



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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Telephone: (03) 9478 1073 Website: www.wraacvic.com

NEWSLETTER

December 2011 – No 4/2011

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Newsletter Editor

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar
Telephone: 03 9874 7915



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome to our final newsletter for the year and my first "From the President".

My congratulations, thanks and best wishes are extended to Brenda (Ruby) Walters for her commitment to the President's role over the past twelve months. We are very fortunate that Brenda is still a committee member albeit with a much reduced work load.

Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar and Cheryle (Howes) Brown have stepped down from their positions as Vice President and Secretary; thank you ladies for your tireless efforts in your respective roles. Jude and Cheryle are still committee members – Jude being the newsletter editor assisted by Cheryle and Diane Sherry.

Diane Sherry is now our Secretary combining that with her current role as Membership Secretary.

We welcome Liz (Stone) Maclaine as Vice President and welcome back Carol (Hamilton) King as a committee member. We are looking forward to catching up and working with Carol once again but expect lots of laughs with Margaret Jager and Carol as a team.

Elizabeth Gibson has stepped down from the role of Treasurer a position she has held since the inception of the Association. Thank you Elizabeth for the time and dedication you applied to your role as our treasurer.

I wish all association members and their families all the very best for Christmas and a happy and healthy 2012,

Yours in friendship,

Heather (Rankin) Fry

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



ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1100hrs Saturday 5th November 2011

The AGM held in the Education Centre at the Shrine of Remembrance on Saturday 5th November 2011 at 1100 hours was well attended by membership.

We accepted the resignation of our President Brenda Walters due to health issues with regret but fully understand her need to devote time to herself and family. Brenda has agreed to stay on as a committee member.

Vice President Judith Pinkerton-Treloar has stepped down as VP to devote more time to her ageing mother but will stay on as Editor/Committee member.

Our much loved and respected Elizabeth Gibson has retired as Treasurer after 34 years and we will miss her so much.

Secretary and Public Officer Cheryl Brown has stepped down from her position for family reasons (another beautiful grandchild due 2012) but has agreed to stay on as Public Officer/Committee member.

Executive Committee

Heather Fry was unanimously elected as President with Liz Maclaine as Vice President.

The position of Treasurer will be filled by Heather Fry a former banker and will hold the title of President/Treasurer Diane Sherry will take on the dual role of Secretary /Membership Officer.

We welcome back our Committee Member Carole King who resides in South Australia and will be our interstate representative.

Margaret Jager retains the role of Fundraiser Co-ordinator and all round good person.

Profile : Heather (Rankin) FRY

Feb 7, 1962. Enlisted in 3 WRAAC Coy

Mar 1963 Attached to Grosvenor, Queens Rd as WRAAC driver (received driver training/military licence)

Jul 7, 1965 Transferred to 399 Transport Platoon, Wadey Street, South Melbourne

Feb 12, 1969 Transferred to 3 WRAAC Coy

Mar 28, 1969 Attached to 126 Signal Squadron, Albert Park, as Transport NCO

Jun 21, 1972 Discharged from army

Attained rank of Sergeant.

I did not marry until after my discharge therefore my surname was 'Rankin'.

WRAAC PLAQUE

At Austin Health (Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital)
11th November 2011



The unveiling of our WRAAC Plaque took place on the 11th November 2011 at Austin Health (Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital) during the Remembrance Day Service. It was wonderful to see many former members of the WRAAC and the AWAS in attendance.

We were honoured to have Mrs Catherine (Murdoch) Kennedy joining with us on the day to officially unveil the Plaque. Cathy, a member of 3 WRAAC Co had worked at Heidelberg during her days as a student and it was her first job as a graduate. (Medical Librarian) Cathy's late mother was a member of the AWAS so there was such a meaningful connection on the day. Our beautiful girls Brenda Walters and Liz Maclaine looked smart in their berets as together they placed a wreath at the base of the newly dedicated Plaque. Chaplain John Brownbill RFD, KSJ, a name well known to all through his association with Heidelberg officiated in the dedication of our plaque. Local school children participated in the service by placing a poppy of remembrance at the base of the flagpole and proudly joined in the singing of the National Anthem. The children were encouraged to interact with Veterans and their families following the service.

In her first official role as WRAAC Association Victoria, President, Heather Fry joined Captain Gwenda Walker (President AWAS Association Vic) in placing a wreath at the AWAS plaque during the ceremony.

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar was asked to reflect on the WRAAC 1951-1984 and presented an overview outlining the role members played in the overall defence of Australia. Jude talked about how we were highly skilled, trained soldiers and our shared history with the AWAS, forerunner to the WRAAC. Jude also mentioned our link with the Hospital as many of us had parents attending or working at the hospital post World War II. Members of the WRAAC were also recipients of the excellent care provided by the Repat. It was a proud day to be a former member of the WRAAC.



