

WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

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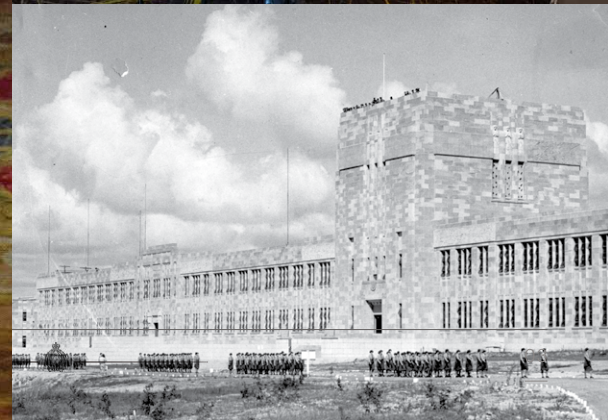
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Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee



On behalf of the President, committee, and members of the WRAAC Association Victoria we extend our sincere best wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the historic occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.



— 2022 — Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2022

Wednesday 17th	Vietnam Veterans Day 10:30am Repatriation Hospital Heidelberg
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NOVEMBER 2022

Friday 11th	Remembrance Day 13:30am Repatriation Hospital Heidelberg
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ZOOM MEETINGS

Until we have permission to resume our normal meetings at the Shrine of Remembrance the Committee will continue to hold meetings via Zoom.

July 2022 Journal Deadline

*The deadline for all articles to be
included in the next Journal is*

FRIDAY 27TH MAY 2022

**Articles can be
posted or e-mailed to:**

Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

Postal Address:

87 Westmelton Drive,
Melton West, VIC. 3337

E-mail:

johntreloar1@bigpond.com

AWAS/WRAAC Journal

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Brenda (Ruby) Walters
Gai Cooke



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Margaret Brown
SECRETARY: Carol King

10 LEDBURY CRESCENT
BUNDOORA VIC. 3083
Telephone: 0419 371 474

Website: www.wraacvic.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I:
(Mrs, Miss, Ms, Rank)

(Surname)

(Given Names)

Maiden Name (If Applicable): Date of Birth:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone (Home): (Mobile): (Work):

Email Address:

Apply to become a Member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria) Incorporated. In the event of my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Cost of Membership: Annual Membership (\$8.00 per year) Life Membership (\$80.00)

(Circle Type of Membership required) Payment Enclosed: Cheque. Cash. Other.

(Please Circle) - Branch of Service. ARA. CMF. ARES. AWAS. OTHER:

Regt No. WRAAC or Unit/s Served/Serving with Approx. Dates

.....
.....
.....
.....

Nominated By.

Name: Membership No:

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO

Mrs Liz MacLaine,
16 Richard Street,
Williamstown, Vic. 3016
Email Address: lizardmac@hotmail.com





CONSENT FORM

I consent to the following details relating to myself and my service history being published in the Association Newsletter/Journal and Association website www.wraacvic.com

I understand that this information is for the purpose of advising other members of my joining the Association and with a view to renewing old friendships.

DETAILS TO BE PUBLISHED

Service Number:

Given Names:

Surname:

Maiden Name (If Applicable):

Units Served with Approximate Years Served (Dates)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Signed: Date:

ONLY THOSE DETAILS FILLED IN BY THE APPLICANT WILL BE PUBLISHED

DO NOT COMPLETE THE ABOVE FORM if you do not wish to have your details published. Your decision to publish or not will be respected without question

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY: Application Accepted. Yes / No. (Please Circle)

Meeting Date: Receipt No: Dated:

Annual Membership Card No: Date:

Life Membership Card Issued No: Date:

From SASSENACH

Following on from Ann (Woodsy) Timm's article (Nov 2021 AWAS WRAAC Journal) reflecting on her Recruit training days as a member of 3 WRAAC COY I happened to read this item published in 1956 in the first edition of SASSENACH. (meaning south of the border) compiled by members of 8 WRAAC COY (Victoria).

It was a popular publication and certainly a documented snapshot of the era.

Sincere thanks to the late Major Jessie Perkins MBE for entrusting these precious gems into my care. Jude Pinkerton-Treloar

REQUIREMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S CAMP

1. Camp in summer
2. Time to enjoy the scenery
3. Later Reveille
4. A Sergeant who sings in the morning
5. More Orderly Room space at morning teatime

6. A projector that works
 7. More films at night
 8. A washing and ironing service
 9. A second training Corporal (to save the first one doing so much)
 10. An automatic typewriter
 11. Beds with inner-spring mattresses
 12. More fancy-dress parties
 13. Last but not least
- THAT CAMP BE EXTENDED TO 28 DAYS SO THAT THERE CAN BE MORE DRILL.
- Then there was the recruit who, when asked what she was before she joined up, replied:
- "HAPPY"



Retirements

At our last AGM November 2021, we had 3 Committee members retire from the Committee. They had each put in some 20 years plus on our committee and worked hard for our association.



Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM: -

Served as President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor, Journal Editor and committee member.



Heather Fry: -

Served as President, Treasurer, and committee member.



Diane Sherry: -

Served as Secretary and Membership Secretary and committee member.

