



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC.

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NEWSLETTER

December 2012 – No 4/2012

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2012 and the beginning of the festive season, a time of good cheer and of New Year resolutions to make and break.

This year the Association has moved against the trend of declining membership with 200 members a reality in 2013. If you know of a former member of the WRAAC and they may wish to join us please contact the Membership Officer Diane Sherry 0408 553 412 for further details.

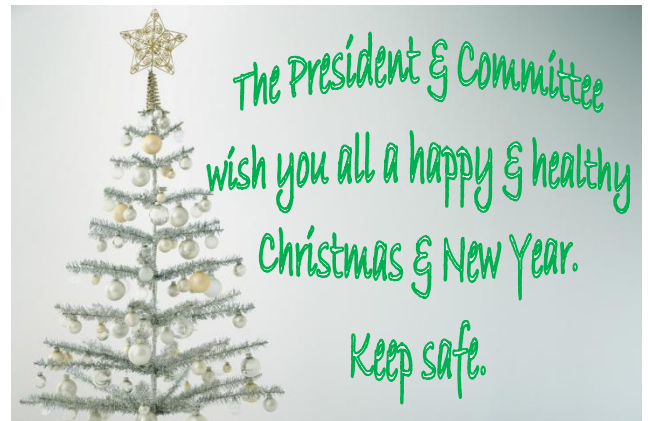
On behalf of the Committee I wish to thank you, the members for your continued interest in the Association and value your ongoing support and dedication. Your feedback and ideas are important to us.

As we lead in to this busy time we seem to get caught up with so many things to do therefore it could be just the right time to contact a dear friend or family member who may be finding life hard going at the moment. How easy is it to pick up the phone or send a little note, just to remind them they are very special and not forgotten.

Keep safe and compliments of the season to all.

Yours in friendship,

Heather (Rankin) Fry



Editorial

The year 2013 is significant to all WRAAC Associations as it commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the formation of WRAAC CMF (now Reserve) that became an important part of the ADF. The women selected to serve our country came from various social and educational backgrounds with the motivation to be trained and ready to take on the responsibility of a Citizen/Soldier. The women were highly skilled soldiers as were our sisters who joined the ARA, trained and ready to release men for combat roles in preparation for war.

There were times when WRAAC (ARA/CMF) members trained and studied together in the sharing of skills and knowledge, all with the same sense of pride and dedication to the Corps. With this exchange the WRAAC gained strength and women were able to extend their role that had been designated to them and at all times exceeded expectations. WRAAC CMF/ARES members marched in step with our ARA sisters and have benefited from their guidance and goodwill.

As the years pass we tend to mellow and perhaps think back to a time when we proudly served our Nation as an integral part of Australia's overall defence plan, so that together we can say,

I wore the uniform, I served!

Apology

Oops! Sorry Ma'am (WO1 Elizabeth Gibson) we forgot to mention you were our special guest at the RFD Parade in July (refer September newsletter)

We have just completed an emu bob and scrubbed the ablution block area with a toothbrush. Editor

ARISING FROM OUR COMMITTEE MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1100hrs Saturday 10th November 2012

Following the AGM on the 10th November 2012 all members nominated have been returned unopposed (Refer Presidents Report attachment #1)

Heather Fry was asked to fill the vacancy of President and accepted.

Following the meeting members gathered in the Lone Pine Conference room to enjoy a delicious

lunch prepared by Margie and Amy Jager. It was a happy and relaxed time with members comfortably seated around the huge Pine table. We are so fortunate to have the use of the Shrine Education Centre for our meetings.

COUNCIL OF EX-SERVICEWOMENS CAIRN

Ten former servicewomen from WRANS, AWAS and WRAAC gathered at the cairn on Saturday 24th November 2012 to remember those no longer with us. Following a short service floral tributes were placed at the cairn and a minutes silence was observed.

We then joined together at the Botanical Hotel for a happy and enjoyable lunch. We intend to meet up again on the third Saturday in November 2013



Remembrance Day Observance 2012

President Heather (Rankin) Fry accompanied by Jude (Wood) Pinkerton-Treloar attended the Remembrance Day service at Austin Health (Heidelberg Repat) on Friday the 9th November 2012.

This year was significant as we now have a WRAAC Plaque in the Remembrance Garden following its dedication in 2011. Heather placed a sheath of flowers on behalf of the Association during the service. Other significant Plaques dedicated on the 9th November 2012 included; Military Nurses, the 7th Battalion and Prisoners of War.



Also dedicated on the day was a small piece of rock from Gallipoli (to be known as the Gallipoli Touch Stone) that all will be encouraged to touch as you enter the Gallipoli Room (Austin Health) in remembrance. A thoughtful and fitting tribute to those we have lost.

Austin Health continues to commemorate the Courage and Sacrifice of all Veterans and War Widows.

If you wish to attend the service at Austin Health Remembrance Day 2013 please contact a Committee member for details.



WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP PUB LUNCH

Once again a successful luncheon was held at the Orrong Hotel in Armidale. 31 ladies attended and 25 ladies sent apologies, which was great to hear that everyone is still interested in hearing about the luncheon. We had a visit from four WRANS and two new girls joined us for lunch. Irene the owner of the Orrong Hotel was still there, as the intended new owners had pulled out of the deal. Irene is moving to the Town Hall Hotel in Banks St, South Melbourne. One of the ladies who attended the luncheon, in appreciation, paid for all the lunches and coffee for all who were in attendance. It was her way of saying Thank You to all ex WRAAC, as she fondly remembers her service in the WRAAC, and the friendships that have continued over the years and the new friendships she has made over the years since attending the WRAAC Social Group Luncheons. Marna Sandford thanked the unknown benefactor for her generous gift to all. Thank you to Liz Maclaine for this article. Editor

The next Pub Lunch will be on Saturday 16th February 2013 at the Orrong Hotel.

If you wish to be on the contact list for the Pub Lunch contact;

Liz Maclaine	Lyn Board	Bev Bond
03 9397 1043	03 5989 2553	03 5952 3096

Irene's New Premises

The delightful Irene (former Orrong Hotel Licensee) has recently taken over the landmark Town Hall Hotel, 137 Bank Street, South Melbourne 03 9690 5148 and we wish her all the very best for the future. If you are in the area don't forget to call in and say hello!

A short history of the Hotel.

The Town Hall Hotel was originally called the Cosmopolitan and began serving beers in 1868 with renovations and a name change in 1881. It is thought the name Town Hall Hotel corresponds with the construction of the historic South Melbourne Hotel a year earlier. If you enjoy art deco, check out the façade remodelled in 1936, it's worth a look.

31 WRAAC Barracks Reunion

A reminder to all that a reunion is planned for Melbourne in September 2013, at 31 WRAAC BARRACKS, 478 St Kilda Road Melbourne. If you are interested please contact the organiser; Helen (McLeod) Meyer 08 7007 8575 or 0415 192 980.

It will be a wonderful reunion with lots of great stories to share.

31 WRAAC Barracks once home to the WRAAC and RAANC is now known as The Hotel Charsfield and proudly one of Melbourne's finest example of early Victorian Architecture.

BALCOMBE BARRACKS COMMEMORATION - 2013

See Attachment #6 for information on the Balcombe Barracks Commemoration – 2013.

Collector Tubes

Our Fundraising Officer, Margaret (Robinson) Jager wishes to convey her thanks to all for the ongoing support of the Collector Tubes. Margaret suggests contacting her on 03 9743 8267 if you need help with the collection of tubes.

NSW Corps Dinner and Sunday Anniversary Luncheon 2013

An invitation has been extended to our members from our WRAAC sisters in NSW to join them in Sydney to celebrate Corps day, 2013.

If you wish to attend the WRAAC Association (NSW) Inc. Corps Dinner on the 9th February 2013 and the WRAAC Anniversary Sunday Luncheon on the 10th February 2013 please refer to the attached forms for times and costs involved. (Attachment #3 and 4)

The girls from NSW will make you feel welcome and we know you will have a great time.

SWAN HILL REUNION

We have been advised the next gathering at Swan Hill will be held on the weekend of Sunday the 7th April 2013. Remember this is not an organised event so it is suggested you arrange accommodation very soon. The contact number for the Swan Hill RSL Sub-Branch is 03 5032 2359 E-mail address shrsl@bigpond.net.au

Members prefer to stay at The Jane Eliza Motel - 03 5032 4411 with its close proximity to the Swan Hill Station and the RSL Club.

ANZAC Day 2013

ANZAC Day 2013 will be the shorter route as per 2012 which was a good idea considering the weather was against us. Therefore, if the weather is fine we can assume more members will join us on this special day. Let's make 2013 the year we make the effort to catch up with each other and renew past friendships, perhaps to enjoy a meal following the march.

WRAAC Association members form up at 0845 with step off time 0912. (Attachment #5)

Australian Woman's Land Army

Congratulations to the AWLA in their quest to gain recognition for their service to Australia from 1942-1945.

In July this year The Prime Minister, Julia Gillard was host to approximately 90 former members of the AWLA with each woman receiving a commemorate brooch and certificate and judging



by the photographs, the PM appeared to be enjoying her time chatting with the ladies.

AWLA members have had to endure years of frustration as they fought to gain some form

of recognition for their significant contribution to Australia's war effort. They first gained the right to march on ANZAC Day in the 1980s followed by membership in to the RSL in 1991. In 1994 they were eligible to receive the Civilian Service Medal and finally in 2012 victory with formal recognition by the Australian Government.

The frustration that surrounds their fight for recognition is why did it have to take so long? Over the years AWLA members were made to feel like second class citizens and not worthy of the uniform they wore with such pride.

One could also be entitled to ask how Australia was supposed to feed and sustain the population during the war years without their input. History tells us Australian men were designated for combat roles which in turn lead to a shortfall in agricultural labour and Australia turned to its women to help with the fight. Nothing new in that, as we saw the introduction of Women's Services in 1941 and the WRAAC in 1951 due to manpower shortages.

