



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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NEWSLETTER

December 2010 – No 4/2010

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Fundraiser Co-ordinator

Margaret (Robinson) Jager
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome to the December edition of your Newsletter and the beginning of the festive season. As you may have noticed there has been a change to the WRAAC Association Committee line up following the October Annual General Meeting with a new President elected as per our rules of incorporation.

I am a life member of the WRAAC Association and have been a Committee Member for many years and for the past three years held the position of Vice President alongside Jude Pinkerton-Treloar as President. I look forward to working with my fellow ex-servicewomen as we venture into 2011.

WRAAC Associations all over Australia have an exciting year planned with celebrations going ahead with great pride and goodwill. This will be a wonderful opportunity to join together and reflect on a time when our enthusiasm and sheer joy of life would be worth bottling. These thoughts came to me as we were browsing over Service photos and happened to find a group shot taken at Benalla (circa) 1970 and as we gazed at the many faces we thought where are these wonderful women now? We all remember the fun girls who had us in fits of laughter at their glaring disregard for authority but were some of the best soldiers or the high achievers we fleetingly hoped would fail, just once! or the girls you had to help carry to get them over the line and force them to keep trying.

The faces that always seem to remain in our memories are the true mates who helped and supported us when life was a little tough as it always seemed to be when we were young and proudly independent.

If you have contact with a former WRAAC and she is not a member of a WRAAC Association, remind her of the great years you shared and 2011 will be an opportunity to reflect and enjoy a few good laughs together.

Have a happy and safe Christmas

Yours in friendship

Brenda (Ruby) Walters

The President & Committee
wish you all a happy & healthy
Christmas & New Year.
Keep safe.



PROFILE : Brenda (Ruby) Walters

Brenda Ruby enlisted into the WRAAC CMF as a member of 3 WRAAC Co, Highbury Grove Kew in July 1967.

On completion of recruit training Brenda transferred to 118 Signal Squadron in April 1968 and returned to 3 WRAAC Co in 1972 as a Sergeant Instructor.

Brenda and Cheryl (Howes) Brown completed their Warrant Officer training together with Brenda as CSM until disbandment of the WRAAC. WO2 Walters finished her Service life at OCTU as an Instructor and remained there until she was discharged in 1976.

Well done young lady.



PATRON

It is with great pride we can advise you that Captain Iris Petrass has kindly accepted our invitation to become Patron of the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc following the sad passing of Major Jessie Perkins.

Iris is known to many of you and has been a serving member of the WRAAC ARA and CMF and a profile on our Patron's service life will be in the next newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1100hrs Saturday 23rd October 2010

We can report all current members of the Committee have been returned for a further 12 months.

The appointed positions are:

President : Brenda (Ruby) Walters
Vice President/Editor: Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar
Secretary/Public Officer: Cheryl (Howes) Brown
Treasurer: Elizabeth Gibson
Membership Officer: Diane Sherry
History Co-ordinator: Heather (Rankin) Fry
Fundraising Co-ordinator: Margaret (Robinson) Jager
Social/Events: Liz (Stone) Maclaine

Thank you to all for your confidence and support.
(Attachment No.1 is a copy of the President's Report)

SWAN HILL April 2011

The Swan Hill "Get Together" will take place over the following dates, 1st, 2nd and 3rd April 2011 and will re-place the Ex-Servicewomen's re-union we have all enjoyed over many years. A reminder to book your accommodation early. The Swan Hill RSL has invited us to attend again in 2011 rather than just let the re-union stop altogether. This will not be an organized function, it is a get-together.

If you wish to attend the luncheon please contact The Secretary of the Swan Hill Sub Branch Mr Barry Townley (03)5032 3747 to advise on numbers and any special dietary needs. It could be a good idea to go by train as many of the girls find it comfortable with easy access to their Motel.

