

Australian Women's Army Service 1941–1947



Women's Royal Australian Army Corps 1951–1984



WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

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From the WRAAC President



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Greeting Members and Friends,

Our events for this year included the ANZAC Day March, AWAS/ WRAAC Memorial Service at the Shrine on Sunday 7th May and the Annual Luncheon on Saturday 15th July which was held in the Bong Su Room at the Melbourne Zoo. Details of these events are included in this issue of the Journal. We had the pleasure of meeting Chaplain Kirsten Linden, who attended the luncheon at the Zoo. Kirsten has agreed to take up the role of Chaplain for the Association to carry on pastoral support since Chaplain Bill Pugh has stood down. I acknowledged the long service Chaplain Pugh, and his wife Lesley, had provided to us over many years, and in acknowledgement we have a WRAAC Plaque suitably inscribed to present to him, at a date to be set.

The AGM is scheduled for Saturday 18th November 2023 which will be held via Zoom, commencing at 11.00 am. Note your diaries and please advise if you wish to attend this meeting. Further details will be forwarded in due course. Again, we would also welcome your articles to include in our journal. We hope to get a third issue out before end of year, but this will be dependent on submissions for content. Pens to paper, or fingers to keyboards please.

My best regards to all,

Dexter Purcell President

CONGRATULATIONS LIZ MACLAINE OAM



Liz received an Order of Australia Medal in the King's Birthday Honours List in June.

The Honour was given to her for all her community work.

Listed was the WRAAC Association Vic Inc, WRAAC Social Group,

Brighton Antique Club, Schnauzer Dog Club of Victoria, Altona RSL, Volunteer Meals on Wheels, and Church Volunteer groups.

Liz has been on the WRAAC Committee since 1997 and is currently Vice President and Membership Officer and has been the Association Luncheon Returning Officer since 2015.

The WRAAC Social Group, Liz is a foundation member / organiser of the social group lunches for over 30 years.

Liz has been with the Brighton Antique Club for about 30 years roles include President, Vice President, Membership Officer, and Door Monitor.

With the Schnauzer Dog Club of Victoria, Liz has been a member for over 15 years is currently Secretary/ Treasurer, also Liz fosters dogs and is a participant in dog shows. She also volunteers doing Meals on Wheels the Hobson Bay City Council, who recently congratulated Liz on her 20 years' service delivering Meals.

Liz also knits gloves, knee rugs and beanies for the people at church and ADF Veterans, for them to stay warm during winter.

Liz is also a member at the Altona RSL Subbranch where she helps with Veterans luncheons and helps behind the scenes.

Welcome To Our New Chaplain



I would like to introduce Kirsten

Linden who has accepted our request to be our ongoing Chaplain since Rev Bill Pugh has stood down.

Kirsten was invited to attend our Annual Luncheon held on 15th July at the Melbourne Zoo and she responded in the affirmative immediately. She was seated with me on the Meerkat table and engaged with all whom she met throughout the day. She also provided Grace for the luncheon.

This was received by Margaret Jager, via email from Kirsten:

Good afternoon, Margaret, Thank you again for such an enjoyable luncheon experience. It was such a lovely day meeting the ladies and sharing in the fun that you, your family, and others so exceptionally prepared. I feel very honoured to be asked to be affiliated with such an association and will do my utmost to be a blessing to all those involved.

I made contact with Rev Bill Pugh and had a lovely chat; what a lovely God-fearing man. The girls have truly been blessed to have had him walking alongside you for all that length of time.

Kirsten's biographical details are as follows:

Meet Kirsten Linden, a devoted Pastor driven by a deep passion for nurturing people's gifts and potential. Over the past 15 years, Kirsten has served as a dynamic leader within her local church, guiding and empowering teams in church, community, and chaplaincy roles. Witnessing remarkable growth, she has been instrumental in expanding the church eight-fold. Together with the Oversight team, Kirsten played a key role in establishing a significant food security, social isolation, and disability engagement program. She also serves as a

Chaplain in the Australian Army, supporting Defence members.

A natural communicator with a heart for pastoral ministry, Kirsten connects effortlessly with individuals from all walks of life. Her public speaking engagements and one-on-one interactions reflect her unwavering optimism, inspiring and motivating those under her guidance to stay dedicated to their mission.