Our young women were sent to rural areas to work on farms all over Australia in conditions that were far from perfect; they worked long hours and helped our country survive. In discussions with former members they will tell you they did not know what to expect when they joined the Land Army and quickly discovered it was not about baby lambs and warm summer days. This was physically hard and tough work, not for the feint hearted.

Well done Ladies you have fought long and hard for recognition and finally an Australian Government has made it happen.



The AWLA form up behind the WRAAC Association on ANZAC Day so in 2013 make sure you meet the Land Army girls and say hello

The Long Tan Cross

The original cross has come home to Australia to be displayed at the Australian War Memorial Canberra until April 2013. The Cross is on loan from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Dong Nai Museum, Ben Hoa.

Australian veterans and their families gather at this simple white cross near the village of Long Tan on the 18th August each year to commemorate the battle by Australian soldiers of D Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR) 1966.

The 108 men of D Company fought valiantly against the odds with the Viet Cong attacking them with a force of over 2000 strong. Our boys fought on with a loss of 18 diggers and 24 wounded. The Aussies prevailed and to those in Australia the battle has never been forgotten.

Former Prime Minister Bob Hawke in 1987 designated the 18th August as Australia's Official Vietnam Veterans Day.

Lest we Forget.



RSL Clubs on the Brink of Closure

This was the headline that may have made you stand to attention and think how could this happen? Part of the reason it would appear is that with the passing of time plus the age and health of the last group of World War II Veterans the next generation of Vets and members place less relevance on their local club.

For members raised in regional towns and cities the RSL Club was the centre of social and sporting activities, with many Clubs sponsoring a Marching Girls Team in addition to other sporting codes and activities. The downside of the demise of one's local RSL club is that so many people are affected as the club offers a sense of community, a substitute second home for many.

To remain viable many clubs will be forced to amalgamate and in turn force members to travel to other areas perhaps at the cost of long term friendships.

This is a sad but true fact, a product of changing social values and needs.

New Vehicle

Australian Army's new G-Wagon (as displayed on RFD 2012, Melbourne). This new series of Army vehicles would appeal to former WRAAC Drivers (transport). The new Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon cross country vehicle replaces the legendry Land Rover as the Australian Army embraces new technology in its quest for safety and fuel

economy. The 3.0 litre turbo Mercedes Diesel V6 engine generates more power than the Land Rover. This is an efficient general runabout with all parts interchangeable with other friendly countries a bonus when engaged in combat situations. The ADF has ordered 1200 vehicles aka Project Overlander.

They include Military G-Class 6x6 both single and dual cab, 4wd cab chaise unit and a 4wd station wagon. All vehicles come with an armour kit that is easily fitted should armoured protection be required. Our girls would have embraced this technology with gusto.



Apologies to all Rover enthusiasts but the Mercedes-Benz G Class is a mighty fine vehicle.

Compensation Claims

Noted with great interest alcoholism is listed as the twelfth most common disability for which Veterans claimed lump sum compensation payments last financial year. Other claims were for post-traumatic stress disorders, depressive disorders, Osteoporosis, hearing loss and tinnitus.

If you or a loved one need help regarding a compensation claim or need to seek advice suggest you contact;

www.dva.gov.au/benefitsandservices

Health Cuts

Just another worry for ADF members is that with the proposed cut backs to Defence Health it could severely undermine the continued health and wellbeing of our Personnel.

However Rear Admiral Robyn Walker, Commander Joint-Health and ADF Surgeon General has reassured all this will not be the case saying Defence has entered into the contract with Medibank Health Solutions to ensure all members continue to receive high quality medical care and at the same time ensuring the prudent use of Taxpayers money.

Remember, privatisation appears only to effect troops in Australia not those on deployment overseas. Now that should make you feel a whole lot better!!!

AROUND THE WRAAC PACK

VALE

COL MARY PERN JOHNS

19 Sep 1915 – 7 Nov 2013

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Colonel Mary Johns (VA345299) a former member of the AWAS and WRAAC (F3/93).

Mary Pern Johns enlisted into the AWAS on the 4th May 1942 and began training as an instructor and in 1942 was at Special Wireless School, Bonegilla.

1944 was Commandant (AWAS) HQ WA.

Mary returned to Melbourne in 1945 until her discharge in 1947.

WRAAC

1951 was appointed Captain and transferred to HQ Eastern Command Training.

1959 transferred to WRAAC Staff School.

Other significant postings included Department of Supply and the Office of Scientific Services.

Colonel Mary Johns retired in September 1970 following a distinguished career in the Australian Army.

In 1971-1973 Mary Johns was a Director at the Nurses Memorial Centre, StKilda Road, Melbourne. It should be noted joining Mary were fellow board members, Vivian Bullwinkel, Betty Jefferies and Weary Dunlop.

Lest We Forget.

F3/17 COL KATHLEEN FOWLER AM

(AWAS Reg No.VF511140)

24 Mar 1925 - 17 Nov 2012

It is with great sadness we report the passing of our former Director WRAAC Colonel Kathleen May Fowler who passed away peacefully on 17th November 2012 in Melbourne.