92nd ANNIVERSARY OF REMEMBRANCE DAY (ARMISTICE DAY) 11TH NOVEMBER 2010

President Brenda Walters placed a sheath of yellow gerberas, carnations with a purple iris for remembrance at the wreath laying ceremony held at Austin Health on November 11th to commemorate the 92nd Anniversary since the signing of the Armistice. Brenda joined AWAS President Gwenda Walker who placed a wreath on behalf of the AWAS Association Victoria, it is always a proud moment to see AWAS and WRAAC side by side representing our proud heritage.

The day was hot and dry with slight breeze threatening to play tricks with the assembled guests hats and umbrellas; such is the joy of spring. A special moment during the service was the moving poem, In Flanders Fields (John McCrae 1872-1918). The poem was read by staff member Brigitte Thoelen in her mother tongue, Flemish. Brigitte was a member of the winning Ward 6 West/6East, Spirit of Anzac Team for 2010. The association would like a WRAAC Plaque at Austin Health (former Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital) and this could be a possibility for next year.

Two special plaques were unveiled on the day to commemorate the 57/60th Battalion and HMAS Hobart.

57th/60th Battalion

The 57th/60th Battalion was an infantry battalion of the Australian Army which served during World War II. It was formed in 1930 as part of the Citizens Military Force by the amalgamation of the 57th and 60th Battalions and was assigned to the 15th Brigade, 3rd Division in Victoria. The Battalion was initially used in a garrison role before deployment to New Guinea in 1943. The Battalion consisted of between 800-900 men. The 57th/60th nickname was the Merri/Heidelberg Regiment and participated in the New Guinea Campaign and the Bougainville Campaign. During the Battalions gallant service in New Guinea and Bougainville it lost 58 men KIA or other causes with 134 men wounded.

Members of the Battalion received the following decorations, 1DSO, 8MCs, 1DCM, 14MMs, 24MIDs and 2EDs.

The Battalion also received several battle honours.

Suggested reading, Cornfield, Robin (1991) Hold Hard, Cobbers the Story of the 57th and 60th.

HMAS Hobart (1)

The HMAS Hobart was officially described as a Modified Leander Class Light Cruise (Builder, HM Dockyard Devonport, England) and commissioned on the 13th January

1936 arriving in Australia at the end of 1938. Hobart was engaged on various patrols and exercises and on the event of World War II was on patrol and search duties in Bass Strait. In 1939 Hobart sailed for service in the East Indies Station and escorted convoys in the Bay of Bengal and the Black Sea. She was at Aden when Italy entered the war in 1940. Hobart had a distinguished war record was under severe attack many times during her tour of duty. On the 20th July 1943 the Hobart was struck by a torpedo fired by a Japanese Submarine and suffered severe damage and the tragic loss of 13 shipmates. On the 31st August 1945 she arrived in Tokyo Bay and was among the Australian ships present at the time of the Japanese surrender.

If you wish to obtain further information regarding the HMAS Hobart(1) there are many books recording the history of this gallant ship and her brave crew, God bless them.
www.navy.gov.au/HMAS_Hobart

COUNCIL OF EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE AND LUNCHEON Saturday 20th November 2010

The day was picture perfect for the Blessing of the Memorial Cairn at its new home at the Shrine of Remembrance Memorial Garden Melbourne on Saturday 20th November 2010. The re-location of the Cairn brings to a close the dedication and planning of a group of ex-servicewomen led by Sybil Irving approximately 60 years ago to have a memorial to all service-women in the sacred grounds of the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

If we fast forward the past 60 years the late Sybil Irving's vision comes to life through Landscape Architect, Katherine Rekaris. Katherine, through research and discussion designed a memorial garden that reflects the strength, courage and unity of Australian Servicewomen, past, present and future. Following the blessing of the Cairn we were invited to join the Shrine family for refreshments.

The day finished with a wonderful luncheon at ANZAC House where we relaxed and enjoyed the company of dear friends, with Joan Johnstone and Katherine Rekaris as guest speakers. It was a special day.