Remembrance Day.

The day we now know as Remembrance Day is a time to reflect on those we have lost and to those who are left behind to endure the pain and sadness of that loss. The 11th of November is as relevant in 2011 as it was following the signing of the Armistice in 1918 between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France.

As a Nation we mourn the passing of our Service personnel who have paid the supreme sacrifice so far away from the safety of our shores.

We will remember them,



Swan Hill Ex-Servicewomen's Reunion 1st April 2012

A reminder to all wishing to attend the Swan Hill reunion to make sure you have booked accommodation for the weekend of the 31st March-1st April 2012. Remember to contact the Swan Hill RSL to advise them if attending the luncheon on the Sunday.

NOTE: This is not an organised function and we now make our own arrangements,

RSL Swan Hill telephone 03 5032 2359

Lunch at Seymour

2nd November 2011

After months of planning a small group of former members of the AWAS/WRAAC gathered at the friendly Café 96, Main Street Seymour.

The day started off rather chilly but as we left suburban Melbourne behind the temperature began to rise. This could have been due in part to Heather's driving but that could not be true as Heather is a competent former WRAAC Driver and Instructor so one can only blame the lively chatter going on in the vehicle. The day was going to be full of memories with friendships renewed.

For so many of us the very mention of Seymour brings back memories of Puckapunyal, National Service, great blokes, wonderful Nurses, Heavy Vehicles the Vietnam War and great blokes.

The small town of Seymour has changed into a trendy shopping centre with cafes, restaurants and boutique shops. This is a far cry from the sleepy hollow it used to be in the 60s. There are lots of things to catch up on in Seymour especially the Vietnam Memorial Walk.

We intend to make this a regular get-together to catch up with our girls in the Seymour area. Information will be in the 2012 Newsletter.

Girls enjoying the day were-

AWAS/WRAAC May (Tuffin) Brooks AHQ Sigs –
Cypher Grosvenor then DSB

WRAAC Lorraine (Fields) Coleman CARO, Int WA,
G Branch N Comd

AWAS/WRAAC Brenda (Rusty Henderson) Johnson
89 Tle Ops Atherton
AHQ Cypher Vic Bks.

AWAS Nancy (Tubby Williams) Delaney
(Brenda & Ron's beautiful bridesmaid)
AHQ Signals Grosvenor, Vic Bks.

AWAS/WRAAC Mavis (Young) Gray Veh Pk
Bandiana

AWAS/WRAAC Gwenda M Walker
1BOD Bandiana 1943-1947
WRAAC 1953-1975

WRAAC Heather Fry Dvr 3WRAAC

WRAAC Jude Pinkerton-Treloar Trg 3WRAAC

Erin Gray (Granddaughter of Mavis Gray)

Erin writes,

Very proud to feel part of this legacy and so proud of my Nan and her service to our country.

Was great to see all the old photos.

Well said Erin, our future is in good hands with young people like you. Ed.



Standing L-R: Gwenda, Mavis, Nancy, Lorraine, Jude and Heather
Seated L-R: Brenda and May

Memories

We need your memories to help our next exhibition in 2013 when we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the CMF/ARES. We intend this exhibition to be as interesting and informative as 'A fine career for a woman.'

This is the plan; we want you to tell us what you did in civilian life and how you managed to wear another hat as a member of the CMF/ARES.

An example could be Flora Bloggs who joined the CMF when she was 18 years old but was also attempting to finish a 4 year apprenticeship and how the balance of Civilian/ Military life was an interesting journey into adult hood.

Therefore sort out your photos and memorabilia write a few words and forward to Heather Fry hfy44@bigpond.com or Jude Pinkerton-Treloar johtreloar1@bigpond.com

Example: Pat (O'Reilly) Cooper as a member of the WRAAC 1964 and today leads a busy and productive life within her community post WRAAC. You are an inspiration Pat, thanks for the great photos.



Defence Personnel Issues.

A speech by Andrew Wilkie MP for Denison on the 31st October 2011 highlights the unfairness in the superannuation arrangements for some serving and retired defence personnel. This particularly relates to members of the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme and the Defence Forces Retirement Benefit Scheme which Wilkie suggests is not equal to pensions in the private sector. This is an unacceptable situation when our Defence Personnel are struggling to meet the basic costs of living due to their superannuation falling further and further behind. Another concern is compensation and the minefield that it has become with the way it's structured. It is so unjust and Andrew Wilkie should be encouraged to pursue this to an acceptable outcome.

The Howard Government did nothing about the situation and the Gillard Government is still sitting on the fence.

Our Defence Personnel do not need stress such as this and they should always be treated fairly with respect and dignity.

