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From the Editor



Dear Members,

A warm welcome to the end of the year AWAS/WRAAC Journal, 2021.

We could say “what a year it’s been”, but that’s stating the obvious!

Instead, let’s give thanks to our wonderful Health Care providers for their dedication to keeping us safe during the Pandemic.

We salute our ADF personnel deployed to provide varying levels of assistance to each State with logistics and technology. Operation COVID-19 Assist has been active in assisting with a range of initiatives including frontline swab testing support at testing facilities.

We observed teams assisting Police at Border control (offering logistic

support) this is acknowledged in our Reserve Forces Day Commemorative article.

If you remember your early days as a recruit (WRAAC) you will enjoy Ann (Timms) Wood’s story.

Our Chaplain, the Reverend Bill Pugh reflects on Christmas and the true spirit of sharing.

We sadly acknowledge the passing of Major Val Walsh AM RFD, a much loved and respected friend and member of the Association.

If you would like to learn more about the Australian Army Cadet Corps (AAC) we have an article by Cadet Sgt Sarah Connell, we know you will enjoy.

We also have a wonderful WRAAC story about friendship with a great outcome.

As we turn our focus on the Veteran community, we are saddened by the cancellation of so many Commemorative services and significant reunions.

This year, the Australian Women’s Army Service (AWAS) 1941-1947 were remembered as we acknowledged the 80th Anniversary of their formation on the 13th of August 1941.

A Last Post Service to honour their service to be held at the Shrine of Remembrance was postponed due to Covid restrictions, will be held at a future date.

The WRAAC Association will notify members of the rescheduled service.

Enjoy your Journal as you make preparations for Christmas and New year with family and friends.

We look forward to sharing your stories in 2022.

Keep safe and well.

Yours in friendship,

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM



— 2022 — Calendar of Events

MARCH 2022	
Saturday 5th	WRAAC Luncheon at Bentleigh Club at 12 noon Covid restrictions permitting
DATE TO BE ADVISED	
Saturday	WRAAC Social Group Lunch For further details contact Liz Maclaine

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.

70TH ANNIVERSARY WISHES

The WRAAC Association (Victoria) was honoured to receive 70th Anniversary wishes from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

On behalf of the President and members of the Association we sincerely thank Her Majesty and wish her well.

March 2022 Journal Deadline

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

FRIDAY 4TH FEB 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



From the WRAAC President



Dear Members,

Welcome to the final journal for 2021. It has been a difficult year for many of our members but hopefully with vaccination rates climbing into the 80-90% we will have the freedom to enjoy gatherings with our family and friends.

As you all know we were unable to celebrate any of the normal events due to COVID e.g., Anzac Day, the

AWAS 80th Anniversary, the WRAAC 70th Anniversary, the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, and our annual luncheon (originally to be on 24 July 2021, changed to 9 October 2021) and now booked for 5 March 2022. It will be wonderful to see all your smiling faces and to hear the many stories of the dreaded "lockdowns".

The Committee have continued to meet every few months during 2021 via Zoom and I would like

to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for their support and hard work. I am sure we all agree that face-to-face meetings are so much better but that Zoom meetings enable us to continue running the Association.

Since the last journal we have welcomed a few new members to our Association, and we look forward to seeing them at our next luncheon and hope they enjoy being a part of our Association.

To all those members who have faced health challenges you are in our thoughts, and we pray that you are all on the mend.

Hopefully we will be able to travel interstate and perhaps overseas sometime next year.

I am certainly not in a rush to embark on overseas travel but look forward to the possibility of travel to the UK to see my boys.

Sit back, relax with a cuppa, and enjoy this issue of our Journal, and all those budding writers out there please think about putting pen to paper as we always need articles.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Look out for each other, stay safe, well and happy.

Yours in friendship,

Margaret (Lister) Brown



AWAS/WRAAC Journal

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WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



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SECRETARY: Carol King

10 LEDBURY CRESCENT
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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:

Memories of Christmas



Our much-loved Chaplain, The Reverend, William (Bill) Pugh shares with us some very special Christmas memories.

Bill writes,

Childhood anticipation, hope, the joy of discovery after opening presents, bulging pillow slips or sacks on Christmas morning.

Trees decorated with Christmas lights and festive garlands.

Shops and stores full of gifts

and the Myer window yearly display with Father Christmas on duty ready for a photo shot.

Christmas break ups at Kinder and school, Carol singing in the parks. Charities and Churches appealing for support to make Christmas happen for the poor and homeless.

The joy of being home, helping to make the Christmas pudding, taking turns to stir and being the last stirrer of the pudding mix to have the privilege of licking the spoon.

Then, it was safe to hide silver coins in the mixture, hoping against hope for a slice covered with lovely





custard would appear on your plate at Christmas lunch with a shining threepence or sixpence inside.

The sound of Salvos playing carols on the street corner during the war. Soldiers singing carols from New Guinea for loved ones at home.

Two indelible Christmas experiences are with me forever.

Over the road from us in a country town lived a lovely mum, dad and six children.

Farmer dad, a Coast Watcher during the war, now working long hours on the harvest, when a few days before Christmas he was lifting a wheat bag and suddenly dropped dead from a heart attack.

How devastated the town felt for the little family, especially just before Christmas.

Every year the local sports and toy shop had a lunch time visit

from Father Christmas and the kids queued up to meet him.

By special arrangement, Father Christmas from that store arrived at the sad home early on Christmas morning. He knocked at the door leaving a sack full of toys for wide eyed kids, not staying as he had to be on his rounds on such a busy day.