Our Thanks To

The Council of Ex-servicewomen, Ms Katherine Rekaris (Landscape Architect) The Shrine of Remembrance, Managing Director of Citywide Mr. Kerry Osborne, The City of Melbourne (who provided the magnificent Jacaranda trees) Mr. Sam Davis (Head Horticulturist, Citywide) Margaret Jager WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc (floral tributes), Jessica Ruth (Shrine of Remembrance, Youth Ambassador)

To the late Sybil Irving for her strength, wisdom and courage, our girls are home now, safe in the sacred memorial garden at the Shrine of Remembrance, where they will never be forgotten.



THE MEMORIALISATION OF WOMEN'S WAR SERVICE

**Public Lecture, Shrine of Remembrance 26th November 2010
By Associate Professor Melanie Oppenheimer**

This lecture had many of us cringing in our seats as we gained an insight in to the difficulties faced by a dedicated generation of Servicewomen as they attempted to gain a place at the Shrine of Remembrance to honour their fellow Servicewomen who served our nation in war and peace.

It only took 60 years for the Ex-Servicewomen's Cairn to be located in the peaceful memorial garden, now, that's not too long, is it?

60TH WRAAC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS 2011 Saturday 19th February & Sunday 20th February 2011

The WRAAC Social Group in conjunction with the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc invite you to join them in the celebrations to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Women's Royal Australian Army on Saturday 19th February and Sunday 20th February 2011

Please complete the green form attached to the newsletter regarding our weekend of events to assist us with catering.

Reunion Luncheon

Date: Saturday 19th February 2011
Venue: Orrong Hotel
Time: 12 noon for 12.30pm
Cost: Choice of four mains and two sweets.
(Cost will depend on what you order.)
Coffee and soft drink will be provided.

Bring along your photos and other memorabilia for all to enjoy.

Flag Raising and WRAAC Exhibition

Date/Time: Sunday 20th February 2011 at 1045hrs for 1100hrs
Venue: Gather on the forecourt at the Shrine of Remembrance for the raising of the WRAAC Flag and a march past the Eternal Flame. This will be followed by a simple wreath laying ceremony at the WRAAC Plaque.

At 1130hrs we join together at the Shrine of Remembrance for the official opening of the WRAAC Exhibition. Following the Exhibition Opening please join us for refreshments in the Shrine Courtyard.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet former Servicewomen (AWAS and WRAAC) and the dedicated Shrine Staff who contribute so much to the preservation of our History.

OUR WRAAC FLAG

Our sincere thanks to Margaret (Samson) Roberts for her kind donation to the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc, that enabled us to purchase our own flag. The flag will feature a WRAAC Badge and the years 1951-1984. Our flag will complement the Banner and Standard when we join together on ANZAC Day and other important occasions.

Margaret served with the late LTCOL Bev Blanksby, CAPT Ruth Durance and WOI Elizabeth Gibson and in keeping with Margaret's wishes the inscription on a small plaque will read, In memory of LTCOL Beverley Blanksby and all members of the WRAAC.

When we proudly march together once again in the true spirit of friendship we will remember our Sisters who are no longer with us but live on in our memories whenever we hear Soldiers of the Queen.

GET OUT, VET TOLD

How dare a security guard ask our Joan Johnstone (AWAS and WRAAC Association member) to move from the podium level at South Bank on Friday 5th November 2010 as reported in the Herald Sun (November 6th 2010) under the heading "Get Out, Vet told"

Joan was selling poppies in her usual spot and was surprised by the guards request to move on. Joan had sold poppies there before without a problem but now it appears to be an issue!

The RSL later confirmed they had failed to gain permission from the Southgate Management for Joan to sell poppies in the area and did not get the message to her in time, ouch! A flick pass worthy of an AFL team was directed towards a company public relations spokesperson to deal with and we can report that a sincere apology was extended to Joan by way of a letter plus a welcome donation to the RSL all accompanied by a huge bunch of flowers and an invitation to sell poppies in the same spot next year.