We thank them for their service and hard work and wish them all the very best.



New Committee Members

We would like to welcome our 3 new committee members. We will introduce 2 of the new committee members in this issue and the other committee member and our new Ceremonial Officer in the next issue. These ladies have a lot of army knowledge between them, and we are hoping they have a lot of new ideas.

Biographical Brief - Dexter
F. Purcell (nee Hill)

Enlisted into the WRAAC 7 January 1975 and after Recruit Training was allocated to RASigs for IET. Was in a small group of young women who were Morse aptitude tested and those successful were trained as Radio Operators, then posted to 2 Sig Regiment, Watsonia. This was a first for RASigs to have women in a Field Force (Land Command) Unit. After participating in various



field exercises, I looked to Corps transfer to RAADC. In December 1976 I was posted to 8 Dental Unit for OJT, completing my Dental Assistant course in May 1977.

7 January 1978 married Doug Purcell and we were posted to Brisbane March of that year. I served as CPL DA at 9 Dental Unit, Enoggera then completed a Clerk

Admin course and posted as Adm in Assistant to SOI (Dent) HQ 1st Military District, Victoria Barracks, Brisbane, then SGT Administrator/QMS back at 9 Dental Unit.

Returned to 8 Dental Unit, Watsonia Jan 1983 and promoted to SSGT. Posted to Ares. Personnel Management Section (later APA) at HQ 3rd Military District, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne and promoted to W02 January 1989. (First female Warrant Officer in RAADC). I was awarded Chief of Staff (Army) Commendation for this role of Supervisor of this section.

Selected to become Career Advisor to RAADC Other Ranks and posted to the Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA) and promoted to WO1. Served in this position for four years then departed ARA, transferring to the Australian Individual Emergency Reserve (AIER) for a 5-year contract.

Worked at La Trobe University, Bundoora campus as the Manager of Student Records, 1996-1999.

This office was responsible for Enrolments, Re-enrolments, HECS and Fees, and with a team of staff, the data entry of student details onto the in-house records database. We also provided shop-front services to all students, Academic Records, and course subject changes.

In 2001 transferred to the Inactive Army Reserve and rendered service under DA 50(4) contracts until 2016, serving at HQ Logistics Command, Regional Training Centre, and MUR.

I have lived in Macleod since 1983 and enjoy this secret little pocket of Melbourne. Have parented several Shih Tzu dogs (currently numbers 5 & 6) and fell in love with Birman cats, the current one now 17 years old!! Interested in wine and food, love to cook and host dinner parties, often of International themes. I have travelled extensively and would like to again if circumstances permit. In the meantime, still attending PUMP at the local YMCA Gym.





LYN (Work) BOARD

Born in Melbourne, the eldest of eight children, and grew up in the western suburbs.

Left school at 15 and worked first as a telephonist and then as an accounting machine operator until joining the Army at the ripe old age of 17.

Arrived at WRAAC School on the Queen's Birthday weekend in June 1965 and completed the 99/65

Recruit Course. Remained on WRAAC School Trainee Strength after recruits and worked as a Mess Stewardess until moving to RAASC Centre at Puckapunyal in late September for clerical course.

On completion of clerical course, posted to Army Apprentice School, Balcombe as a Clerk GD. Living in at 30 WRAAC Barrack. Worked as a Company Clerk for six months before moving to the Pay Office as Asst Unit Pay Representative. During time in the pay office was promoted to Corporal. Returned to the company after about nine months and spent the rest of my time in the Army as a Company Clerk. Absolutely love my jobs at Appy School as there was plenty of variety so I was never bored.

Met my husband Phil and was discharged at expiration of engagement and married in November 1968. Lived in married quarters at Balcombe until building our home at Red Hill in 1974.

Went back to work at Balcombe

in 1971 as a civilian and stayed there until Phil was posted to School of Military Engineering at Casula in 1977 where we stayed until 1979. Returned to our home in Red Hill when he was posted to OCS Portsea.

Have two daughters, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Went to a 30 WRAAC Barrack reunion in 1991 where I found out about the WRAAC Social Group and subsequently made contact with lots of old friends and later joined WRAAC Assoc.

Joined the local fire brigade ladies auxiliary in 1983 and then, in 2006, when the brigade needed a Communications Officer, I completed minimum skills training and became an active firefighter in the CFA. I held the position of Comms Officer for twelve years. I am still active but hoping that we can recruit some younger members who can "put the wet stuff on the red stuff" and I can take a back

seat. During my time as an active firefighter, I have been awarded the National Emergency Medal for service during the Black Saturday fires in 2009 and the National Medal. I am a life member of CFA.



BANGKA ISLAND

This year, on the 16th of February 2022 we reflect on the 80th Anniversary of the Bangka Island massacre.

On that fateful day in 1942, 22 Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) sisters including the wounded were ordered to walk into the sea and were machine-gunned from behind by soldiers of the Imperial Japanese Army.

There was one survivor, Sister Vivian Bullwinkel who lived to tell the world of the atrocity and we give thanks for her courage and strength and to all our Nurses who gave comfort to those in need.

Bangka Island now lives on through the pages of history as possibly the direct descendants of our Nurses are no longer with us. However, the next and following generations will

never forget their loved ones and continue to honour their memory.