Kathleen Fowler served with the AWAS from 1943-1947 (43 Hvy Wireless Gp Signals).

April 1951 enlisted into the WRAAC.

1952 was commissioned serving in AHQ Sigs Regt and other significant command headquarters.

1956 Kathleen Fowler was Admin Comd 8/3 WRAAC Co (CMF/Ares)

Director WRAAC 1972-77

Appointed Order of Australia 9th June 1975.

During her time as D WRAAC Colonel Fowler experienced changes in community values as women

attempted to gain equal status with their male counterparts.

We were privileged to have had such a leader of strength, courage and dignity to lead us through these turbulent times.



Colonel Fowler's funeral was held at St Mark's Uniting Church Chadstone on the 30th November 2012 with former members of the AWAS and WRAAC in attendance.

LEST WE FORGET

Some Interesting Facts

In October 1975 COL Fowler wrote an article titled "The Changing Role of Women in the Armed Forces" published in Aust Army Journal no.137.

In the 1953 1st intake of WRAAC Recruits was a Pte Kathleen Fowler, destined to eventually rise higher than all those already in the WRAAC with the exception of COL Best and COL Jackson.

Special Thoughts

Our thoughts are with the Walters family in their recent sad loss.

THINKING OF YOU

Thinking of our friends this Christmas;

Lorraine Jacobs

Margaret Roberts

Toddy and John Todman

Sue and Mal Logan

Ann Woods (Woodsy)

To our Navy Girls

Margaret Goldin, Leila Brady, Kate Scott and Jo Faulkner "you are always in our thoughts." We always remember your words "The Navy is here."

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



TRAVEL NEWS

Carol and Grant King enjoyed their recent O/S trip, refer to attachment #2 to follow their adventures.

Jude and John Treloar will cruise the Islands in January with a trip to Canada/Alaska in August

Heather and Hugh Fry (original grey nomads) intend touring around Victoria in their van.

Brenda and Rod Walters have recently joined the grey nomads and intend to see more of Australia. Enjoy the new van kids and keep your eyes on the road!

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

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

CPL Dorothy Berry
Mrs Brenda Boswell (nee Booth)
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 0408 553 412 or email: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au.

Searching for Pam 'Scotty' McCallum

Wondering if anyone knows the whereabouts of this Ex-WRAAC Pam McCallum. That is her maiden name don't know if she married but she preferred to be called 'Scotty'.

I believe she was a Qld girl, posted to Singleton and left there around 1967/68.

I offered to put this out through the numerous grapevines so maybe someone will know her or know of her.

This request is on behalf of a friend who lost contact 47 years ago at Singleton!

If you can help or have any update, all info would be appreciated.

Thank you in anticipation

Trish Lesina

Patricia (Trish) Lesina
Civil Marriage Celebrant
Certified Practising Celebrant
Justice of the Peace
M 0400 875 080
P61 7 3261 5452

LCPL Gwen Lorraine (Moncrief) Brown

I have had a request to find a photo if possible of Lance Corporal Gwen Lorraine Moncrief who served at Mt Martha School of Sigs Balcombe in 1953 her husband Bob Brown would dearly love to see a photo of her in uniform.

If anyone has a group photo that they know of Gwen (who passed away a couple of years ago) would you please let me know so I can forward to her husband.

Thanking you all

Regards
Louise Green
lougreen@bigpond.com



Seasons Greetings To All

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT #1: President's Report AGM 10th November 2013

ATTACHMENT #2: Grant and Carol King's Overseas Adventure 2012

ATTACHMENT #3: WRAAC Association (NSW) Inc Corps Dinner 9th February 2013

ATTACHMENT #4: WRAAC Association (NSW) Inc Sunday Luncheon 10th February 2013

ATTACHMENT #5: ANZAC Day Commemorative March Assembly Plan 2013

ATTACHMENT #6: Balcombe Barracks Commemoration - 2013

**WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) Inc.
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
November 10, 2012.**

It has been twelve months since I was appointed President of the WRAAC Association and it has been indeed a great honour to work with such an enthusiastic and energetic committee whose joint efforts meant we had an enjoyable and successful twelve months.

Strong friendships have been formed and continue to be formed with other service associations as we have members of our association attending meetings and events of other respective associations.

Brenda Walters attends the meetings of Kindred Organisations and Unit Association Committee.

Maggie More, Jude Pinkerton-Treloar and Cheryle Brown are on the AWAS Association committee.

Liz MacLaine co-ordinates the WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunches.

I am a member of the Reserves Forces Day Council (Victoria) Inc. Executive Council.

Events over the past twelve months our association members have attended are:

November 11 Austin Health Heidelberg Remembrance Day Service. This was indeed a very special day for the association as the WRAAC Plaque was unveiled by Catherine (Murdoch) Kennedy and an excellent speech by Jude Pinkerton-Treloar made the day that much more memorable.

An informal gathering at the Council of Ex servicewomen's Memorial Cairn was also held in November.