This was an excellent outcome, well done to all. It would be a good idea for the RSL to ensure this does not happen to a veteran again as it certainly had the general public fired up.

If it all boils down to an OH&S issues we all understand that, right.

VILLIANS OR SCAPEGOATS

These rather confronting words were overheard during a robust conversation from an irate Australian in reference to our Servicemen who have recently been charged with manslaughter, dangerous conduct, failing to comply with general orders and prejudicial conduct. My first thought was thank goodness it was not an exam question when we sat for our Military Law subjects during promotion but the direction it is going methinks it will be one for the scholars and Private Bloggs to ponder for many years to come.

The charges are mind boggling in their severity and the implications of such charges has sent the morale of Diggers, past and present in to freefall.

Is it possible that our boys will be a test case of the systems integrity and as members of the ADF we know we are not above the law, we wear two coats and understand the state of play.

So the message to our Armed Forces is stick to the prescribed Rules of Engagement or face the consequences, now isn't that so easy to say from the security of our warm safe homes in Australia.
Editor.

BACCHUS MARSH AVENUE OF HONOUR

FOLLOW UP

There is some good news regarding the Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour as it is now included on the Victorian Heritage Register. However, Heritage Victoria could announce the fate of VicRoads application to build a roundabout at Woolpack Road at any time. The roundabout and crossroads if approved would desecrate this sacred and iconic memorial. At this stage it would appear they have gone very quiet with no word as yet. National Trust Victoria has offered its support to the Avenue Preservation Group in its bid to save the sacred trees and will not give up the fight even if Heritage Victoria approved the works.

The feedback we received following our story regarding the removal of the magnificent elms for a roundabout and crossroads was significant so with sincere thanks to the National Trust this is what we can do.

We write letters to Heritage Victoria, the Premier, Ted Baillieu, The Leader of the Opposition, local newspapers and The Minister for Roads. The contact details for the local community Avenue Action group is Avenue preservation group@7mail.com

Remembrance Day

Vic roads couldn't win a chook raffle at the moment if you recall their disastrous 11th November statement regarding an alleged memo to their staff as it referred to the decision not to observe a minutes silence due to cultural sensitivity and the desire not to offend anyone. So we ask the question "whose cultural sensitivity did they not wish to offend"

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

We are watching with a great deal of interest as the Federal Government rolls out the new National Curriculum covering English, Maths, Science and History. If the draft History curriculum is approved year 11 and 12 students would learn of alleged "controversies surrounding memorial sites and commemorative events" Are we missing something here, do they glorify war?

If we examine this example of re-writing History check this classic piece of journalism as reported in the Sunday Herald - Sun 21st November 2010.

MEMORIAL TO WOMEN OF WAR

(Sunday Herald-Sun 21/11/2010)

Have your red marking pen ready.

A garden memorial to the 70,000 Australian women who served in the Boer War was unveiled at the Shrine of Remembrance yesterday.

The design of the garden, which is open to the public, is based on the women's forgotten flower of remembrance, the violet.

FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Over the past few years our Association has welcomed many wonderful friends who join with us at functions and genuinely feel part of the WRAAC Association and one of them is Mrs Eileen Gowans who recently returned from Villers-Bretonneux (Somme) where she placed a wreath and poppies on behalf of the Association in memory of our boys.

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

VALE

HANDLEY, Jacqueline, Warrant Officer Class 2

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late WO2 Jacqueline Handley who passed away on November 17th 2010 at the Seymour Memorial Hospital, Victoria following an illness.

Jacqueline was a respected soldier and committed to the training and development of Cadets and Officer Cadets at Melbourne University Regiment (MUR)

Lest we forget

THINKING OF YOU

WRAAC Association member and Treasurer of the Returned & Servicewomen's Sub Branch RSL (Vic) Margaret Bull mentioned her recent trip to Thailand to visit her 5th Great Grandchild, Willow. Margaret has two sons living in Thailand and reports back to us a great time was had by all. Congratulations Margaret from all your friends.