Outside of her pastoral responsibilities, Kirsten finds joy in her family life alongside her husband, Phil, and their six children, and one grandchild. Her love for music shines through, as she recently achieved her AMusA in Singing Performance, showcasing her talents as an accomplished singer who both performs and appreciates music.

We welcome Kirsten's involvement with the Association and look forward to many joyous times ahead.

Dexter Purcell President

— 2023 - 2024 — Calendar of Events

Social Group Lunch
11:30am at Altona RSL
Contact: Liz Maclaine or Lyn Board
WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc. AGM
at 11:00 via Zoom.
If you wish to attend, please register with
the Secretary by 3rd November 2023.
ANZAC Day
Check newspapers for details.
AWAS/WRAAC Shrine Service
10am Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

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Journal Article Submission Deadline

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

FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2023

Articles can be posted or e-mailed to: Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

Postal Address: C/- 87 Westmelton Drive,

Melton West, VIC. 3337

E-mail: jager_id@bigpond.com

Association Contacts & Addresses AWAS/WRAAC Journal

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Heather Hyatt: 0412 230 594 Lyn Board: 03 5989 2553 Sheila Vennells-Praed: 0407 357 987 Elizabeth Salmon: 0438 573 357

Ceremonial Officer

Elizabeth Salmon

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Sub-Committee

Brenda (Ruby) Walters Gai Cooke



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Dexter Purcell SECRETARYCarol King 16 RICHARD STREET WILLIAMSTOWN. VIC. 3016 Telephone: 03 9397 1043

Website: www.wraacvic.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

	Rank)	(Surname)	(Given		
Maiden Name ((If Applicable):		Date of	f Birth:	
Address:					
			Postcode:		
Telephone (Hor	me):	(Mobile):		Work):	
Email Address:					
(Victoria) Incor	porated. In the eve	ne Women's Royal Au ent of my admission a e Association for the ti	s a Member, I a	agree to be bound	
Cost of Membership: Annual Membership (\$8.00 per year) Life Membership (\$80.00)					
(Circle Type of Membership required) Payment Enclosed: Cheque. Cash. Other.					
If paying by EFT; For Bank Details, contact Liz Maclaine					
(Please Circle) - Branch of Service. ARA. CMF. ARES. AWAS. OTHER:					
Regt No.	WRAAC or Uni	t/s Served/Serving wi	th	Approx. Dates	
Nominated By					
Name:			Members	ship No:	
PLEASE RETURN FORM TO					
Mrs Liz Maclaine,					
	16 Richard	d Street, Williamstown	, Vic. 3016		



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):
Jnits Served with Approximate Years Served (Dates)
Signed: Date:
Digneu

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:	

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

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VICTORIA) INC



ANNUAL GENERÁL MEETING

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023 VIA ZOOM AT 11:00 | MELBOURNE

NOMINATION FORM PLEASE PRINT

I (Your Name)	being a financial			
member of the Association, nominate				
for the position of	on the committee.			
Signed:				
Proposer:	Print Name:			
Seconder:	. Print Name:			
I accept the nomination.				
(Signature)	Print Name:			
Seconder:	. Print Name:			
Nominations are to be sent to the Secretary, Carol King, 20 Jacques Road, Kiama Downs				
NSW 2533 by Friday 13th October 2021	or email: grantcarolking@gmail.com			
Only financial Member's may nominate, second, or be nominated.				
SECRETARY'S USE ONLY				
Date received				
All Financial Yes / No				

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Carol King Secretary

Pauline Priestly's 100th Birthday

Family and friends travelled

from all over Australia to spent time with Pauline during her 100th Birthday weekend. She was a great bushwalker, painter, embroidered, reader and writer. Nowadays she spends her time reading and living with family in Inverloch. She much enjoys the company of the Legatees and War Widows Club as well as friends and family. She received congratulations letters from all the important people, including the King.



Pauline was born in Lane Cove Sydney.

Pauline joined the Australian Women's Army Service, the AWAS, and served in Darwin in 1944. She gained the rank of corporal. Pauline said the best thing about her service was the company of other girls and making lifelong friendships.

Pauline was asked were there any particular actions or



events that you were involved in during your service?