Our Chaplain continues,

As a young man I was form master to a lively bunch of Form 2 boys, teaching English and Social Studies.

Early in the year Simon came to our class.

Unhappy at another school, not accepted and bullied. Simon was a pleasant young man, a contributor who gradually fitted in and was accepted.

Just before we broke up for Christmas holidays, his parents came to see me to discuss Simon, grateful for his progress,



noting how different he was.

As they were leaving, they said, what are you doing for lunch on Christmas day?

And I was invited to Christmas Dinner at the Hotel in the heart of Melbourne. On that morning I arrived at the Hotel and went up by lift, doors opening on a spacious dining room, to be greeted by Simon, his Mum and Dad.

What a view of Melbourne on a glorious Christmas day. Through one huge glass window the winding Yarra, the tree boulevard and Botanic Gardens and through the other window, the wide Bay and the blue sea of Port Phillip.

Seated around us were couples, families, happy children, young and old alike, all enjoying a typical Christmas Dinner.

Carol music in the background providing atmosphere. Not intrusive!

During dinner, Simon's parents said to me "We always have a special dinner on this day. We do not celebrate Christmas as you do. We are Jewish. This is our way of saying thanks to you for being Simon's teacher."

On that memorable day we were all family.

There was room at the Inn!

On behalf of the WRAAC Association Victoria, we wish Lesley and Bill a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Thank you for your inspirational stories, Bill. (Editor.)



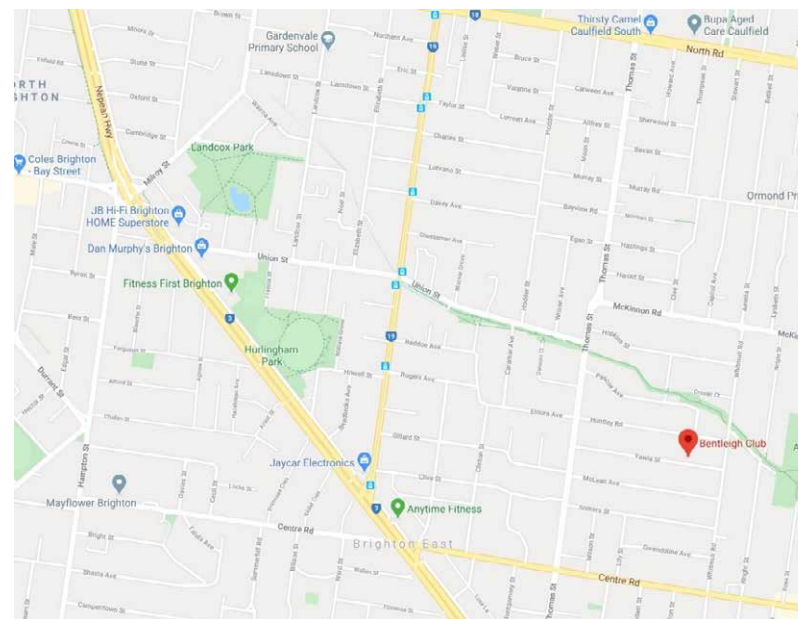
WRAAC 70th Birthday Luncheon

WRAAC 70th Birthday Luncheon 2022

Saturday 5th March 2022

The luncheon will be held at a new venue.

The Bentleigh Club, 33 Yawla Street, Bentleigh



We have received the communication copied below from The Bentleigh Club.

We will be strictly adhering to all government guidelines and have plenty of measures in place to keep you safe.

All Members and guests need to comply with government mandates as a condition of entry.

Masks must be worn, QR code check in and Proof of vaccination is required.

Whilst we respect that you have the right to choose, we ask that you respect our obligations as a business wanting to trade.

We thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we re-open within the restrictions

The Bentleigh Club Team



RESERVE FORCES DAY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

Background

The inaugural Reserve Forces Day Parades were held in 1998 celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Citizen Military Forces on 1 July 1948.

The date of the first of July was chosen as the official date of Reserve Forces Day.

Reserve Forces Day Parades were held in various cities throughout Australia to recognise the contribution to the Nation of all Navy, Army and Air Force former and present-day Reservists.

The final Reserve Forces Day Parade was conducted in 2018 and from 2019 Melbourne conducted a Reserve Forces Day Commemorative Service at the Shrine of

Remembrance on or about 1 July.

The Commemorative Service is a much shorter format than the parade, but serving and former Reservists are invited to attend and participate in the short march onto the Shrine Forecourt where the Commemorative Service is conducted.

The Commemorative Service is also Live Streamed by the Shrine of Remembrance for those unable to attend on the day.

RESERVE FORCES DAY SPEECH 2021

Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne



This year's Commemorative Service Speaker was WOFF Richard (Rick) Nolan, RAAF whose speech opened with the words, 'The contribution made to Defence capability by our past and present Reservists has been considerable and they should all be justifiably proud of their service.'

WOFF Nolan then focused on

current Reservists and how Defence is looking to the future to ensure options and opportunities remain relevant to our highly trained Reserve workforce.

These opportunities have been made possible through the outstanding work and dedication of our previous Navy, Army and Airforce Reserves who have built our current reputation.



He then went on to describe his service saying,

I'm now in my 43rd year of Service with the Airforce (26 years full-time and 17 years as a Reservist)

I am an Avionics Technician; however, I have not been in that role since leaving the permanent Airforce. (All of the aircraft that I maintained are now in the Air force Museum at RAAF Base, Point Cook, and I do wonder if they have reserved a spot for me in the near future)!