Services were held throughout Australia to commemorate and reflect on this tragic event.

The Shrine of Remembrance conducted a Last Post service on the 20th of February 2022.

Lest we Forget



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01295.002

Group portrait in the hospital grounds of original Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) staff and three physiotherapists who sailed from Sydney in January 1941 to staff the 2/10th Australian General Hospital (AGH). This photograph may have been taken to include with the hospital's Christmas card.



CADETS

Jazmyn Coonan, Retired National RSM of Cadets writes

I joined the 33 Army Cadet Unit (ACU) of the Australian Army Cadets (AAC) in March 2011. I was initially more interested in joining the Air Force Cadets however, there were no units locally at the time. After speaking about this with my parents, they reminded me of some old school friends that had joined the Army Cadet Unit in Wangaratta - so the following Thursday night, I attended my first Parade Night. Within my first year at the unit, I attended Victoria's Annual Camp - something which I subsequently did annually throughout my Cadet Career. Prior to joining, I had a very narrow perspective of the AAC, and thought of it as a more camouflaged version of Scouts. Initially, I had the expectation that my training would mostly consist of Drill, Weapons Training and Field Skills. Although these were a part of the training that I received, this was

only an extremely small portion of my training. A small sample of the skills and lessons that I was taught in the AAC includes the following:

- Military & Cadet History (Incl. Customs & Traditions)
- Navigation
- Field Engineering
- Complex analytical problem-solving skills
- Communication Skills (e.g., Radio protocols, verbal communication skills etc.)
- First Aid
- Basic Survival Skills
- Drill & Ceremonial Parades
- Leadership Training
- Physical Training
- Watermanship

Of the training I received, I would argue that the leadership, communication, and teamwork skills

were by far the most vital to my time in cadets and beyond. Throughout my Recruit Course I learnt military principles, skills and values and was subsequently awarded the "Most Improved Cadet." From there, I continued to learn and grow within the unit and the AAC. I found a skill and passion for First Aid and Field Skills, with these experiences and challenges aiding me in my growing leadership skills, and in 2012 I was awarded "Best Cadet."

In December 2013 I attended Junior Leaders Course (JLC) and was subsequently promoted to Cadet Lance Corporal in early 2014. As a Section Second in Command, I began to appreciate the importance of knowledgeable leadership, humility, and decisiveness, and how much these skills affected my peers and my cadets. In August 2014 I was promoted again to the rank of Cadet Corporal, in this rank I was in command of a section within my unit. I rose to the challenge of teaching, instructing, and mentoring the other cadets. In July 2015 I

attended Senior Leaders Course and was promoted to Cadet Sergeant. In this rank I took command of a platoon in the unit and became the Company Sergeant Major (CSM) of 33 ACU where my primary role was the training, wellbeing and mentoring of the 60 cadets in the unit. Later in 2015 I attended the Cadet Under Officer/Warrant Officers Course and qualified to be a cadet officer in the AAC.

In my final year of formal schooling and whilst completing my VCE, I was promoted to Cadet Warrant Officer Class Two (CDTW02). Due to the historically smaller size of 33 ACU, there hadn't been a CDTW02 within the unit for many years. However, at the time of my appointment, myself and the Cadet Unit Commander had been able to grow the unit number up to a posting strength of approx. 60 cadets. In this position, I strived to improve training and experiences within 33 ACU whilst still mentoring the cadets to improve themselves. Throughout 2016 I instructed on two Promotion Courses / Camps, ran



the Operations for Alpha Company in September and assisted in the organisation and execution of many weekend bivouacs. At the conclusion of the AAC Calendar in 2016, and after thorough testing, interviews, and assessments, I was promoted to Cadet Warrant Officer Class One and appointed as Victoria's Brigade Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major (BDECDTRSM) for 2017. As the state's senior Army Cadet Warrant Officer, I was responsible for providing leadership to Victoria's 3,700 Army Cadets in the areas of dress, drill and bearing. Throughout my appointment, myself and the Brigade Cadet Under Officer (BDECUO) were instrumental in the planning, organisation, and implementation of state-wide activities such as Promotion Courses Camps, Adventure Training Selection, Annual Field Exercises, and formal events such as ANZAC Day in Melbourne. Additionally, I also assisted in the organisation and execution of the formal events for the Commander of the AAC Handover Parade, as well as the formal conclusion of Promotion Courses and the National Chief of Army Cadet

Team Challenge - of which the Chief of Army, RSM-A and other Military dignitaries were in attendance.

At the conclusion of my tenure as BDECDTRSM, and not satisfied that I had challenged myself enough within the AAC, I applied for the position of National Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major (NATCDTRSM) - which I was later appointed in February 2018. In this role I was jointly responsible for providing leadership and advocacy for all Cadets within the AAC nationally (approx. 17,000 at the time). Whilst in this position myself and the National CUO reinvigorated the National Cadet Advisory Committee, to ensure that cadets were being advocated for when considering policy changes or decisions that may impact their experiences within the organisation. Additionally, this gave me the opportunity to interact with and discuss policy and the cadet experience with some of the Army's most senior leadership, such as the Chief of Army, Deputy Chief of Army, RSM-A and other senior leadership - resulting in improved perceptions on the organisation and its members

at a high level of military leadership. Simultaneously, I balanced my roles and responsibilities (which often included weeklong or weekend responsibilities in other states and territories) within the AAC with my first year at university. I was able to test and hone my time management and organisational skills to be able to succeed at both. My final role as NATCDTRSM, and every role I held within the AAC, challenged all the skills that I had developed throughout my time at cadets.