Her reply was seeing the destruction of Darwin and the return to Australia of Prisoners of War in hospital ships.

Post War Pauline studied and worked as a podiatrist while a wife and mother. In later years she was a member of the Melbourne Women's Walking Club, painted and worked with the Williamstown U3A writing group and painting group. She spent happy years as a guide at the Melbourne Museum and Scienceworks and travelled extensively.

Pauline's two brothers were in the

RAAF and the eldest was killed whilst on a bombing mission over Europe. Pauline much admired and loved her father, who was awarded the Military Cross for bravery at Bullecourt in 1917. In 1947, Pauline married David Priestly following his discharge from the Royal Australian Navy and they had two children. Pauline worked as a podiatrist, travelled extensively, and enjoyed painting, reading, and writing.

WRAAC Association Vic wish Pauline, Congratulation's and all the very best wishes.

We would like to thank Sue Lindsay for her report on her mother's birthday.

MARGARET PROWSE 103 YEARS YOUNG

Margaret turned 103 years young on the 13th of July 2023. Margaret was a member of the AWAS and has been a long-time supporter of our association for many years We wish her all the very best.

Happy Birthday Margaret.



PHEOBE PARKER 104 YEARS YOUNG



Pheobe will be turning 104 years young in September. Pheobe was also a member of the AWAS and has been a supporter of our association for many years. We wish her all the very best.

Happy Birthday Pheobe.

WRAAC SOCIAL GROUP LUNCH

SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 11:30AM ALTONA RSL

31 Sargood St Altona 3018



For details and to attend, 03 9397 1043 | Email: lizardmac@hotmail.com or Lyn Board 03 5989 2553.



ANZAC Day 2023

Surprisingly, Melbourne put on a most magnificent sunny, Autumn day on 25th April this year!

After the usual FUP debate, we ended up in Swanston Street and stepped off with a good contingent.

My first time in the lead, I was ably supported by our Girl Guide, Katelyn Cartright who carried our banner and managed to avoid most of the tram tracks. She did her Guide Troop proud.

Those in the group were members Trish Anderson, Jan De Witte, Margaret Jager, Mary Kelly, Luise Nardella; and we were joined by Suzan Sayers-Phillips, Yvonne Sillett and ladies from the Women's Veterans Network.

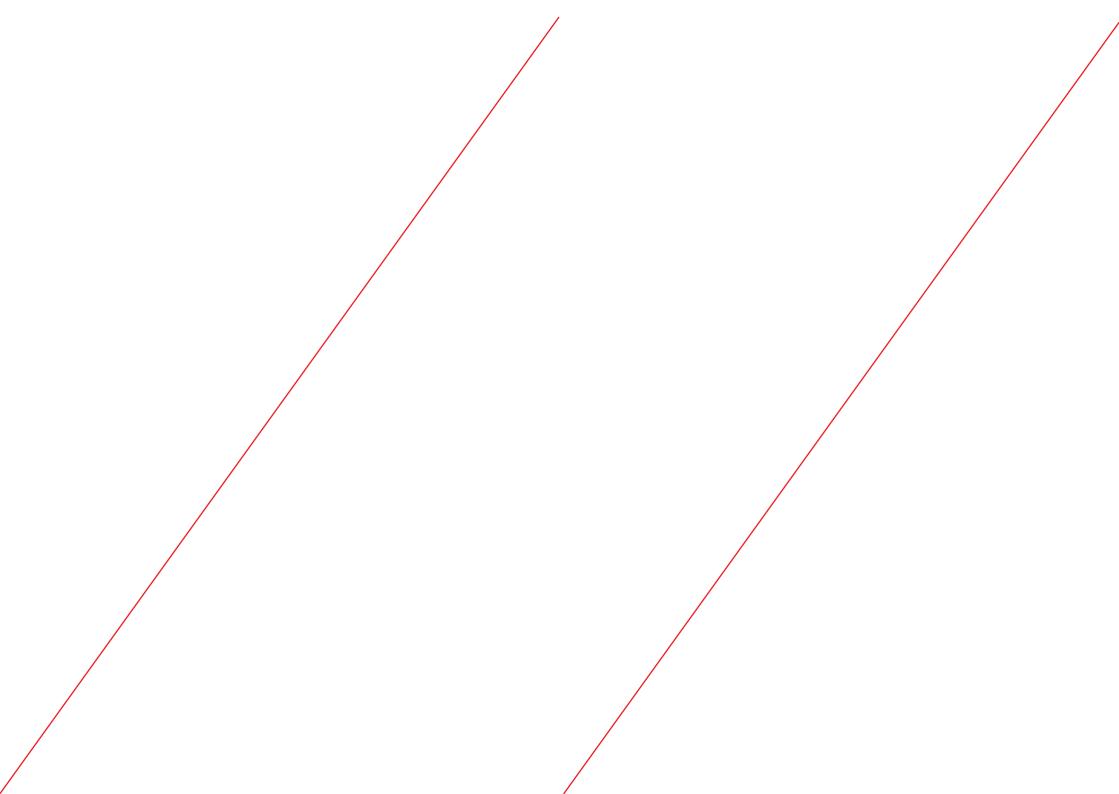
Two friends of mine, members of WRAAC WA, were visiting Melbourne and asked to join us for the march – Dianne Sutton



and Rhonda McInnes. They had a great time and thanked WRAAC Vic for making them so welcome.

A few of us retired to the Arbory Bar and Eatery at the back of Flinders St Station, overlooking the Yarra River and under the plane trees in the sunshine, where we consumed a very delicious breakfast burger, provided free

...continue on page 25





of charge to Serving and Ex-serving ADF members.

Looking forward to next year, hoping the weather is equally fine.

Dexter Purcell

Diane Sutton (WRAAC WA), Dexter Purcell, Rhonda Mcinnes (WRAAC WA)





Dexter Purcell, Trish Anderson, Diane Sutton, Luise Nardella, Rhonda Mcinnes, Suzan Sayers-Phillips



ANZAC Day March Group After The March

ANZAC DAY SCHOOL REPORTS

24TH APRIL: KILLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL



WRAAC Association were invited to attend the school's ANZAC Day Service in the School's Memorial Garden, which we have done for approximately 8 years, except for when the school was locked down due to Covid. This year Nola Williams and Margaret Jager attended, it is always a great service with the school's choir singing, Lest We Forget and Australia Remembers, also The National Anthem of Australia and New Zealand. The teachers, students and parents are all very pleased we take the time to take part in the service as it means a lot to the children.

26TH APRIL: MELTON PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADE 4C

Margaret Jager was asked if she could attend Melton Primary School and give a talk about ANZAC Day and what it means and what she did in the Army, then the class held a service, in which she also took part.



HANNAH WILLEY

28TH APRIL: GOONAWARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

WRAAC Association were invited by Kelli Brogan to attend an ANZAC Day Service at the school, Nola Williams and Margaret Jager again attended. This is the first time

we have attended at this primary school. We were met with a lot of smiles and a lot of questions from students, and we were made to feel very welcome. The



school choir which had only been together for about month sang and the service was also attended by a lot of parents. It was great to see so many parents involved.



AWAS / WRAAC SHRINE SERVICE



On the 7th May on a cool morning in Melbourne as we gathered at the Shrine of Remembrance for our annual memorial service to remember all our ladies that have and are still serving in the ADF. The Shrine Duty Manager, Rebecca Dixon welcomed everyone to the Shrine and spoke of women who have served in the ADF and why we were there to remember them. Our President Dexter Purcell welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming and acknowledged that our Patron Iris Petrass was present. Ryan and Hannah Willey from Melton Primary handed



CHILDREN OF GOONAWARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIR



LIZ ROUSE-SALMON

out the order of service and poppies to all in attendance. We had 30 children from Goonawarra Primary School in the choir singing Lest We Forget and the National Anthem under the direction of Kelli Brogan. Unfortunately, Chaplin Steven Maggs fell ill and was unable to attend so Sheila Vennells-Praed and Mary Kelly stepped up to say the prayers, Liz Rouse Salmon recited The Ode while Liz Maclaine and Margaret Jager organised the wreaths to be laid. We laid wreaths for the following services AWAS, WRAAC, Land Army, Nursing, Navy, Air Force and the two schools represented laid wreaths as well. The service was attended by



MARY KELLY

approximately 100 people with the primary school parents and grandparents having good representation many of whom had never been to the Shrine before, and it was a good time for them to go and look around.

After the service we had morning tea, and speaking with the parents and grandparents of the children they were so proud of the children and that they had been asked to sing at the Shrine. The service was streamed on



the Shrine of Remembrance Website which indicates that some 226 views of our service had taken place so people that couldn't make the service were able to watch it via live stream.



SHEILA VENNELS-PRAED

WRAAC Annual Luncheon

15TH JULY 2023

Was held at the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens in the Bong Su Function Centre.

We had 66 people attend our luncheon. Instead of table numbers we had toy zoo animals to indicate what table was what, and they became table prizes which were drawn during the function, also on the tables were our WRAAC Diaries. WRAAC M&M's, Chocolates dressed up as animal zoo poo, WRAAC Menu's, and order of service with animal ribbon around the serviettes. Those ladies that needed a little assistance to get to the Bong Su Function Centre, met with Sheila Vennells-Praed at the front of the Zoo and Sheila transported them by car to the function centre.



When the ladies arrived, they were greeted by Carol King and Lyn Board at the registration table where an animal name tag was given, the animal on the tag indicated what table they were on.

Liz MacLaine got proceedings under way and then handed to our President Dexter Purcell, who thanked everyone for attending and mentioned our Patron Iris Petrass, More Media our Navy ladies who always support our luncheon and Kelli Brogan our soloist, then wished our centenarians a very happy birthday. Phoebe Parker 104 in Sept, Margaret Prowse 103 in July, and Pauline Priestly 100 in July. Unfortunately, Margaret Prowse and Pauline Priestly were unable to make this year's luncheon, but a loud rendition of happy birthday was sung to all three ladies. Dexter then congratulated Liz MacLaine on receiving an OAM, in the King's Birthday Honours List in June, and then introduced our new Chaplain Kirsten Linden, to all present.



Table Prize Winners; Judi Kennedy (Rhino), Toni Cornelius (Kookaburra), Joy Sims (Lion), Lois Hore (Giraffe), Sonia Thompson (Meerkat), Sheila Vennels-Praed (Tiger), Ken Gibson (Hippo), Rebecca Stephen (Zebra), Front Row; Wendy Sedgwick (Navy) (Elephant), Kath Murnane (Turtle)



Jodie Sinclair, Liz Maclaine, Bronwyn Rowleson, Ruth Ogden, Rebecca Stephen, Cindy Marett

After the formalities were over lunch was served, it looked and tasted amazing. We had Roasted Chicken Breast with Pea fondue. potato fondant, roasted root vegetables & red wine jus or Beef Fillet with Parsnip creme, roasted baby carrots, charred pencil leek and watercress. Then came Dessert, Pecan Dark Chocolate Cake, pecan cake, milk chocolate light ganache, caramel & wattle seed crumble or Raspberry Charlottecoconut dacquoise, raspberry mousse, raspberry coulis sponge & river mint chocolate garnish.



Then it was time for our raffle, once again it was a little rowdy, but a lot of laughter and fun was had. Margaret Jager thanked everyone who donated raffle prizes, and congratulated all table winners and wished all a safe travel home. The animal that was in the enclosure on the side of the function room, was a Binturong and it finally came out to see us at the end of the day.











Lorraine MacDougall & Phoebe Parker



Phoebe Parker, Toni Cornelius, Vera Duane, Lorraine MacDougall, Lorraine Coleman



VALE

CORPORAL DOROTHY ELIZABETH (WEEKS) EASTON VF516661 (SIGNALS) 12/9/26 – 24/6/23

Passed away on 24th June 2023 aged 96.

Lorna Paterson (AWAS) writes; I first met Dot on the train to Rookie Camp at Darley. We had just joined the AWAS to serve in WW2, Dot just 18 and I was a month off 19. About 100 of us were boarded on to a train to Darley, on what was a long trip in those days. 8 of us sat together on the train and as we got on well on the trip, we decided we would stay together and keep in touch. While this seemed a good idea, the army works differently and their alphabetical order meant that E for Easton, as I was in those days, saw me heading away from my newfound friends who had



surnames of Weeks, Usher, Smyth and Picket. However, as fate would have it, we did meet up again and this led to good friendships, the longest lasting one being with Dot. We attended clerical school and Signals Cypher together, then Dot went to Queensland, and I stayed in Victoria.