The WRAAC Social Group Pub Lunches were held in February and October and as always a very enjoyable time was had by all who attended.

The Anzac Day March is always represented by members of the WRAAC Association. We are truly grateful for those ladies who are able to attend as this year's march was held in extremely wet and cold weather.

In May we held our annual WRAAC/AWAS Shrine Service. This was a beautiful service and we had the pleasure of two MLC students attending and assisting with the service. Margie Jager once again organised the wreaths and refreshments.

During the month of May we also held our first Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at the Box Hill store. It was a very successful, enjoyable and tiring day. We were lucky enough to secure the services of some of the husbands and my thanks is extended to all who worked on the day, without your contributions the day would not have been the success it was. We have applied to have another sausage sizzle at Bunnings Box Hill.

Reserve Forces Day was held on July 1. Once again the weather was extremely unkind to us; it was incredibly cold and wet but it was very warming to the marches to see Maggie More, Iris Petress, Gwen Walker and Elizabeth Gibson cheering us on from the VIP area. My sincere thanks to all the ladies who braved the bad weather on the day and I would like to

acknowledge the efforts of Margaret Jager and Lorraine Onans who did a magnificent job as our Standard and Flag Bearers.

Our Annual Luncheon is held in July, this being our largest event of the year and requiring a lot of work behind the scenes. My thanks to Brenda Walters for organising the event with International Brighton, to Jude Pinkerton-Treloar, Cheryle Brown and Ella Burton who worked on the front desk, to Margaret Jager for the floral arrangements and the magnificent framed Certificates of Appreciation presented to the past and present committee members in attendance. A presentation was made to Elizabeth Gibson in recognition for her length of service with 8/3 WRAAC Coy as well as being the treasurer of the WRAAC Association since its beginning.

During the year some WRAAC Association members had the pleasure of attending the Ex WRANS Association birthday luncheon. We had an enjoyable time and were made to feel most welcome. An invitation has been extended to our members to join them for their Christmas Lunch in December this year. Some Ex WRANS members also attend our Service at the Shrine as well as attending the October Pub Lunch. We are extremely grateful for the bond that has developed between our two associations; it always brings to mind that we will always be 'Sisters in Uniform'.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

We hold our committee meetings at the Shrine of Remembrance and we are extremely grateful to the assistance we receive from the Shrine Staff who always ensure that our needs are met.

This year we have been very fortunate to have Carol King join us on the committee. Carol is our South Australian representative and has also been very active in securing some merchandise on our behalf. The pashminas presented at the annual luncheon were the results of Carol's effort and Carol has also organised WRAAC Association Business Card for the committee members.

NEWSLETTER:

Our association is very lucky to have three talented and dedicated ladies who put the newsletter together.

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar is our editor; she has the ability to find news before it is news.

Cheryle Brown puts the newsletter together including the art work.

Diane Sherry prints and sends the newsletter out.

We would like our members to contribute any worthy items to Jude Pinkerton-Treloar.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to acknowledge our Patron, Capt Iris Petress, for her loyal support and guidance of the association.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all the committee members. I am comforted by the thought that the association has such a dedicated and supportive committee to ensure that the association functions so efficiently.

To conclude I would like to thank all members of the association for your contribution and ongoing support and we look forward to your company at future events.

Heather Fry

Grant and Carol King's Overseas Adventure 2012

Carol (nee Hamilton), and Grant decided to spend their kids' inheritance and take a three-month holiday (July, August, September) to lots of European countries.

Having done a couple of small trips before we decided to do our own thing and travel by train, car, foot, boat and buses, planes and trams. This way we believe we get to see the real people and country. Half the fun is arranging things yourself like accommodation etc. Hoping that it is near the train station and is comfortable and not too noisy, sometimes you win sometimes you lose.

After flying from Adelaide we stayed with our girls in Sydney for a few days, then off to Heathrow and to stay with a friend in country England in a lovely historical town called Fontmell Magna. Just lovely country lanes and homes built in the 1700's. It is just so green and lush, and a lovely relaxed lifestyle.

Off to London by train, (I must say trains in England are VERY expensive) here we stayed at the Union Jack Club in Waterloo. Note to you all, all serving and ex military members can stay here, cheap good lodgings right in the centre of London, and a dropkick away from Waterloo Station. (www.ujclub.co.uk) Whilst in London this time we did a tour of the Tower of London, a very interesting and well-organized self guided tour. The Crown Jewels are just fabulous, went around a second time. Whilst in London did a train trip to St Albans where I met up with a new cousin that I found on Ancestry. Then, another train to Canterbury, where we stayed at a place once owned by Lord Kitchener, we also hired a car and spent a week looking at the area. We did a self-guided tour of Dover Castle, again very interesting; with so much to see and do whether it is 1st or 2nd World War, and structures that date back 900 years. Another day trip was to Battle, where the Battle of Hasting was fought, a beautiful area and another self guided walking tour of the battle fields with a audio guide.

A flight to Berlin where we took a walking tour of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, and a Third Reich tour, inclusive of The Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie. We love the walking tours because they are cheap, and not too intense and are hosted by locals who just love what they are doing and are so informative.