I am extremely grateful to the organisation for instilling in me the values of Teamwork, Courage, Initiative and Respect. These values have provided the pillars for my practice and life outside of the AAC. Additionally, I'm grateful to the organisation for providing a space to develop friendships and support that have lasted long after I left the organisation.

The AAC is such an attractive and exciting place because of its dedicated cadets, adult volunteers and AAC staff members - who make the Australian Army Cadets the organisation that it is. Looking

back, I hope that I was able to positively impact the organisation in some way and inspire other Cadets to take every opportunity given to them and enjoy the experience - it truly is a unique one.

Is there an age limit?

Yes, there is an age limit. When I initially joined the age limit was between 12 Yrs to the day before your 20th birthday- however, over the course of my time in Cadets and whilst I was based out of National Headquarters in Canberra, I was involved in the policy changes regarding the age limits within the organisation and how best to enact the changes. As a result of these policy changes the age limit for Cadet members of the AAC is between 13 to the end of the year in which you turn 18.

What did you do as a part of your adventurous training/survival skills?

Over my seven and a half years within the AAC, I was fortunate to



have had the opportunity to complete the full spectrum of adventurous training and survival skills that the AAC had to offer. I was able to experience most of these whilst on Unit based Bivouacs and Annual Camps in Puckapunyal. Some of these activities and training included:

- Performing vehicle stops and checks
- Performing reconnaissance for overnight activities (e.g., Capture the Flag)
- Military-style obstacle courses
- Camouflage & concealment with ex-service members
- Simulated & Live-Fire Shoots with current service weapons (e.g., F88 Austeyr)
- Navigation by Stars
- Patrols in various environments (e.g., urban vs. dense bushland)
- Artillery and other Corps Demonstrations
- Physical Training
- Cross-Country Skiing & Biathlons

Additionally, I was able to attend various inter-state adventurous activities such as the National Adventure Training Award (NATA) and the Chief of Army Cadet Team Challenge (CACTC) which utilised and taught various other forms of adventurous training and survival skills, such as:

- High Ropes Courses
- Abseiling & Rappelling
- Watermanship
- Casualty Evacuation (simulated)
- Field Engineering
- Firearms Skills
- Long Distance Navigation to test Mental & Physical Endurance (approx. 70km within 5- days).

Other experiences such as overseas exchanges (in places such as Auckland, Singapore, and London) were also available for those who expressed interest.

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CADETS CONTINUED

Do you have a Military role model?

My family has a strong Military history, with most previous generations having served in all three branches of the Defence Force. Strongest to mind is my grandfather, who served in the Army in Vietnam. My cousins and I would often enquire about the slouch hat we saw at my grandparents' house and the medals that we borrowed for ANZAC Day marches. Once I joined the AAC I began to have a deeper understanding and interest in military history, prompting me to ask my Pop about his experiences. In my recruit program, he taught me how to correctly read a military map and navigate, correctly iron my uniform, and polish my boots for parade.

Additionally, my Great-Grandmother served within the Royal Australian Air Force, and would often regale my sister and I about her time and experiences within the organisation. Her fond memories of teamwork, camaraderie and pack-marches would paint a strong picture in our

minds of her experiences and what we may have to look forward to.

Have you been to the Shrine of Remembrance? How did it make you feel?

Unfortunately, I have only been to the Shrine of Remembrance once at the conclusion of an ANZAC Day Parade in 2017. Being from a rural town, when trips to Melbourne didn't occur often, we were much more involved with the local RSL events and memorials. However, while at the Shrine of Remembrance I felt extremely proud and humbled by not only its architectural presence, but also what and who it represents, and how lucky we are to live in the peace that so many before us gave their lives to achieve.

Would a military career be something to consider as a career choice?

Throughout secondary school, I was completely unsure of what



I wanted to choose as a career or job. When asked, my answer would change regularly - however I have always felt that a career within the military, whether that be full-time or reserves, was always in my future. I have always had a strong sense of duty, service and community and knew that whatever career I decided to pursue, would be based on those principles that were instilled in me by the AAC.

Since that time, I decided to go to University and as of the publishing of this article I will have graduated from La Trobe University with a Bachelor of Paramedic Practice with Industry Honours. Presently, I am pursuing a career as a Paramedic, hopefully to be able to service my community and provide assistance and care for people who may be experiencing the worst day of their lives. Concurrently, I am also progressing with my application with the Australian Army Reserves.

We thank the Retired National RSM of Cadets, Jazmyn Coonan who came from, 33 ACU for her time and effort answering our questions. Ed.

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 Liz MacLaine on 03 9397 1043 or email lizardmac@hotmail.com and she will post out the appropriate form.

Contact Details Update

Vice-President Liz MacLaine wishes to thank all for taking the time to return their contact details update forms.

If you have not yet been able to return the form, please do so at your earliest convenience.

If you do not have or have misplaced the green form, we have included the membership contact details here.

Could you please update the following?

Name: - _____

Address: - _____

Reg. Number: - _____

Phone Number: - _____

Mobile: - _____

Email: - _____

Return to: - Liz MacLaine

16 Richard Street Williamstown Victoria 3016

Or: email: lizardmac@hotmail.com



LOST MEMBERS

The Association has lost contact with some of our members.

If anybody can help with current contact details (phone number, email address or street address) of the members listed below, please contact the Membership secretary.

Liz MacLaine

16 Richard Street Williamstown Victoria 3016

Or: email: lizardmac@hotmail.com

MAJ JAN ALLEN Nee MILNE

CPL DOROTHY BERRY

MS SHIRLEY BROWN

MS MARILYN DELL

MISS JOANNE DOOLAN

MRS JEAN EVANS

MS PAMELA HUNT Nee WALSH

MS ANGELA JONES

MS CARLA DE KOUSEMAKER

MRS LOIS MORRISON Nee McLEAN

MRS JOYCE PAYNE

MRS WENDY RUNDELL

MRS NORMA SMITH

MS DEBBIE UMPLEBY

MS SALLYANN WELTON

MRS JUDY ROCHOW-RICHMOND

TWO HEROES

As we approach ANZAC Day 2022, we stop and reflect on the past and remember those who fought for our freedom and the impact it had on generations of Australians. Our Chaplain, the Reverend Bill Pugh has sent us this moving article about two Australian men engaged in a war and then, the true blessing of peace. (JP-T)

Allan and his wife Berry were members of our little Church. Very involved in community service. One Remembrance Sunday Allan told us something of his life, a remarkable story. He came from a farming family and worked there till 1939, when he was called up by the Army. After training, his battalion boarded troop ships for the Middle East. As part of the Allied force defending Greece, they were up against superior forces, and ordered to retreat to the coast. Allan and three mates 'got hold of a truck' and headed to the south of Greece and were picked up by a warship and taken to Crete. Again,

parachuting Germans forced them to make for the coast. Wounded, and not thinking he would make it, Allan was given a ride for the last 12 miles to the coast. There two sailors, who were supposed to pick up retreating New Zealanders, told him to get rid of his Australian jacket, helped him board a lifeboat with others, and rowed them to a waiting destroyer, thence to Alexandria. All the time Allan felt a sense of loving thoughts from home, added to his prayers. Allan returned to Australia, married, and did well in business life, always remembering those who saved his life. A generous giver.

Basil was a son of a vicarage family. At the outbreak of the war, he joined up and became a soldier in a pioneer battalion, serving in the Middle East and Syria. When Australia was threatened to the north, those in the Middle East began the journey home. Involved in the defence of Java and ill-equipped, they were captured by the Japanese. Basil spent three and a half years in Changi and on the Burma Railway. He said, "Christmas



in Changi never was". He thought of home. At the end of each day working as a slave labourer on the Railway, Basil helped to bury his mates who had died during the day. Resolving, that when his turn came back home in Australia, in solidarity with them, his funeral would be in an open cemetery. And it was.

Basil returned safely to a happy family life, and to a career as a country bank manager, community conscious citizen, and as a member of his local Church, never forgetting his friends. It was not easy to forgive, or to buy a Japanese car. He forgave and moved on. I am proud to say he was my uncle.

Allan and Basil were raised in Christian homes; they went to Church. Simple faith was exemplified, but not insisted upon. Traumatic experience in war, sorely tested those early influences. As a result, faith was made personal and real for them. Their stories still inspire and challenge.

Bill Pugh, retired minister.

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY



Brenda Johnson recently celebrated her 97th birthday. Lorraine McDougall, Vera Duane, Lorraine Coleman, and Liz MacLaine met in Kilmore to help Brenda celebrate her birthday. Vera was in the 1st intake of WRAAC from Victoria. Brenda was in the 2nd intake of WRAAC in Victoria. Lorraine McDougall had a photo as her Mother Pasha was also in the 2nd

intake. Lorraine had brought along photos of Brenda and Pasha from past reunions, so all conversations were about remember when. The rest of us, as newcomers to the WRAAC 60's and 70's it was great hearing them reminisce about their early life in the WRAAC

Thanks Liz MacLaine; Ed.



LUNCHEON

HELD AT THE BENTLEIGH CLUB

Saturday 5th March 2022

Following a long delay because of Covid, we were finally able to have our much loved and anticipated luncheon. As we hadn't seen each other for nearly 3 years it was wonderful to be together again. The chatter and laughter around the room was a joy to hear. It was good to have our AWAS Ladies join with us as we welcomed 102 years young, Phoebe Parker (Signals) and Pauline Priestly (5th Aust Movt Control HQ). The Association welcomed Sue, Pauline's daughter who also joined us on the day. Margaret Hattersley, a WW2 Navy Veteran and a great supporter of our WRAAC functions was joined by the Reverend Bill and Lesley Pugh to make it such a memorable day.

Our Ceremonial Officer Elizabeth Salmon paid an emotional Tribute to our much loved and respected member Maj Maggie More OAM RFD followed by a minute's silence.

A toast was then proposed in honour of the Late Maj Maggie More OAM RFD.

The raffle was another highlight with 55 prizes on the table. As the winning numbers were called one table appeared to be winning all the prizes. A few started the Mexican wave so as soon as the ladies on the table had each received a prize, they then shared future winning tickets with adjoining tables. A lovely gesture.



Pauline Priestly, Phoebe Parker



Bill and Lesley Pugh





Sheryl English, Nola Williams





Margaret Hattersley, Jenny McGowan



VALE

F32039

**MAJOR MARGARET ANN (MAGGIE)
MORE OAM RFD**

23 February 1944 - 4 February 2022

It is with great sadness we report the passing Major Margaret Ann (Maggie) More OAM RFD.

Maggie passed away peacefully at St George's Hospital, Kew, on the 4th of February 2022.

Our sincere condolences to her son Tim and the More family at this sad time.

Loving thoughts to Denise Hodder, Sue Hopwood, and Cath Kennedy, dearest friends of Maggie and fellow members of the WRAAC. The girls, having served with Maggie, have many happy memories to sustain them through such a sad time.

A service of prayer and remembrance was held at St Ignatius Church Richmond on the 22nd of February at 10am.

The service, conducted by Father

Kevin was a perfect blend of family, friends and service veterans.

Colonel John Coulson OAM RFD ED, Shrine of Remembrance Governor, conducted the Service Tribute with Maggie's friend and fellow Veteran Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM, reading Maggie's Statement of Service.

All Veterans were invited to place a poppy in remembrance.

How proud she would have been of her WRAAC sisters wearing their distinctive green berets acknowledging her service with such respect.

Our hearts were breaking when Tim More read a beautiful tribute to his mother.

Following the service, a Guard of Honour of approximately 150 plus mourners, under direction of





Heather (Rankin) Fry, formed up to farewell Maggie on her final journey.

The sun was shining as rays of sunlight appeared to radiate off the many medals and decorations worn that day, we know our beautiful Maggie would have approved.

A Wake, following the service, was held at the National Hotel, Richmond where we could gather and reflect on a dear friend who was

so dearly loved and respected.

Service History.

Citizen Military Forces 20 July 1966 to 30 September 1974

Army Reserve 13 September 1977 to 23 February 1999

Margaret Ann More enlisted into the WRAAC (3 WRAAC Coy) in 1966 which was the beginning of her 30 plus years of Military Service.

On completion of Recruit training her first posting was a clerical role at 3 Div Intelligence Unit followed by promotion to Corporal. She is then back at 3 WRAAC Company and when promoted to Sergeant her role was that of a Sergeant Instructor.

During this time, she was an Officer Cadet.

In 1969 following her commission Lt Maggie More was Assistant Adjutant, 3 WRAAC Company.

Her various postings were mainly in an administrative role with her last posting Monash University Regiment in 1997.

Attachments.

British Territorial Army Units (Overseas Training) 01 April 1973 - 30 September 1974.

Honours and Awards.

Medal of the Order of Australia

Reserve Force Decoration with First and Second Clasps

Australian Defence Medal

Major Maggie More's exceptional leadership skills and ability to lead by example was a quality recognised throughout her Military career

She was an example of all that was good and noble that we all wish to aspire.

We are richer for having served with her.

Rest in Peace



F62209 PATRICIA ANN (PATSY) LEAMEY

19 November 1946 - 15 March 2022



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Patsy who left us peacefully following a short illness. Patsy lived in Glenorchy Tasmania, enlisting into the WRAAC CMF in 1967 qualifying as a Cook where her skills were called upon during the devastating Black Tuesday, 1967 bushfires.

Patsy's faith was important to her as was her commitment to local community programs.

She will be sadly missed.

Our sincere condolences to her sister Noni and family, friends and her fellow Veterans.

Rest in Peace.

LEST WE FORGET

*When someone you love becomes a memory,
Our memory becomes a treasure*

SICK PARADE

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

Memorial Service for Major Val Walsh AM RFD

F3526, F31102

4 August 1933 - 30 August 2021



A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Valma (Val) Walsh AM RFD was held on Sunday the 6th of March at the Edith Cavell Memorial, Kings Domain, Melbourne.

The Service commenced with the tune Amazing Grace played by a member of the Victoria Police Pipe Band.

The Police Chaplain, the Reverend John Raike then welcomed all in attendance and his eulogy paid tribute to an amazing Australian woman who proudly served her country.

Tributes. Wendy Cowling, Secretary of the PPWPA (Past and Present Women Police Association) and long-time friend of Val talked about Val's transition from Civilian Nursing to her joining the Victoria Police. We all had a laugh when Wendy commented on Val's strength in holding back in the compulsory Police first Aid classes as

a Rookie. The First Aid instructor would have to get it right or look out!

Phil Parson, Secretary of the Retired Police Association (RPA) also a long-time friend of Val recalled meeting her at the Police Academy (Val as a Nurse)

He then talked about joining Val on the Committee of the Victoria Police Games Federation and then as travelling companions to the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games and to several World Police and Fire Games.

Val's athletic achievements were significant and many of her friends attending the service were in agreement with that.

Heather (Rankin) Fry (WRAAC) outlined Val's Military service in the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC)

Category of Service:

Australian Regular Army
23 April 1956 to 25 February 1960

Citizen Military Forces
11 July 1968 to 01 July 1973

Army Reserve
26 August 1977 to 03 August 1988

Employment:
Staff Officer Nursing.

Last Posting:

3 Royal Australian Army
Nursing Corps Training Unit
Headquarters 3 Military District

Honours and Awards:

Member of the Order of Australia
Reserve Force Decoration
Australian Defence Medal

Major Walsh was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List 1986 (Military Division) for service to the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps particularly as Staff Officer Nursing, Headquarters 3 Military District.

A Poppy Service was conducted by Ann Coram and John Saunders, Clayton RSL. All in attendance



were invited to participate in the Poppy Service and this was followed with a wreath laying at the Edith Cavell Memorial and Rev John Raike saying the Benediction

The Police Ode was recited by Phil Parson. (RPA) and

Heather (Rankin) Fry recited the Ode of Remembrance.

As the Last Post sounded the end of the day's activities, and a soldier had gone to rest, we felt Major Val Walsh had indeed left a wonderful legacy of Service to one's country.

A second Wreath Laying took place after the Service at the Eternal Flame by friends and family.

Following the Service Val's family, Police, Nursing and Sporting friends were invited to join at the Mulgrave Country Club, Waverley.

Heather (Rankin) Fry and Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM were honoured to be asked by Val's friend Margaret (Swanny) Swann to assist with organisation of the day and to be to be include in the service.

It was a collaboration of Val's Family, Friends, Police and Military traditions, a true reflection of her incredible life.

Rest in Peace.

LOOKING BACK

In an early edition of KHAKI, I noticed this story about the AWAS at the beginning of the second World War.

We follow a young Australian girl as she ponders her future as war clouds gather overhead.

In a small way we can relate to the journey of Dale (Winduss) Bristow as a Recruit and the many obstacles to overcome during training.

My sincere thanks to Joan Weir, former Editor KHAKI (NSW AWAS) for trusting me with your stories. Ed.

Dale writes, It was 1941, I was 17 years of age. The war had continued for two years, and everything looked black. Most of our boys were overseas. As Sydney office girls we would often be permitted to go to Martin Place to wave to the troops as

they marched by before embarkation. They all looked so wonderful and sometimes we'd throw a glove or a scarf as a keepsake and it would be eagerly grabbed.

Weekends I was in an organisation called the Women's Australian National Service or WANS. We learnt how to make camouflage nets, first aid, home nursing, air raid precautions and how to march.

This wasn't quite enough for me. When I heard, they were going to form a women's group in the Army I promptly applied. At that time, I imagined myself with a gun and bayonet in the front line fighting to defend my country.

I had been working for three years at the College of Civil Aviation as a

stenographer for Wilfred Kingsford-Smith, a brother of the late Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith. Mr Eric Kingsford-Smith, another brother, was also with the firm. Mr Eric had been on the "Sydney " in the first world war and told me he was the one who fired the shot when the Sydney sunk the Emden! They were very understanding when I told them I would be leaving to join the services.

I remember I was just 18 years when I received my call-up. (Singapore had fallen while we were at our training camp in January 1942)

It was so exciting to walk into Victoria Barracks to receive our first directions. We were all shapes and sizes and, in all colours, but we wanted to do something constructive for the war effort.

We went to Killara to do three weeks training and we didn't even get issued with uniforms for some time. We left there to join 2 Aust Corps HQ which was stationed at Burnside Homes, Parramatta.

Here my AWAS friend and I were to work in the medical section as stenographers for Brig. Disher. Later it was decided that we should train in the field to prepare for the shifting of 2 Aust Corps HQ to New Guinea. Naturally we were very excited about this, and no one was told where "the field" was, everything was SECRET.

In early August 1942, we boarded a troop train one evening with our kit bags absolutely full. To make things a little more difficult for me, I also had a banjo and a huge fruit cake, both items were my mother's idea.

It was all such a scramble that I know we sat on the cake a few times and it made no difference to it.

We felt like cattle, but we were all very happy. No one slept much and the journey seemed endless.

We arrived at Esk, Qld, which was a tiny place and we saw where we were to camp and there was nothing there. Just fields of waving grass, trees, and distant mountains. We started to erect tents and our Mess Girls, though just as tired as we were,



started to prepare our breakfast.

Bacon and eggs between bread. Wonderful! These girls cooked out in the open for a week without a grumble, they were rather special. A marquee was put up for us to dine in. We discovered that there were no facilities for us to bath. We were then told we could use the men's showers between 3 and 4pm daily, when they would be reserved for us. The ablution block consisted of hessian, tin and buckets suspended above. Every day at that time the soldiers would be on picket duty outside, and I'll never forget the screams once when the old tin door fell down.

Later we had our own shower block erected with a tank. The toilet was a four holer with no division in between. My girlfriend and I used to take it in turns stand outside and warn the other one if someone was coming.

It was very cold in the evenings and early morning and yet very hot during the day. For a while we had no floorboards in our tents and no palliasses and the ground was very hard. We used to wrap up as much

as possible before sliding into our canvas sleeping bags which were tied up from the toe to the neck as one settled in. I had just finished tying the tie at my neck one night when I felt something big move down near my feet inside the bag with me. Suddenly it ran right up my back and over my head. It was a huge bush rat. The screams were so loud help came from everywhere.

I remember sitting in the tent at night with my three other tent mates. Our hurricane lamp wasn't very good for letter-writing. We had steel mirrors in those days that wouldn't get broken in our kit bags, they weren't very helpful when trying to look ones best. If we left any water in a bowl in the tent at night, it would be frozen hard in the morning.

Quite a few of the girls were caught at early morning parade with their pyjamas under the great coats instead of their uniforms. Mostly though we were in our issued overalls. These buttoned partly across the waist and up to the neck with a collar. Once again, I had just finished doing up the top

button and looked into the steel mirror. There was something on my shoulder. It was a huge grass spider!

I can never remember undoing all the buttons but suddenly I was out of the overalls and screaming again!

Another cause of the female scream was a magpie that would swoop on us and peck our heads as we went to our work tents. This magpie never attacked the men.

My girlfriend and I were still with the Deputy Director of Medical Services. It wasn't exactly easy typing in the tent with strong winds blowing our typing out the other side. We had wobbly seats to sit on with no backs.

Sometimes we would go to the Esk dances held in the old picture theatre hall.

With only 30 girls to 1,000 troops, we'd only dance a few steps before our partners were tapped. Sometimes we'd discover that we had tent-mates' clothes on, they were all the same and with four in the tent and poor lighting it was inevitable.

At one time we had a 2 Aust Corp. parade for a General. We were just a very small group of girls standing to attention at the back of all the troops, but we belonged, and we marched with pride.

Every night we would listen to the Last Post being played.

I am fairly sure that my pay was 4 shillings and sixpence per day. Who cared?

We were all looking forward to going on to New Guinea, but no one knew when.

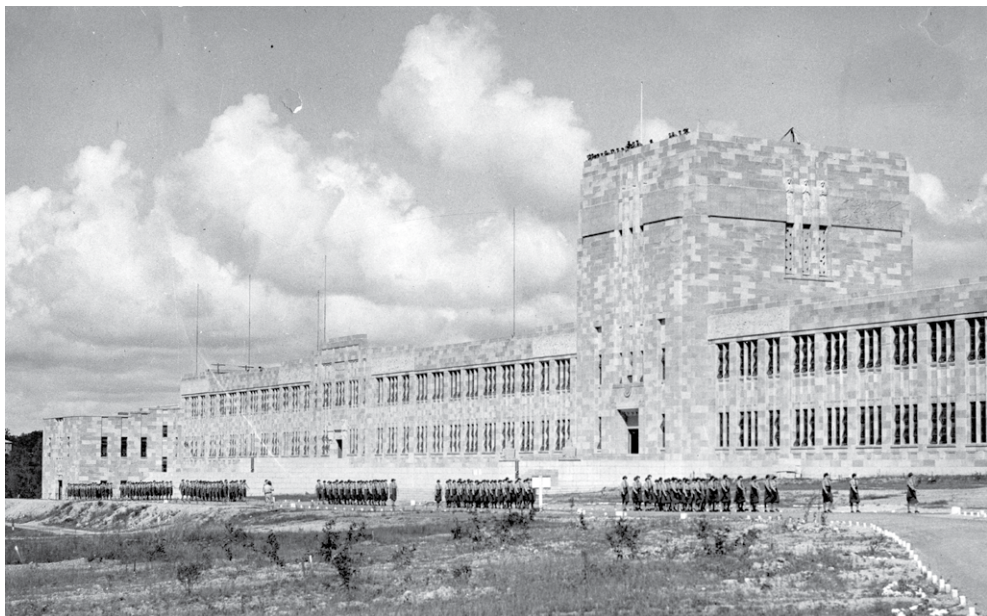
Then the order came that due to the Japanese progression south and the many atrocities, no women were permitted to accompany the troops to New Guinea.

We were all very upset about this.

It also meant that our detachment would be disbanded. We did not know what would be happening to us nor where would we be going. Finally, we received our marching orders.

Half to Land HQ in the University at St Lucia, Brisbane and the other half to Townsville.





Queensland University St Lucia during WWII

The evening before we disbanded, we took our floorboards from our tents, forming a platform area to dance under the stars. Somehow miraculously someone delivered to the site, an old piano. We all had quite a night.

The next day many camouflaged cars bearing the insignia of 2 Aust Corps which happened to be a white cockatoo sitting on a boomerang, called to take us to the station. We were all very sad.

We knew it was the end of an experience never to be repeated. We had lived very closely together,

making history as the first group of women in the Army, and we had overcome many difficulties.

We were all very proud of our record and of our role in the Australian Women's Army Service.

I later served at Fortress Signals at Middle Head, then with the school of Radiophysics at South Head. I found the latter very difficult trying to take Radiophysics terms down in shorthand.

Due to illness, I was discharged Medically Unfit in 1944.