Dot came from Geelong, which in those days was a time consuming and costly trip for weekend leave from camp. So, it was a good idea for Dot to come home with me to Oakleigh. On one particular weekend my brother Clyde was also home on leave from the Air force. By the end of the weekend Clyde was walking Dot back to the station and that was the start of a long, loving relationship.

Clyde and Dot married in 1947 and I was one of their bridesmaids at their wedding. When I asked Dot to be my bridesmaid one year later, the answer was 'NO' – she was due to have her baby that day. Colin was born on that day; we postponed our wedding and Colin was a welcome guest at our wedding.

Both their family (5 children) and my family (3 children) grew up together and we shared many happy family events and local holidays. We also enjoyed our AWAS Signals Reunion lunches, a great chance to catch up with old friends.

Dot passed away earlier this year and I will cherish the many happy memories of a (nearly) 80-year friendship.

Lorna Paterson (nee Easton) VF516582

Thank you Lorna.

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LYNETTE SULLIVAN (LYNCH) F32240 17TH AUGUST 1953 – 3RD JULY 2023

Lynette Joined 3 WRAAC Coy in 1971 then went to 3 Catering Training School and gained the rank of Sgt Cook at MUR. Lynette served for 5 years and Discharged in 1976. Our Sympathies to the Lynch and Sullivan families.

May she Rest In Peace



Lest We Forget

WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE BECOMES A MEMORY,

OUR MEMORY BECOMES A TREASURE

1, 1,

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





ADA PRIESTLEY - AWAS 26TH MAY 1922 – 26TH DECEMBER 2021 MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

The Tower of London

After recently being at the Tower

of London, I learnt that the first female Yeomen Warder (Beefeater), at the Tower of London was Moira Cameron who joined on the 1st of July 2007. But before she



MOIRA CAMERON

could become a beefeater, she needed to have at least 22 years military service, and reach the rank of Warrant Officer, and been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct medals, also be between 40 and 55 years old on appointment.

> Moira Cameron started her military career with Women's Royal Army Corps in June 1985 at the age of 20, she was trained as a Data Telegraphist with the Royal Corps of Signals, before transferring to the Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC) in 1988 to train as a Military Accountant, In 1992 WRAC and RAPC were replaced by the Adjutant General's Corps. On completing 22 years in the army in June 2007, Moira officially became the first ever female Yeomen Warder. Moira wasn't the first female



AMANDA CLARK

to apply to become a beefeater, but she was the first to pass the interview process beating 5 male candidates for the vacancy.

When waiting to be a beefeater, you are given 6 month's to learn the standard script of the Tower's history off by heart. Then at the end of training, you must perform for the Chief Yeoman Warder and the Resident Governor first thing in the morning, and the tradition is that if you pass you take the first public guided tour of the day. Moira had an additional role of Clerk to the Chapels Royal, before retiring in 2022. Whilst she was a Beefeater, Moira lived in a subsidised apartment in Casemates at the Tower along with 35 resident beefeaters and their families.

The Beefeaters start at 0630 hours to open the Middle Drawbridge, so family members going to work can leave the Tower.

The Red Tower of London Yeoman's uniforms, which are used mainly for Ceremonial Events, cost around

EMMA ROUSELL

7,000 pounds each, because of all the gold embroidery on them, this is why you see beefeaters also wear a dark blue uniform as well for everyday duties. Originally Prison Guard's became the Yeoman Warder's, the position dates to 1485. It is now largely a ceremonial role, with the responsibility for conducting guided tours and generally looking after the public visitors to the tower as well as conducting certain other duties both inside and outside the tower.

To this time; there have been 3 female Yeomen Warders; Moira Cameron – WRAC Joined in 2007 retired in 2022 Amanda Clark- Royal Logistic Corps joined in 2017 still serving Emma Rousell – Royal Airforce joined in 2021 still serving.



All 3 ladies had served in their respective corps on overseas deployments.

Thank you to the Tower of London, Guide London, and Wikipedia, for your help it was a wonderful place to see and learn the history of this location.

Margaret Jager