A train trip took us from Berlin to Brussels, a beautiful old city with a magnificent medieval square and great atmosphere, a hop-on hop-off bus tour of the local sights, a day trip to Brugge another beautiful ancient city with cobblestone streets and arts and crafts. We also did a tour of the "Waterloo" battlefield sight, again very well arranged with a trip of the battle fields with a man-made hill and monument to honour the battle itself, this hill had some 134 steps to the summit, but well worth it for the view of the battle field. There was also a building with a 360 deg panorama of the battle in action. Grant also had a brief tour of NATO HQ from a Czech Republic mate he'd worked with in Bosnia

A train took us from Brussels to Lille (France) where we started our four-day Battlefields Tour. My Grandfather and Great Uncles had been here in WW1, as had Grant's Grandfather. All survived although some had shell shock and had been gassed. This was a great tour (organized) and over the four days we saw Fromelles, VC Corner, Hill 60, La Grande Mine, Villers Bretonneux, Polygon Wood, Ypres, where we watched the Menin Gate night service, Bullencourt, Pozieres, etc, etc.

We then visited friend near Amiens for a few days and really enjoyed the French food and hospitality. Hired a car and off to Mont St Michel and St Malo (west coast) just beautiful country, lovely people and great food. Along the way saw Omaha Beach and other D-Day sites, all very moving. I would like to say we could speak French, but other than buying train tickets ordering food could not hold a conversation. It is so amazing that all over Europe the locals speak at least two to three languages.

They wait for you to say 'hello' and then speak to you in your language. Mont St Michel is a beautiful Island that when the tide comes in is surrounded by water. There is a beautiful Abby there that has taken some 500 years to build.

Train from Rennes to Paris and then Paris to Amsterdam. Several days here staying in an old establishment with lots and lots of stairs. It was right next to a canal and we could watch some of the 650,000 push bikes ride in and out of Amsterdam city.

Tram to our ship and the start of our 12 night Baltic cruise. Did you know that salt air puts on weight? Not really but the food is very good. Whilst on the cruise we visited Copenhagen, Helsinki, Warnemunde/Rostock (Germany), Tallinn, Stockholm and St Petersburg. Whilst in St Petersburg we visited the Hermitage and Catherine's Palace and Peter and Pauls' Fortress. The weather was awful (wet) and there were sooooo many tourists, wrong time of year to go. Would love to be there when it's not so busy and be able to take time to take it all in. The subways in Russia are built like Palaces just beautiful. Whilst in Stockholm we went to the Vasa museum. This is a 17th century galleon that sank on its maiden voyage and was preserved in the cold waters of the Stockholm harbour. It has been raised and housed in its own museum, it is just fabulous, simply amazing; we were going to spend an hour there and three hours later. Train from Amsterdam back to Paris for a few days.

We stayed at the Cercle National des Armees (French Officers Club) a great location in St Augustin in the 8th Arrondissement. From here we could walk to Champs Elysees, Eiffel Tower, Arc De Triomphe. etc. We always felt very safe in Paris whatever time we went out. Whilst there we did a French Revolution walking tour and a Ghosts of Paris night walking tour. The night tours are a bit 'tongue in cheek' but are also quite informative.

Europe has so much history we just can't seem to get enough; mind you we've seen enough churches to last a lifetime!

From Paris our travels took us to Montbard and from there to Viserny. This is about an hour from Dijon. We rented a house in Viserny, a small town of 180 people. It's a farming community, and from here we did day tours and just immersed ourselves in the French life. Local food markets, beautiful fresh food and bread, lovely countryside and so much history. Visited so many towns that were established around the 1100 – 1200's, and if you removed the cars would still look like they were then.

Sadly had to leave France and on the way home came via Singapore. We spent time at the Grand Prix, did a tour of Changi Chapel and museum and a tour to Kranji Cemetery.

This is only a small account of our travels; we had a fabulous time, but were happy to get home.

We seemed to do a lot of military type touring, this is only a small amount of our adventures. I spent 11 years in the reserve, and Grant (20 years) originally was Reserve and then regular Army and did several overseas deployments, but that's another story.



I wish to attend **Corps Dinner** at the Pullman Hotel (previously called the Marriott) on
February 9, 2013 @ 6pm for 6.30pm. Cost per person - \$25.00 (Subsidised)

Name..... \$.....

Female Friend/Guest..... \$.....

Please advise any special Dietary requirements.

Limited parking available at the hotel

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHEQUES/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO WRAAC ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC.

Post this form to - Jenny Weir (Asst Treasurer) - 1/24 Tullimbar Road, Cronulla NSW 2230

RSVP and payment due by 31 January 2013

Enclose SAE if receipt required.

Any enquiries call Jenny on 95236213 or 0418228069.



The WRAAC Anniversary **Sunday Luncheon** will be held at Club City Central (Sydney RSL) on
February 10, 2013 from 12.30 onwards. Cost per person - \$35.00

Cut here _____

Name..... \$.....