Our best wishes to our much loved Anne Woods and family, we think of Anne whenever we gather together in friendship, we miss you and your cups of tea Woodsy. Anne now resides in Gippsland, Victoria.

Hello to Lorraine Jacobs (Jake) in beautiful Western Australia, Lorraine was a star in the Car rallies we had in the early days of 8/3 WRAAC Co.

We all enjoyed the rallies organized by CAPT Gwenda Walker and CAPT Lesley Bennett.

Margaret Brookes (Toddy) your mates are thinking of you.

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

Robyn (Jean) Rosamond CMF 1966-69 3 WRAAC /
3 Div Int

Sharon Brennan ARes 1971/2 3 WRAAC

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
Ms Angela Jones
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.

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 DECEMBER 2010 – APRIL 2011

19 th February 2011	WRAAC 60 th Anniversary Re-union Luncheon	Orrong Hotel Bistro Cnr Orrong & High Sts Armadale (Melways Ref Map 58 J7)
20 th February 2011	WRAAC 60 th Anniversary Parade & Exhibition Opening	Shrine of Remembrance Birdwood Avenue South Yarra.
1 st /2 nd /3 rd April 2011	Swan Hill Get Together	RSL Club Curlewis St Swan Hill

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment No. 1 - President's Report from Annual General Meeting 2010**
- Attachment No. 2 - 60th Anniversary Form**



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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 23rd October 2010
Starting at 1100 hrs
Education Centre
Shrine of Remembrance
Melbourne.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As this will be my last President's report I would like to say it has been an honour and a privilege to be President of the WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. for the past three years and to watch us grow in strength and unity.

When we were asked to accept the challenge and take the Association forward into un-chartered waters it was an awesome responsibility for so many of us, however we focused on our primary goal that was based on promotion of social contact and the preservation of WRAAC history and traditions.

The Committee deserve a vote of thanks for their commitment and steely resolve to join together and make it work and all did so in friendship and always in the spirit of the Corps. The Association is growing stronger and is a credible entity with ex-service women joining together as one and celebrating our place in Australia's Military History. How appropriate as next year is our 60th Anniversary.

On your behalf we attend various Service Organization meetings and functions and through this process we gain information to ensure our members are kept updated and informed. These meetings enable us to keep and nurture the special friendships that all service personnel value so dearly.

This term of office your representatives have been:

Brenda Walters who attends Kindred Organisations and Unit Associations Committee meetings.

I have joined Cheryle Brown, Heather Fry in attending and participating in Reserve Forces Day Council meetings.

Until Major Jessie Perkins recent sad passing I joined Jessie as a delegate attending the Council of Ex-servicewomen's meetings. Cheryle Brown has now become our second WRAAC delegate on the Council.

Maggie More, Cheryle Brown and I attend the AWAS Association meetings where Gwenda Walker is President, Maggie More Snr Vice President with Cheryle Brown Secretary.

We attend various Social functions throughout the year and in doing so gain an insight to the problems facing so many Ex-Service Organizations and social groups.

The fact is we are an ageing population and without the support of younger members is leading to the demise of so many previously strong and solid organizations. Unfortunately it's a sad fact of life.

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

As a committee we hold regular meetings at the Shrine of Remembrance and value the support and encouragement from the dedicated Shrine Staff.

EVENTS

2010 Luncheon

The 2010 WRAAC Association Luncheon once again held at the International of Brighton was an enjoyable day and the feedback was positive with numbers up and most in attendance had a happy day.

Our thanks to Brenda Walters, Liz Maclaine, Cheryle Brown and Margaret Jager for their considerable input thus ensuring the day is special to all.

At this stage we will continue to hold the luncheon at the International.

Combined AWAS and WRAAC Service

On Sunday 18th May the commemorative Service was once again held at the Shrine of Remembrance but with a great sense of loss as we had just learnt of the passing of our Patron and friend Major Jessie Perkins. Following the combined service held within the Sanctuary of the Shrine of Remembrance we gathered at the WRAAC Plaque for a short service to honour a truly great woman and as a mark of respect we were given a sprig of rosemary tied with Jessie's much loved AFL Team St Kilda colours of red, white and black.

Jessie was firm in her belief that the combined AWAS/WRAAC Service should continue as next year is the 60th anniversary of the formation of the WRAAC and the 70th anniversary of the AWAS. A significant time for all to celebrate and embrace our great friendship and pride in each others achievements.

ANZAC Day

This year was one of the best as we had our banner to proudly gather and march behind and the weather was kind to us so all had a great day. There were girls who had not marched with us before and they indeed made it very special.

We hope to have our WRAAC Flag next year and combined with our Banner and Standard we will look so very good.

Please join us next year on this significant day where following the march a wreath will be placed at the WRAAC Plaque in memory of our fellow servicewomen.

Reserve Forces Day

Following the non event that was Reserve Forces Day 2009, this year was a positive experience for all involved.

The hard work undertaken by the Reserve Forces Day Council (Vic) under the guidance of Brigadier Neal Bavington RFD ED, left no doubt that this year would be inclusive and relevant.

There were meetings and constant feedback regarding the planning and structure of the day.

The Association now has a fine Standard to carry on Parade and this is a direct result of participating in this year's event.

With 2011 RFD Parade we anticipate a good turnout and we now have Heather Fry participating on the Committee as the minute's secretary to keep us informed and included.

Web Site

Our site continues to grow and provide a valuable contact for so many former members of the WRAAC, many are looking for information regarding their term of Service or long lost friends.

Through the website we have gained new members or have assisted them to an Association in their area.

Our sincere thanks to Heather Fry, Cheryle Brown and Ella Burton for their input and dedication to the sites success.

Ex-WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch

Thanks to Liz Maclaine, Bev Bond and Lyn Board for their ongoing support and goodwill in making the Pub Lunch at the Orrong the must attend get together in February and October each year.

Please remember to add your name to the Social Group list by contacting Liz Maclaine telephone 03 9397 1043.

Association Flag

Our sincere thanks to Margaret (Samson) Roberts who has kindly donated money to purchase a WRAAC Flag and in keeping with Margaret's wishes the flag will have an inscription that reads: Dedicated to the memory of LTCOL Beverley Blanksby and all WRAAC Servicewomen. Margaret served at 8/3 WRAAC Co with Bev and has fond memories of their early years.

WRAAC Plaque

Our WRAAC Plaque situated in the peaceful Remembrance Garden at the Shrine of Remembrance continues to be a special place for many of us to remember our sisters who are no longer with us but will always remain a precious memory to cherish.

Grant

After several meetings, phone calls and the patient gathering of many quotes we can report our application for a Grant is awaiting the Minister for Veteran Affairs signature.

We need the grant to help supplement Association plans for 2011

Fund Raising (WRAAC Collectors)

Our fund raising co-ordinator Margaret Jager reports that the total of **\$651.80** as at end June 2010 has been collected in this special effort and funds raised contribute to the ongoing costs associated with the website, postage and other costs.

Our sincere thanks to all for your wonderful contribution to the Association.

Newsletter

The Newsletter is a very important part of our communication process with members. Our Association communicates with members outside Victoria who are extremely interested in what is happening in our State. We always appreciate feedback and your contribution is paramount to our success. We will always need more from you to keep our communication fresh and interesting.

Swan Hill Ex-Servicewomen's Reunion 2011

Sunday 3rd April 2011 is the reunion luncheon at the Swan Hill RSL and this will be the first year the ladies of the Swan Hill RSL will not be having any input into the gathering therefore if you are thinking of attending next year we suggest you book your accommodation early. Barry Townley from the Swan Hill RSL has asked me to advise them on the approximate number of ladies travelling from Melbourne attending the luncheon for catering purposes. So closer to the Re-union date please contact Jude Pinkerton-Treloar on telephone 03 9874 7915.

60TH ANIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WRAAC 2011

The Re-union luncheon in conjunction with the WRAAC Social Group is part of Victoria's 60th WRAAC Celebrations and will be held at the Orrong Hotel on Saturday 19th February 2011 at 12 noon for 12.30pm. We will have the use of the Hotel for several

hours and expect a large number of members to join us on the day. The menu will consist of a choice of 4 mains and 4 deserts a pay as you go. The December Newsletter will have a booking form attached with further information.

Sunday 20th February 2011 at 11.00am we will gather on the Forecourt at the Shrine where our WRAAC Victoria Flag will be raised for the first time, we then form up and march past the eternal flame to the WRAAC Plaque where a wreath laying ceremony will take place.

We then move to the Shrine of Remembrance where an exhibition conveying the story of the AWAS and WRAAC will be on display. Refreshments will be served following the Exhibition opening and depending on the weather will be held in the Courtyard area. The exhibition will be at the Shrine for 6-8 weeks.

ADOPT AN EX-SERVICE PROGRAM

In conjunction with the Shrine of Remembrance and jointly with the AWAS Association (Vic) Inc. we have attended a meeting with Mr Graham Ruffles, Middle School Year 9 Student Co-ordinator at Methodist Ladies College, Hawthorn.

The aim is to establish a partnership with the School and the students to become involved with the AWAS and WRAAC Association's History. The School would be encouraged to participate in various Association services held throughout the year.

It is an initiative of the Shrine of Remembrance Education Program and our thanks to Alice McConnell the Shrines Public Programs Officer for her guidance and to Maggie More for her generous support and endeavour to make this happen.

We will keep you updated with our progress.

ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

To the wonderful women of our Committee who have played a significant role in the success of the Association and on behalf of Membership we acknowledge you. I will not single you out as each one of you has given so much of your time and skills without question, we thank you.

To Maggie More and Gwenda Walker for their guidance support to the Association, thank you.

To our late Patron Jessie whose guidance and commitment to so many Service organizations has been an example to all.

I wish you well and thank you sincerely for giving me the opportunity to be part of such a great team.

Jude Pinkerton Treloar



**WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INC.
INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM IN THE CELEBRATIONS TO COMMEMORATE
THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WOMEN'S ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY CORPS**

REUNION LUNCHEON

Saturday 19th February 2011

VENUE: Orrong Hotel Bistro
Cnr Orrong Road and High Street,
Armada Vic (Melways Ref Map 58 J7)

TIME: 12 noon for 1230

COST: Choice of four mains and two sweets.
(Cost will depend on what you order.)
Coffee and soft drink will be provided.

Please return completed form to : Mrs Liz Maclaine, 16 Richard Street , Williamstown, 3016
Telephone : (03) 93997 1043
(BOOKINGS CLOSE ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2011)

NAME:..... **NEE:**..... **REGT NO.:**.....
(please print)

FLAG RAISING AND WRAAC EXHIBITION OPENING

Sunday 20th February 2011
1045 hours for 1100 hours

You are cordially invited to join former members of the WRAAC, their families and friends on the day

1045 hrs Assemble at the Flag Pole, Shrine Forecourt for the raising of the WRAAC Flag

1115 hrs March to the WRAAC Plaque for a wreath laying ceremony

1145 hrs We gather in the Shrine of Remembrance for the Official Opening of the Exhibition

A selection of finger food, tea, coffee and soft drinks will be served following the opening of the exhibition
To allow for catering purposes would you please complete the form below to register your attendance by
10th February 2011 to Liz Maclaine

NAME: **Numbers attending:**