Australia has a relatively small Military capability that needs to operate effectively and efficiently to maximise the use of our infinite resources.

Our Reserve Forces work side by side with our full-time counterparts within our single services, within our tri-service environment and in civilian organisations and Defence projects.

There are three things I would encourage our Reservists to focus on as they move forward with their careers:

Defence Capability - we are

employed to contribute to our Nation's Defence capability and our Reservists contribute to the outcomes.

Options to Serve- there are many options available to our members as their life and career stages change.

Pro-activeness - Reservists need to be pro-active in seeking employment in Defence (be your own best advocate, use your networks, career management staff and available systems, such as ForceNet)

Within the next 10 years there will be more people in Australia, leaving the workplace than will be entering the workforce. Defence will not be immune to this circumstance. Defence needs to have a strong and compelling message to our future personnel, promoting that a career in Defence can be varied and there are options available for continued service as your life stage needs change.

The Total Workforce System (TWS) was introduced several years ago and was designed to meet

the current and future personnel needs for Defence. At one end of the system there is Defence capability needs and at the other is member needs and the system in between offers significant options.

Our Reserve elements of the TWS (Service Categories 3,4 and 5) form an integral part of our capability. Our Reserve members fit seamlessly into our employment continuum, and I find it impossible to differentiate full-timers from Reservists when conducting unit activities or operations.

Currently 8-9% of Air Force capability is delivered by our Reservists, making it a significant contribution. I would expect that the other two services deliver similar positive outcomes.

Where I work, here in Melbourne, at 21SQN, we rely heavily on our Reserve members to meet our tasking requirements.

These circumstances are replicated across the country at many Units.

I travel regularly across the

country presenting at the ADF Transition seminars, talking to full-time personnel about their options for Reserve service when they are ready to transition.

Members need to be pro-active and chase employment opportunities as either their main employment or to complement their civilian roles. Reservists are held in high regard within the ADF and the wider civilian communities, providing positive role models and considerable work ethic.

Last year, in July through to September, I was part of OP COVID ASSIST here in Melbourne, and I was proud to see the agility and dedication of our Reservists and Full-time staff as they worked together on tasking that was well outside of their normal operating environment and when clarity of roles took some time to solidify.

The Civilian organisations we were working with were amazed at our ability to work together and with them to improve the outcomes for Victoria in a difficult time.



WRAAC Memories

The Early Years by Ann (Timms) Wood

It behoves all of us to recognise the service provided by our past and present Reservists, and to ensure future Reservists are able to maximise their contribution to Defence capability.

Acknowledgements.

We sincerely thank WOFF Richard (Rick) Nolan for permission to reproduce his informative speech delivered to former and current Reservists at the Reserve Forces Day Commemorative Service, Shrine of Remembrance, July 2021.

Thank you to Heather (Rankin) Fry (Public Relations Officer / Treasurer / Assistant Secretary) for her help in providing background information for this article.

We thank photographers, Bev Dillon and Ean Caldwell for their excellent photos. Editor.

Please enjoy the journey with Ann as she recalls her first Recruit camp at Puckapunyal and reflects on the meaning of 'spud bashing', cleaning the ablution areas and the sheer joy of a 0530hrs wake up call.

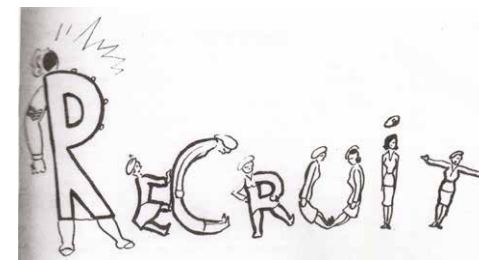
Ann writes,

I joined 3WRAAC Coy, situated in leafy Highbury Grove Kew in 1963.

This changed my life for the better as possibly what happened to so many other 'Soldiers of the Queen'!

Recruit Camp:

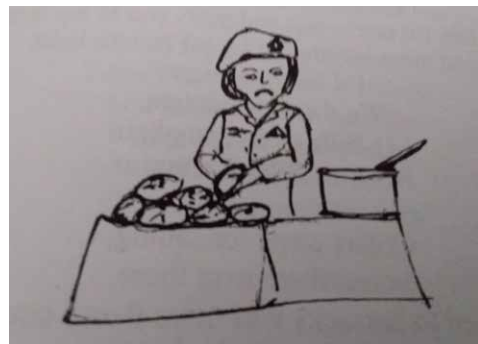
Puckapunyal was really special, everything was 'new'. The discipline, route marches, Drill and the care and presentation of uniforms. This included our working dress (Giggle dress) sports uniform, shoe cleaning (spit and polish). Such great training and discipline!



Cleaning:

There was a great cleaning team, we marched in single file to our posts with mops and buckets, brooms, cloths and cleaning products. The challenge was to clean everything as best we could. We scrubbed toilets, baths, floors and shower walls. There was lots of singing, and at times, almost deafening in the enclosed area. We all worked really hard and on Parade, our team leader was called out. We were then congratulated individually by our training Officer as the best





cleaning team. Wow! what a treat!

Activities of daily living:

Beds had to be rolled up every day and made to regulation standard. Rooms swept and left tidy. Floors had to be cleared of everything!

Fire Drill:

We had fire drill one night and we all scrambled out of bed and on to the Parade Ground. We must have looked a rare sight in our assorted nightwear.

Drill:

One day we had drill and had to 'number off'. This was completely stuffed as somehow, we had '2' number 2s. Our poor Corporal was very frustrated as we could not get it right. After a break we tried again, and this time got it right.