Friend/Guest..... \$.....

Phone..... Email.....

If you wish to attend please do the following:

MAKE ALL CHEQUES/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO **WRAAC ASSOCIATION (NSW) INC.**

Circle your choice for the Entree and the Main Course.

Post the bottom section of this form to - Jenny Weir (Asst Treasurer) - 1/24 Tullimbar Road,
Cronulla NSW 2230

RSVP and payment due by 31 January 2013

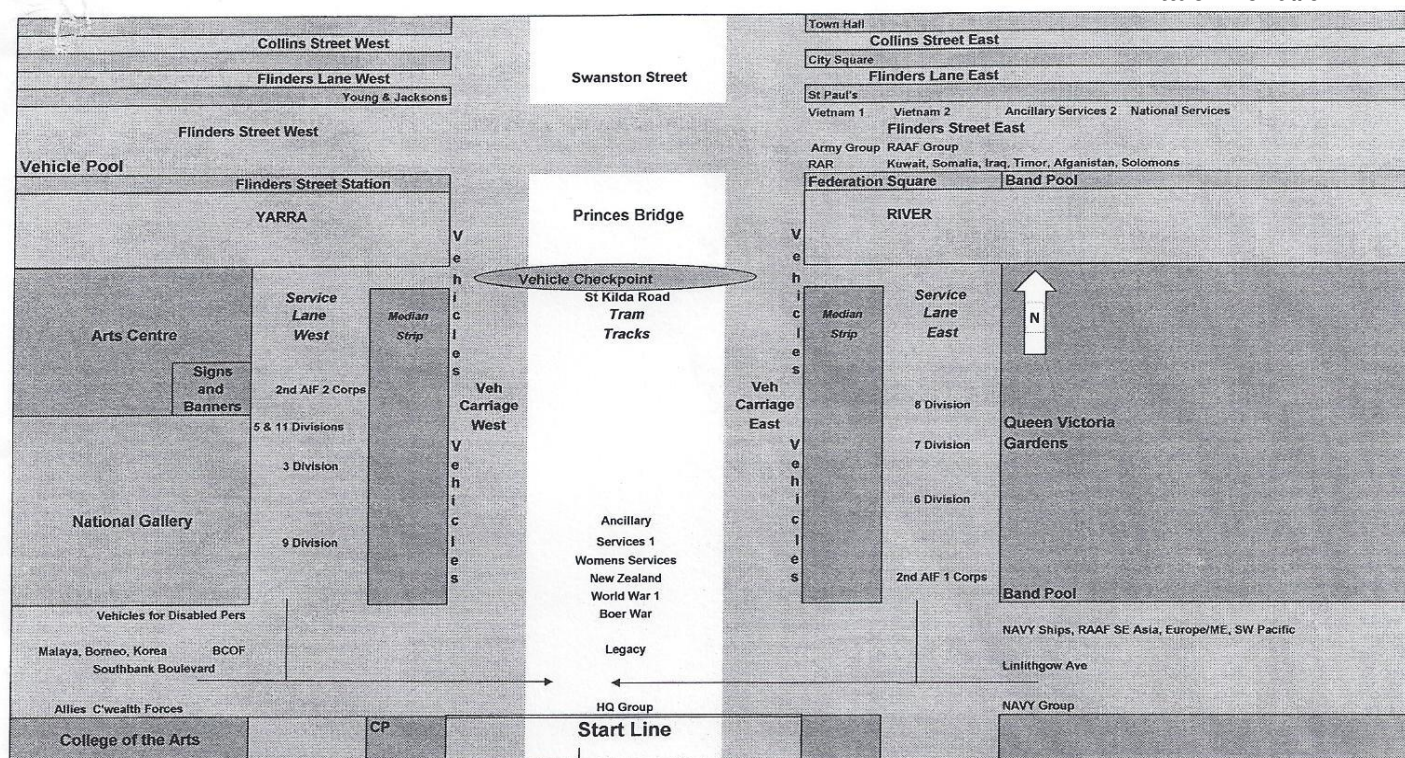
Enclose SAE if receipt required. Any enquiries call Jenny on 95236213 or 0418228069.