Former Governments have always made it difficult for our Service personnel so let's dig in and back Wilkie on this.

For more information go on line to, Hansard speech, House of Representatives, Monday 31st October 2011. Page 198

Thanks to Lyn Board for alerting us to this situation. Ed

ABOUT TURN

Memorandum of understanding (MOU)

The RSL has decided against a plan to reconcile Australian Vietnam Veterans and the Vietnamese Veterans Association as reported recently. The premature plan angered many of our Vietnam Veterans who deemed the RSL to be committing an act of betrayal. The MOU (memorandum of understanding) between Australian and Vietnamese Veterans Association has angered many returned service personnel as they say they were not fully consulted about the idea. The RSL suggest they were only responding to the request of some of its members.

The suggestion has really polarised the Veteran community as Australia has never signed a MOU with former foes. The reasoning behind the story is that with so many former Australian service personnel visiting and living in Vietnam that they made the approach to the RSL with the idea of bringing former enemies together.

Whist noble in thought isn't forgiveness a personal and private act?

The Gillard Government is not against the idea as it's great for free trade and exchange with Hanoi, with Foreign Affairs Minister, Kevin Rudd stating in January that the Government had no objections at all to the idea.

We must remember Vietnam is a totalitarian Government and many of our Vets consider the Vietnamese Veterans Association to be an arm of that Government and the central committee of the communist party that still continues to persecute former South Vietnam soldiers and civilians.

Will we ever forget the images of Vietnamese civilians attempting to clamber on to hovering helicopters following the fall of Saigon?

As with the Japanese during World War II when we learnt of the horrendous way they treated Australian servicemen and women (POWs) did we ask Australian's to accept a MOU so

soon following the end of hostilities. Therefore, to expect our Vietnam Vets to forgive and forget in a few short years is unthinkable. It can take another generation to come to terms with anger, grief and loss.

It runs deep.

A sensible decision by the RSL. (ED)

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

Brigadier Simone Wilkie

National Commander Afghanistan

Congratulations to Brigadier Simone Wilkie Australia's first female soldier to be in command of troops in a combat zone. Brigadier Wilkie enlisted in 1983 (prior to WRAAC being fully integrated into Army) rose from Signal Corps to command both Duntroon and Kapooka Training Bases, then promoted to Director General of Army Training.

Brigadier Wilkie is refreshingly honest and will become a respected role model for all wishing to join the ADF.

This appointment proves if you are suited for the job it's irrelevant to gender.

Royal Connection!

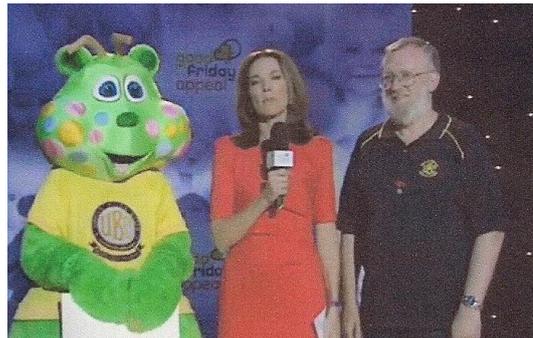
Did we really see our Margaret Jager on the Television news recently? It would appear that during the Royal visit to Melbourne for the official opening of The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne by HM Queen Elizabeth II there was Margaret in the crowd by 'Royal invitation'.

To put you in the picture, Margaret's charming husband, Ian is State President of the Uncle Bob's Club and Margaret is his first Lady, similar to Tim and Jules only the other way around.

We did ask for photographic evidence as to the encounter with Her Majesty. However, it was suggested due to protocol and the threat of incarceration in the tower of London Margie declined our request.

Pretty weak excuse I thought. (Ed)

Well done to Margaret and Ian, thank you for all the great work you do each year fundraising for the Good Friday Appeal. You are such a formidable team.



L - R : Bunyip, Jennifer Keyte and Ian Jager

Mystery Sighting!

Who was spotted leaving Elton John's concert on the 7th December on the back of a Vespa conjuring up memories of Roman Holiday minus Gregory Peck!



A Tribute and Profile of retiring Treasurer

WO1 Elizabeth Gibson

Enlisted:	1 May, 1956	
Promoted:	Corporal	11 Apr 1962
	Sergeant	21 Aug 1963
	WO 11	28 Feb 1966
	WO1	2 Sep 1974
Career Path	Ordnance Recruit Instructor for 12 years Training Officer Pay Corp 4 years	
Discharged:	3 July, 1978	
Highlights:	Represented 3 WRAAC Coy to meet Colonel in Chief, HRH Princess Margaret. Represented 3 WRAAC Coy to attend MBE medal presentation to Maj Jessie Perkins at Government House, Melbourne. 21 Aug 1976 Appointed treasurer WRAAC Associ 2 Nov 2011 Resigned as treasurer WRAAC Assoc	

Combined total of 55.5 years served with WRAAC CMF/A Res and WRAAC Reserve Association (Vic.) and WRAAC Association (Vic.) Inc.