Kitchen Duties:

Peeling spuds in the spud machine. As only a few spuds could be put in at a time, and if it was overloaded, does not work. The 'eyes' had to be cut out with a knife, how laborious! To make matters worse, there were always heaps of potatoes. Pumpkin, notoriously hard to peel was left with the skin on as it peels off easily when cooked. We had a bean slicer which was great, beans had to be topped and tailed before slicing. Having fresh vegetables was really good, there was plenty of them.

Camaraderie:

We sang 'Army' songs on route marches and were reprimanded for giggling. On one occasion even our Leaders joined in the fun, how good was that! I'm told laughter is a good way of relieving tension and stress. We had lectures in the evenings, not always easy after a day of physical

exercises. As a group we managed and always slept well at night.

PT:

At 0530hrs rise and shine for PT with our Corporal (Fawn sports uniform, green socks and white runners) Prior to exercising we had the dreaded uniform inspection!

Mess:

Our mess was a large area with long tables and chairs. There was a huge toaster where at times a 'duty officer' was elected make the toast and then someone else would take over. A great job on a very cold morning!

Menu:

B/fast: Cereal, toast, baked beans, eggs, butter, assorted jams, Vegemite, tea/coffee, milk and sugar: Sometimes even the luxury of bacon!

Lunch/Dinner:



Soup, Sandwiches, salad, various

types of meat, bread rolls, fresh fruit. All good tucker. A team cleaned up afterwards, hence the Mess was always neat and clean in preparation for the Cooks the next day.

Well, done Woodsy, I'm exhausted thinking about how much we all fitted into one day.

I remember that wretched toaster that at times barely touched the bread.

The late WO2 Cheryle Brown would never eat baked beans again after her first camp.

I'm sure you have stirred up memories of an era of camaraderie and a lifetime of great friendships.

If you too have memories of your early days as a Recruit, please share your stories with us.

Acknowledgment for artwork used in this article from Sassenach circa 1956. Kitchen Duties potato peeler by Judi Kennedy from WRAAC song book. Ed.

A note of caution!

We have many Catering Corps members taking note of your comments, so be nice.

We love our Cooks. Ed.



3 WRAAC COY IS THE BEST

(Sung to the tune, As the Caissons Go Rolling Along)

*Give a shout, give a cheer,
For the girls who guzzle beer,
In the Rec room each night after night.
They are brave they are bold
And the liquor they can hold
Is a story that never been told.
So, it's guzzle guzzle guzzle,
As it trickles down your muzzle,
The Major comes knocking at the door,
Knock Knock
3 WRAAC Coy is the best,
You can put it to the test,
In the rec room each night after night.
In the rec room each night after night*

(Words by the late Shirley Morris)

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CADETS

In this time of uncertainty here is story of hope and a sense of pride for the future.

Margaret (Robinson) Jager has a Great Niece, Sarah Connell, a student at Mentone Grammar School who just happens to be a member of the Mentone Grammar School Army Cadet Unit.

This led Margaret to ask Sarah a few questions regarding her decision to join Cadets.

This will be of great interest to many as within our WRAAC community, post disbandment are many former members significantly involved with Cadet Units over the years.

In fact, several still have a strong commitment to the Units.

We are proud of our young Australians and their achievements, so let's follow Cadet Sergeant Sarah Connell who writes,

I joined the cadets through a unit run at school, it was a compulsory part of the year 9 curriculum.



Sarah & her brother Cameron

Through that we were given the opportunity to promote up through the ranks and continue.

Cadets can also join outside of a school situation where the Army are more involved but for us it is all about the students learning how the Army works and offering leadership opportunities.

People must be at least 12.5 to





join the Army Cadets and are to be no more 17 years of age.

However, being a Cadet at school we are all enrolled around 14-15 years old.

Training as a Cadet at school is broken up into several training days along with a 1-week camp at Puckapunyal at the end of September. On training days, we learn important skills about things that we will need in order to survive a week in the bush.

A main component to training is team building within our platoon and to have a good relationship with people you spend most time with.

There are other elements such as navigating using a map and compass as well as first aid and ratel. (This is how to use and speak over the radio)

We also learn what is involved with setting up a platoon harbour (campsite) so, we understand what to do when we get to camp.

The most practical portion of training is the drill, both how to do it and for me as a Sergeant, how to call it.

There is also a more theoretical side to training where we learn the history behind the Army, Cadets, Uniform, Ranks and other parts about our Unit and the Army within Victoria.

Along with this training done throughout the year, there are promotion courses that run in the holidays. The courses are held in the middle and at the end of year where Cadets are given the opportunity to further their involvement and understanding of Cadets to gain a higher rank.

We then asked Sarah what attracted her to Cadets and the adventure training.

Sarah replied,

I was first attracted to Cadets when my brother became a member through school in 2018.

I then became more attracted



to the idea through watching TV shows and movies about Cadets and Army personnel. I then got to experience Cadets through school, even if it was compulsory, for me to realise that I really enjoyed everything there was to learn and the structure that I felt I gained from it.

The main adventurous part of my experience as a Cadet is our annual camp at Puckapunyal.

The experience involves us camping out on the Army base for 4 nights. Throughout the camp there is a day dedicated to a navigation activity where we must navigate ourselves and our sections to different points around a certain location. As part of this we are given the opportunity to use a radio to inform HQ of our location throughout the exercise.

We also have a day dedicated

to activities such as fire starting, cooking and water purifying to name a few.