Entree: Antipasto Plate or Prawn Cocktail

Main Course: Dory Fillet or Chicken Florentine

**ANZAC Day Commemoration March
Assembly Plan 2013**

Attachment #5



	Group	Unit Association	Form Up Time	Form-up Area	Step off Time
	1	Disabled Personnel	0815	Southbank Boulevard North (National Gallery)	0845
	2	HQ Group	0845	St Kilda Rd/Southbank Boulevard	0900
	3	LEGACY	0845	St Kilda Rd/Southbank Boulevard	0901
	4	Boer War	0845	Following HQ Group	0903
A	4	World War 1	0845	Following Boer War	0906
891	4	New Zealand	0845	Following World War 1	0907
	5	World War 2			
	5	Women's Services	0845	Following New Zealand	0910
	6	Ancillary Services 1	0845	Following Women's Services	0912
B	7	Navy Group	0845	Linlithgow Avenue South Side	0914
1137	8	Navy Ships	0900	Linlithgow Avenue North Side	0920
	10	2AIF, 1 Corps	0915	St Kilda Road Service Lane East	0945
C	11	6 Division	0920	St Kilda Road Service Lane East	0950
1496	12	7 Division	0930	St Kilda Road Service Lane East	1000
	13	8 Division	0945	St Kilda Road Service Lane East	1015
	14	9 Division	0955	St Kilda Road Service Lane West	1025
D	15	3 Division	1000	St Kilda Road Service Lane West	1030
1258	16	5 & 11 Divisions	1000	St Kilda Road Service Lane West	1035
	18	2 Corps	1010	St Kilda Road Service Lane West	1040
	19	RAAF South East Asia	1025	Linlithgow Avenue North Side	1055
E	20	RAAF Europe & Middle East	1025	Linlithgow Avenue North Side	1058
1020	21	RAAF South West Pacific	1035	Linlithgow Avenue North Side	1105
		Post World War 2			
F	9	Army Group	0900	Flinders Street East (Fed Square)	0936
897	17	RAAF Group	1020	Flinders Street East (Fed Square)	1050
G	22	BCOF, Korea, Malaya, Borneo	1045	Southbank Boulevard North (National Gallery)	1115
240	23	Vietnam 1	1055	Flinders Street East (St Paul's)	1120
	24	Royal Australia Regiment	1055	Flinders Street East (Fed Square)	1125
H	25	Vietnam 2	1100	Flinders Street East (St Paul's)	1130
1957	26	Kuwait, Somalia, Iraq, Timor, Solomons and Afghanistan	1110	Flinders Street East (Fed Square)	1140
	27	Ancillary Services 2	1115	Flinders Street East (St Paul's)	1145
	28	National Services	1120	Flinders Street East (St Paul's)	1150
G	29	Commonwealth Forces	1125	Southbank Boulevard South (College of the Arts)	1155
973	30	Allies	1130	Southbank Boulevard South (College of the Arts)	1200
	31	Scouts/Marshals	1200	St Kilda Rd/Southbank Boulevard	1210

- Notes:**
- Congestion** Re-balanced marchers with form-up area and re-allocated Marshals accordingly to alleviate congested areas
 - Banners/Signs** Batched and pre-positioned in accordance with form-up as shown above
 - Marshals** Marshals will be dedicated to each group from form-up to Shrine
 - Vehicles** A taxi rank system will be in place on the St Kilda Road carriage ways. No need to marry-up with a vehicle at the vehicle pool. Vehicles will meet Veterans at the St Kilda Road / Southbank Boulevard intersection.
 - Bands** Proposed to remove Static bands from the Shrine. Bands will continue playing until dispersal points



AUSTRALIAN ARMY APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ACT Incorporation No: A04404

GPO Box 2072, CANBERRA, ACT, 2601 www.austarmyapprentice.org

Patron: Brigadier David Lubbs, CSC

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IT'S ON – PROBABLY THE LAST HURRAH FOR BALCOMBE AND IT'S CALLED BALCOMBE BARRACKS COMMEMORATION – 2013

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) have over the years done a considerable amount of work to preserve the Balcombe military heritage precinct as part of their plan to recognise areas of historical significance of the Mornington Peninsula. The Australian Army Apprentices Association (AAAA) together with MPSC has undertaken to advance this concept by the addition of storyboards and plaques relating to the units that occupied Balcombe in the last century, and at the same time refurbish those existing items that are so desperately in need of upgrade and maintenance. Balcombe has a very colourful history not only for those that soldiered there but also for the local community that so willingly supported them over the best part of the last century.

A few years ago AAAA Patron Lt Gen Ken Gillespie when serving as the Chief of Army suggested that perhaps more could be done in this regard and asked that the AAAA to consider, develop a plan and approach the MPSC. This occurred fairly quickly with good results but as time and circumstances evolved and despite the best efforts of our people initially, the project stalled.

It has since been reactivated, is now a goer and we are delighted to be able to advise where we are at right now. The MPSC is a strong supporter of the project and jointly with the AAAA sub committee and the Balcombe Grammar School, detailed planning is well underway to make it happen.

2013 also represents the 70th anniversary of the 1st Div USMC being repatriated to Balcombe after their successful Guadalcanal campaign. The 4th of May 2013 marks the 71st anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Coral Sea. The Australian Army Apprentices took part in the annual celebration of this battle for many years by being the Army component in the allied forces contingent that marched through the City of Melbourne.

It was decided that all of this activity would attract many "Balcombe Old Boys and Girls" who would wish to be a part of the proceedings. So AAAA Events have come up with a number of activities to make this a most memorable few days, and probably the last time that Balcombe, Mornington and the district as a whole will appear on our radar.

This gathering is inclusive of all those units and personnel that served in Balcombe Barracks ie, Apprentices, Signals, Survey, Music, US Marines, WRAAC and including staff.

The Registration Form for this "final" event can be downloaded from www.austarmyapprentice.org

THIS IS AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED.