by the positive feed back about our website. The website is in its infancy at present but please keep going back to follow our progress

We still need stories and photographs.

- what did you do in the army?
- how did this vary to what you did in your civilian life?
- what did you gain from being in the army?

Heather Fry History/Website Co-ordinator

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