We asked Sarah did she have a Military role model, perhaps a Grandmother or a significant female that inspired her.

Sarah's replied,

When I joined the Cadets, I didn't really have a specific Military role model. Through a project I did on my family history in 2015 I knew there was a history of family members being in the Military but that was before I was born so it didn't really play a part in my choice to be and continue to be a Cadet.

Courage, Initiative, Teamwork and Respect.

We then asked Sarah what these words meant to her.

Sarah replied,

Courage and Initiative, my situation in Cadets really just means to have a go and get involved.

Courage to me means to put yourself out there and get out of your comfort zone and try something new because





Cadets is quite a different experience to anything I have done before.

Initiative, to me means to think outside of the box and show that you have the ability adapt to the situations around you.

I think Teamwork is really important with Cadets, rarely is there ever anything you do by yourself, so you have to rely on your team to work together in order to make the most out of every experience and challenge thrown your way.

Finally, I think respect is important and I guess self-explanatory in the sense it involves showing appreciation to everyone and giving everyone equal opportunity.

Within Cadets the word plays a key role in the chain of command

ensuring Cadets show a level of respect to their rank.

We asked Sarah had she ever been to the Shrine of Remembrance and if so, could she share her feelings with us.

I have been to the Shrine of Remembrance, not as a Cadet but as a student on a school trip.

I will however (lockdown pending) be hopefully attending the Vietnam Veterans Parade at the Shrine of Remembrance in August 2021.

I will attend as a Cadet to be part of the Parade as many Students have done from our unit.

This will be an opportunity for Mentone Grammar Cadets to further involve themselves in the Cadet program.

Going to the Shrine and hopefully with this experience later in the year. It has always been a proud place where we can celebrate our War veterans as they are an important part of our history.

If I can attend the Parade, I will feel honoured that Cadets have given me the opportunity to go to such a



treasured place and help celebrate the lives of our brave soldiers.

Finally, we asked Sarah would she consider a career in the Military.

Sarah's reply,

Ever since I joined the Cadets, I have thought a career in the Military has always been an accessible option for me.

I think it would be a great opportunity to do what I love and serve my country in doing so.

Well, done Sarah and best wishes to her fellow Cadets at Mentone Grammar.

A sincere thank you to Sarah's family and the Mentone Grammar School community for allowing us to be part of such an inspiring story. Ed.

Please Note. As the lockdown in

Victoria prevented the planned Vietnam Veterans Day Parade (18th August 2021) at the Shrine of Remembrance from going ahead we acknowledge our Veterans and thank them for their service.

Lest we forget.

If you found Cadet Sgt Sarah Connell's journey as an Australian Army Cadet (AAC) uplifting, let's share a former member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) contribution in her role as a Cadet Administrator.

Disbandment, in many ways opened up new and challenging opportunities for women leaving the Corps. There is no denying, WRAAC members were highly skilled, motivated and certainly ready for leadership roles.

As they say "You can take the Girl out of the WRAAC but not the WRAAC out of the Girl "

Please follow Major Valerie Jones as she writes,

I started at Ivanhoe Grammar School Cadet Unit in 1998 as the Cadet Administrator.





I was responsible for arranging the logistics for their 3 main cadet activities, annual camp and promotion courses.

This included hiring tentage, cooking equipment, caterer, water, toilets, garbage, transport to/from and during activity, lifting school stores, defence radios, communication equipment hire, etc.

For several years the school employed a caterer who ordered and cooked the food as required under tentage initially.

I, in conjunction with the caterer organised a catering van to be on site to improve facilities for

cooking and the serving of food.

I also sent out letters to cadets detailing the activity and initially the cost parents had to pay until the school changed how they charge parents by adding to their school fees, which was the same as for most other activities the school ran.

Activities.

In those days the activities were held at Gisborne for bivouac, Mt Pilot for annual camp, and the School's outdoor activities premises for promotion courses. I did any general administration as required. I helped out with their annual ceremonial parade including the invitation list, preparing and sending out the invitations and the same for their annual cadet dinner.

The Ceremonial Parade followed the year 12 cadets who were finishing their 4-year cadet journey to run the parade.

The Cadet Dinner was the final activity for year 12 cadets who were able to invite their parents for their final night in cadets.

There were other activities including

ANZAC Day support to both the Melbourne Parade and various RSL's the school was involved with.

Cadetnet.

At some point Defence developed their own website for cadets and the Army site was called Cadetnet. I also had to update cadets as they were promoted throughout their 4-year cadet program. I still do this. Cadetnet required units to put their cadets on it together with staff (Officers of Cadets or Instructors of Cadets).

I was responsible for doing this and ensuring all Defence governance was adhered to.

This became bigger as time evolved like the rest of the country overreacting to events and duty of care.

Initially, because I was an active GRES member, I did not have to become an Officer of Cadets to do this job but eventually I had to after I was retired on age in 2014.

I underwent training for this at Watsonia over 8 days and now a 2LT (AAC)

In GRES I was a 2LT in 1973. (reference at end of article)

Change.

The other thing that changed about 7 years ago was the school started to use Defence facilities for 2 or 3 of their main activities such as Bivouac and Promotion Courses.

The Annual Camp was moved to Yackandandah, a bigger area than Mt Pilot and support such as rations, toilets, garbage, and transport to/from activities was all done through Defence who paid for it all.

I booked any transport required for movement of cadets during Annual Camp and stores vehicles etc. They did over 2 days, activities at Bandiana which included showers mid-way through the 6-day activity.

The Unit grew from around 300 to 580 cadets during my time.

This of course put a big strain on resources and staff, and it became far more important that Cadenet was kept up to date with all cadets on it.

Uniforms and equipment were based on cadet numbers. I assisted the QM with placing and



CONGRATULATIONS

MARGARET PROWSE

finalising Q orders which I still do.

I did not go away on activities as this was the teachers' job but did visit from time to time each activity.

I still do some Cadetnet work which is separate to the School's requirements since being made redundant in 2020 and no longer have access to school records for students in cadets.

Reference. In 1973, Valerie Jones was a 2LT in the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC)

Then known as the Citizen Military Force (CMF 1943-1980) now known as ARES (1980-)

Now, in the Australian Army Reserve (GRES-General Reserve)

Thank you, Val, for your service and your inspirational article explaining the resources required to support our Cadets.

We are so proud of you Major Valerie Jones.

We were so happy to learn that our much-loved member, Margaret Prowse has been awarded life membership of the RSL.

The award was presented to Margaret on ANZAC Day 2021 at the East Malvern RSL Club.

Margaret served with the AWAS ESF Liaison AAPC (Engineers Service Finance Liaison Australian Army Pay Corps) during WW11 as a Comptometrist (one who can operate machines that automatically perform mathematical processes) and has been a treasured member of the WRAAC Association Victoria, for many years.

We certainly look forward to celebrating your achievement when we next get together.

Well done, Margaret.



A Comptometer machine



FRIENDSHIP

There is nothing to compare to a great friendship and the happiness it generates amongst those fortunate enough to be part of one.

This is where we begin our story with thanks to Vera (Dickensen) Duane.

In 1951, four young women made a huge life changing decision and joined the newly formed Women's Royal Australian Army Corps.

The girls were, Margaret Todman (Toddy) Brenda Henderson (Rusty) Pasha Lakovsky and Vera Dickensen. The only one to have had previous military experience was Brenda.

Brenda was a member of the Australian Women's Army Service (Sigs) and surely would have been proud of the fact that the newly formed WAAC would be honoured with Royal (approved June 1951) in recognition of their excellent service during WWII.



Vera Duane and Margaret Brookes

Margaret and Vera were in the first intake of recruits with Brenda and Pasha in the second. The girls were posted to AHQ. Sigs and soon became firm friends enjoying great times together during their service.

Margaret, Brenda and Pasha following their discharge and subsequent marriages stayed in contact over the years.

Vera, like so many of us said her contact was just a card and a note at Christmas.

Margaret and Brenda kept in close contact over the years with family gatherings and get togethers.

Later, Margaret and then Pasha moved to the East Gippsland area.

Margaret to Bairnsdale and Pasha to Lakes Entrance where they would often visit each other. Eventually Margaret and her husband John moved into an Aged Care Home in Bairnsdale where John unfortunately passed away.

Pasha had also passed away, but Brenda was still in contact by phone with Toddy.

Then, some years ago Toddy left the Aged Care home but left no forwarding address.

Rusty who had also recently

moved tried everything she could to find her, even asking me if I knew her whereabouts.

Then, at a WRAAC reunion this year Brenda met Lorraine McDougall, Pasha's daughter for the first time and talked about Toddy and how she could not find out where she was living.

Lorraine had also served in the WRAAC said her mother had often talked about Toddy and their visits to each other.

So, she decided to do a little private detective work.

The photos are a result of Lorraine's search.

It was just amazing, and we still don't know how she did it with all the difficulties one has to go through to get this information.

She also checked visiting





Lorraine McDougall and
Margaret Brookes

hours and found that Toddy could have 2 visitors.

Lorraine picked me up and drove me over to see Toddy who is now in an Aged Care facility in Melbourne.

It was just great to see her but even better was Lorraine ringing Rusty and handing her mobile to Toddy so that the two of them could chat for some time before we left.

We were very lucky as the day we visited her was the day before another lockdown was announced to start on the 16th of July.

Rusty had never stopped trying to find Toddy and we are so grateful for the thoughtfulness and success of our private sleuth, Lorraine.

Our sincere thanks to Vera (Dickensen) Duane for your heart-warming article and big hugs to our girl, Lorraine McDougall. Ed.



VALE

**F3/526 F3/1102 MAJOR VALMA (VAL)
DOREEN WALSH AM RFD**

4th August 1933 - 30th August 2021

The WRAAC Association Victoria mourns the passing of Major Val Walsh and extends sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Val was a respected member and friend of the Association and leaves us with many treasured memories.

To many of us, our first meeting with Val may have been at the various Camps or perhaps a Bivouac WRAAC attended jointly with the RAANC.

They were certainly fun times as the Nurses were always ready for a laugh, a sing-along and a welcome drink when off duty.

We occasionally caught up with Val and our Nursing Corps Sisters on ANZAC Day, always with a huge smile and a wave from her.

Others, have special memories of Val

attending our annual Luncheon or our Commemorative Services held at the Shrine of Remembrance.

Members also reflect on meeting Val on Reserve Forces Day where she would always make time for a chat with her WRAAC mates.

We felt so honoured to have her in our presence and she will never be forgotten.

Rest in Peace Ma'am.

We invite you to read this fitting tribute to Major Val Walsh AM RFD by her friend, Wendy Cowling.

Wendy Cowling is the Secretary of the Past & Present Women Police Association of Victoria Inc (PPWP)

The WRAAC Association Victoria respectfully thank Wendy for her kind permission to re print her words about a truly amazing Australian. Editor.