Thank You

To our retiring Secretary and Public Officer Cheryle Brown for all your hard work and dedication to the Association over many years. Cheryle served on the Committee when the late Major Jessie Perkins was President then resumed again when asked by the late Lt Col Beverly Blanksby to be part of her team.

Cheryle (Howes) Brown provided the expertise and knowledge to the Committee that guided us through the technicalities of Incorporation, the correct procedure when applying for a Grant and to always adhere to Military principles and protocol in all of our endeavours.

As a past President of the Association I wish to publicly acknowledge Cheryle for all her help and support and thank her for being the best wingman ever.

THINKING OF YOU

Kath Fowler our thoughts are with you and look forward to seeing you in 2012.

Helen (Mulholland) Littlejohn and family our best wishes to you all..

Brenda (Rusty Henderson) Johnson lots of love and best wishes from your mates.

SICK PARADE

Marna (Hurtig) Sandford our best wishes to you for a speedy recovery.

Margaret Goldin (Navy) Best wishes from your Army mates, we are thinking of you.

To all our members who are not feeling well at this time our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you wish to have a chat please do not hesitate to contact a committee member (telephone numbers on front cover) or our Chaplain Rev. William (Bill) Pugh – Editor



BABY NEWS

Congratulations to our Patron, Captain Iris Petrass on the arrival of a beautiful Grandson, Felix.
Our best wishes to the family.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to Past President, Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar and family on the passing of her father Harold on the 25th November 2011.

Jude's father served with the 4th Field Ambulance in New Guinea 1941-1943 and had been unwell for a short time.



VALE

Margaret Elaine (Hylard) Bull F3/345 Catering Corps.
21st May 1934 -17th September 2011

It was with great sadness we report the passing of our dear friend and WRAAC Association member Margaret Bull. Margaret was a tireless worker for the Returned and Servicewomen's Sub Branch and served in various positions on the Committee including two years as President. We will miss your beautiful smile Margaret. Our sincere condolences to Margaret's family and friends. Major Maggie More represented the Association at Margaret's Service.



MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership fees were due 1st July 2011,

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:

Ms Elizabeth Bedgood
CPL Dorothy Berry
Ms Shirley Brown
Ms Marilyn Dell
Ms Robyn Gibson (nee Vincent)
Ms Pamela Hunt (nee Walsh)
Ms Angela Jones
Mrs Joyce Payne
Ms Debbie Umpleby
Ms. Sallyann Welton

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

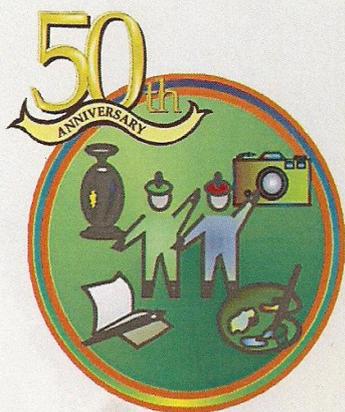


Can you identify the WRAAC in this picture with BRIG Bavington. Please contact Heather Fry Email: hfr44@bigpond.com or telephone 03 9795 8472

FOR THE DIARY JANUARY – MAY 2012

February 2012	WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunch	Orrong Hotel, Cnr Orrong Road and High Street Armadale
25th April 2012	ANZAC Day	TBA
3rd May 2012	Ex-WRANS Birthday Luncheon	1100hrs Legacy House 293 Swanston Street Melbourne.
20th May 2012	AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service	Shrine of Remembrance,

ATTACHMENTS: # 1 The Veteran Community Story Writing and Art Competition 1962 - 2012



The Veteran Community Story Writing & Art Competition 1962 ~2012

Patron: Maj Gen David J McLachlan AO

The 50th Anniversary year in 2012 for the Victorian Veteran Community Story Writing & Art Competition (SWAC) is fast approaching. We are encouraging you to think about your entries for this exciting milestone in the competition's history. Entry is open to eligible members of the ex-service community, including veterans, widows, children and grandchildren of the above, 18 years & over who reside in Victoria.

Entries open 2 April 2012.

Novice through to experienced levels welcome.

Entries categories for the 50th include

- Story Writing & Poetry
- Art
- Craft
- Photography

**For entry forms call the SWAC Coordinator (03) 9496 2290
Country Residents 1800 134 864
E-mail: swac@austin.org.au
Mail: SWAC, PO Box 5444, West Heidelberg, Vic 3081**