VALMA DOREEN WALSH AM – (13728)



Scrub Hill, Puckapunyal 1969

This much-loved photo of the late Lt Colonel Bev Blanksby (WRAAC) and the late Major Val Walsh (RAANC) wearing each other's uniform. Who dared to suggest Officers didn't have a sense of humour!!

Val was born in Merbein, Victoria on 4th August 1933 and after training as a nurse she enlisted with the Royal Australian Army on 23rd April 1956 and was discharged at the rank of Lieutenant on 25th February 1960.

A few months later on 29th August 1960, she entered the Victoria Police Depot, gaining 12th place of 47 recruits and upon graduation was transferred to Russell Street to perform Beat duty. Whilst there, Val

was commended with two others for alertness, keen observation and devotion to duty in locating a stolen car which led to the apprehension of three offenders for illegally using. In September 1962, Val transferred to the PR Division Lecture Squad, where the following was noted on her Record of Service. "A good lecturer to children but not to adults. Does not take kindly to discipline and tends to reject advice in connection with the performance

of her duties." (Val would have a laugh at this comment)

In July 1963, Val transferred to the Russell Street Women Police and in December 1963, she was transferred to Warrnambool to set up the first Women Police Branch.

Val resigned from Victoria Police on 16th September 1967 to return to nursing. I understand her reason for leaving was due to lack of promotion opportunity.

Val returned to nursing and worked at the Rehabilitation Centre in Mt Martha and then when it closed, she moved to the Victorian Rehabilitation Centre in Glen Waverley, where she became Matron. In the early 80's, Val returned to Victoria Police as Sister at the Police Academy.

Val was also a member of the Citizen Military Forces (CMF), now known as the Army Reserve, for over 20 years and in the 1986 Australia Day Honours, Major Valma Walsh was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) Military Division, for service to the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, particularly as Staff Officer Nursing, Headquarters 3rd Military District. Val

was so very proud of this honour.

Val was an integral committee member for the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Women in Victoria Police and was the inaugural secretary of the PPWPA when it was set up in 1993. Val was elected as Senior Vice President in 1995, holding that position for 15 years until retiring from the committee. For her outstanding service to the association, Val was awarded Life Membership in 2003. During her time on committee, Val organised many events, such as golf days, car rallies and theatre nights to name a few. Val was also in charge of the PPWPA clothing and memorabilia. She was responsible for ordering, sales, storage and transport to all our events.

Val was renowned for her sporting ability, competing in the Victoria Police Emergency Services Games and World Police Fire Games over a long period of time. In 2001, Val was awarded the "Most Outstanding Police Sporting Achievement" at the Victoria Police Amateur Sports and Welfare Society Sports Awards for her efforts in Track &



Field. She was 67 years old!

Val currently still holds the following VPES Games Track & Field Records:

3000m Walk Female = 55-59 Age Group (set in 1993), 60-64 Age Group (set in 1999), 70-74 Age Group (set in 2005), 75-79 Age Group (set in 2010) & 80+ Age Group (set in 2015)

Discus Female = 55-59 Age Group (set in 1992), 60-64 Age Group (set in 1999), 70-74 Age Group (set in 2005), 75-79 Age Group (set in 2009) & 80+ Age Group (set in 2015)

Javelin Female = 60-64 Age Group (set in 1998), 70-74 Age Group (set in 2008), 75-79 Age Group (set in 20) & 80+ Age Group (set in 2015)

Shot Put Female = 60-64 Age Group (set in 1997), 70-74 Age Group (set in 2004), 75-79 Age Group (set in 2010) & 80+ Age Group (set in 2017)

In March this year, Val was awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation" at the 40th Anniversary function of the VPES Games for her assistance with the Games during the 80's & 90's.

Val last competed in 2017 at the age of 85 years, what an outstanding effort!

Unfortunately, the last 2 years were not kind to Val and her health deteriorated. Val passed away on 30th August. Deepest condolences to Margaret Swann (Swanny), Val's lifelong friend and her family.

Val was a generous lady who enjoyed a good time and a laugh and even more so with her friends around her. She will be greatly missed. Rest in peace, dear friend.

We asked Phil Parson from the RPA (Retired Police Association) to reflect on his association with his former colleague, Val Walsh.

Phil kindly writes,

I was a Law Instructor at the Victoria Police Academy when Val accepted the position of Nurse at the Academy.

We had an association on the Committee of the Victorian Police Games Federation and developed into travelling companions to the Australasian Police and Emergency Service Games and to several World and Police and Fire Games.



We were associated with the organisation of the 1995 WP&FG were held in Melbourne and then we began travelling together to the following Games.

1997 Calgary Canada

2001 Indianapolis USA

2007 Adelaide SA

2011 New York City USA
(these Games were held on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11)

2013 Belfast, Ireland

As a long-time friend of both Val Walsh and Margaret Swan (Swanny) it is sad to hear she has passed away.

It is even more so as Covid restrictions have prevented us from giving her the send-off she so richly deserves.

To learn more about Val's significant sporting achievements Phil invites us to Google Valma Walsh AM and watch a recorded interview on the eve of her 80th birthday.

(Here is the link: <https://audioboom.com/posts/1532821-valma-walsh-80-tomorrow-formerly->



VAL WAS A KEEN MAGPIE
SUPPORTER

victoria-state-police-after-the-5k-walk-wpfgsocialteam-2013)

The interview is in Belfast (Ireland) following the completion of a 5km walk and Val is about to compete over the following days in several events. (Javelin, Discus and Shot Put)

There she is referred to as a "Legend" as she is competing in her 7th Games.

The WRAAC Association Victoria extend heartfelt condolences to members of the RPA and RPA Secretary, Sgt Philp Parson (Ret) on the passing of Major Val Walsh AM RFD

Lest we forget.

F32607 ROBYN (CAMERON) AXTON

5th July 1951-3rd September 2021



Robyn enlisted into the WRAAC in 1972 and on disbandment of the WRAAC transferred to 126 Squadron, Watsonia attaining the rank of Sergeant.

Robyn was an accomplished Morse Code operator, spending many years training and working in the field.

As a Sergeant, she was also an accomplished Morse Code Instructor.

Due to health issues associated with the diagnosis of Diabetes, Robyn

considered, due to the strenuous activity of her role, she would have to resign from the Army.

The role of the unit was to support 1 Commando Regiment based in Sydney and meant members were expected to do lots of arduous activities. Then, a family member suggested a transfer to an Armoured Corps Unit.

On arrival at the unit, Robyn thought her skills would be helpful to the Signal Officer.

However, not having considered the fact that an Armoured Unit barely knew what Morse Code was, let alone have the equipment to send it.

True to form, the Officer just left Robyn to entertain herself.

Robyn helped the Officer's Mess Steward on training nights and then a position in administration during the annual camp at Balranald. However, on return from camp Robyn was again left to amuse herself. As the



year was coming to an end with no real prospects ahead Robyn once again considered resigning.

This changed with the transfer of the Squadron Sergeant Major to Army Reserve Recruiting plus his Orderly Room Clerk was leaving.

As he didn't want his replacement, Peter Axton to begin the new year without any staff Robyn was approached to reconsider resigning.

This was around 1983 and little did anyone know at the time where this would all lead.

That year the Army changed their approach to the way things were handled in the Army Reserve and now required members had to be fully qualified for the position they were filling.

That meant an audit of every squadron member and their qualifications had to be undertaken.

This meant Peter as the SSM and his Orderly Room Clerk Robyn, worked closely together and a friendship developed.

Due to his family business commitments, Peter was unable to continue his role as SSM and transferred to Army Reserve

Recruiting. Robyn called in one day to say hello to Peter when a chance meeting with the units second in command who knew her from 126 days suggested they needed a senior NCO to run the Orderly room and it wasn't long before Robyn transferred there.

As the years passed Robyn and Peter's relationship grew into a personal one which led to them to marrying on 15th June 1991.

Robyn and Peter worked together in Peter's family business with Robyn continuing her craft work, reading and love of travel.

Life was happy and fulfilling for the couple and were able to work around Robyn's health issues.

Sadly, Robyn passed away on the 3rd of September 2021.

Rest in Peace Robyn.

Our sincere condolences to Peter, family and friends of Robyn on her passing.

Thank you for sharing her inspirational service story with us, it's greatly appreciated.

We wish you well Peter. Editor.

VF397304 FLORENCE ELLEN FLEMING

HQ Salvage

19th March 2021

The WRAAC Association Victoria extends sincere condolences to Florence's family on her passing. Florence passed away peacefully aged 96 following a brief period in hospital.



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



Coronavirus Poem

BY PAM AYRES

I'm normally a social girl

I love to meet my mates

But lately with the virus here
we can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now

We need to stay inside

If they haven't seen us for a while

They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did

Before we got this old

There wasn't any FaceBook

So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies

Who would never be uncouth,

But we grew up in the 60s –

If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs
and rock 'n roll

The pill and miniskirts

We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married

And turned into someone's mum,

Somebody's wife, then nana,

Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace

Because our lives were full

But to bury us before we're dead

Is like red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside

For 4 weeks, maybe more

I finally found myself again

Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me

I'd while away the hour

I'd bake for all the family

But I've got no flaming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful

I like a gutsy thriller

I'm swooning over Idris

Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze

For when I'm being idle

There's wine and whisky, even gin

If I'm feeling suicidal!

So, let's all drink to lockdown

To recovery and health

And hope this awful virus

Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis

And be back to join our mates

Just hoping I'm not far too wide

To fit through the flaming gates!



In Memory of 9/11

THE DAY MY LADY CRIED

I saw My Lady, torch held high,
Watching planes fall from the sky,
miles away a terrorist attack,
clutching her heart, holding her plaque.
Her world ripped apart,
Her heart also stopped.
She saw her children fall and die,
This, the day I saw My Lady Cry.

My Lady in tears, her open doors violated,
Outraged her waterfront's desecrated,
Shocked by this act of insanity,
In disbelief, evilness hit New York City.
Bewildered when her twin brothers fell,
"Who were these cowards from Hell"
Bowing her crown, asking "Why?"
This is the day I saw My Lady Cry.



My Lady sobbed, extending her hand,
Her lamp now a beacon, Straight up to heaven.
Watching heroes work through the night,
Guiding those who lost sight.
Who executed this ungodly act of violence,
preying on America's Love...Honor... and Innocence?
This day must never be forgotten as time passes by,
I'll remember the day My Lady Cried!

By Marigrace Lodice



The Day my Lady Cried



The poem “The Day my Lady Cried” is on a tapestry in the 9/11 memorial (circled above) and there are many other memorials to the event around the area.

For example, the sculpture, entitled “The Sphere” originally conceived by artist Fritz Koenig, which stood in the plaza of the World Trade Centre for 3 decades was relocated to nearby Battery point on 11 March

2002 as a temporary memorial to all those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Centre and near to The Sphere an eternal flame was ignited on the first anniversary, of the attack, in honour of all those who were lost.

Their spirit and sacrifice will never be forgotten.