



# MARCHING ALONG



## *WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter*

Volume 9 Issue 1

January 2018



Left to Right – Dr Brendan Nelson AO BMBS FRACP (Hon) FAMA,  
Judith Rowe (Knight), Margaret Smith, Kerry Holmes (Wallis)

Newsletter of the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)

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**WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)**

# **2017 Overview of the WRANS - Naval Women Association (ACT) Activities**

## **Events/Representations**

### **April - The Canberra Hospital ANZAC Memorial Service**

No photos available

On 19 April, Pauline Gribble (McCormick) laid a wreath on behalf of the WRANS–ACT during the ANZAC Memorial Service in the Veteran's Remembrance Garden at the Canberra Hospital.

This special service was attended by veteran patients, families, carers, ex-service men and women, Canberra Hospital staff, and members of the public.

### **April – War Widows Field of the Remembrance**



On 21 April, Rose Van Dijk (Wood) attended the War Widows Field of the Remembrance dedication ceremony and ANZAC Day Service at the El Alamein village in Lyneham.

Rose was accompanied by her daughter, Lauren who had the opportunity to meet WWII veterans and hear of their experiences.

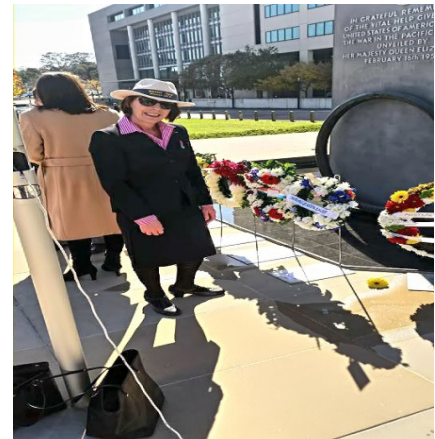


## April - ANZAC Day National March



On 25 April, during the national Anzac Day march members of the WRANS-ACT were joined by current serving women from HMAS HARMAN, HMAS CANBERRA and the Girl Scouts who braved the icy cold wind and rain.

## **May - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Commemorative Service**



On 5 May, Rose Van Dijk (Wood) attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration Service held at the Australian - American Memorial at Blamey Square Russell. Rose laid a wreath on behalf of the WRANS-ACT.

## **May - NSW – Annual Reunion Church Service**



On 28 May, Pauline Gribble (McCormick) and Heather Milward (Gunner) attended the NSW WRANS Annual Memorial Service which was held at the St Stephens Church in Sydney. This was well attended by current and past serving personnel, Sea Scouts and members of the public. However, due to the current national security environment the ceremony could not be held at Garden Island.



## June – Mid-winter lunch

No photos available

On 18 June the annual mid-winter lunch was held at the George Harcourt Inn. This event was organised by Kerry Holmes (Wallis). The weather was fine and nineteen members and friends attended. Everyone enjoyed the lunch and catch-up.

## August -75<sup>th</sup> HMAS Canberra Commemorative Service



On 9 August, Pauline Gribble (McCormick) represented the WRANS-ACT at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Canberra and laid a wreath.

Since the sinking of HMAS Canberra an annual memorial service is held in Canberra to commemorate the loss of the city's namesake heavy cruiser at the Battle of Savo Island on 9 August 1942.

## August - Angels for the Forgotten



On 16 August, Pauline Gribble (McCormick) and Margaret Smith travelled to Goulburn and presented to Melina Skidmore a \$1000 cheque for the *Angels of the Forgotten*. The presentation of this cheque was made possible due to the unanimous agreement by all of the members at the August meeting.

*(Angels of the Forgotten - The charity covers a large portion of southern New South Wales and is committed to making life better for the members of society who find themselves homeless. Veterans both male and females make up a large number using the charity.)*

## October – WRANS Commemorative Service at HMAS Harman



On 21 October, Kerry Holmes (Wallis) and LCDR Sue Wheeler RANR organised the annual WRANS-ACT Commemorative Service and lunch at HMAS Harman. LCDR Andrea Argirdes RAN was the guest speaker for the Memorial Service.

Three of our WWII WRANS attended and spoke to the young women from the TS Canberra Cadets. A WWII WRAN badge was presented to Elinor Swan, Merle Hare and Jean Nysen. LCDR Sue Wheeler RANR liaised with HMAS Harman and TS Canberra which ensured the smooth running of the Memorial Service.



## WRANS Commemorative Service at HMAS Harman (continued)



On 8 November, Beth Roberts (Cozens) wrote a letter to the Canberra Times to acknowledge the interaction between the WWII WRANS and the TS Canberra Cadets. As a result of Beth's letter, Florence Heller (St John) who currently lives in London contacted the WRANS-ACT and joined the association. Florence's service in the WRANS was between 1942 and 1946.

Florence initiated the contact because her nephew sent her a copy of the news clipping. During a trip to England Kerry Holmes visited Florence and provided some WRANS memorabilia.

## November – NSW WRANS Annual Christmas lunch



On 18 November, Pauline Gribble (McCormick) and Dennis her husband attended the NSW WRANS annual Christmas lunch which was held at St Stephens Church. This event was well attended by the NSW WRANS as many of them do not live in Sydney. An enjoyable time was had by all.

## November - Last post ceremony – WRNS 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary



On 29 November, a group of members from the WRANS-ACT attended the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which was mentioned during the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

Prior to the ceremony, both the members of the WRANS and WRNS gathered for afternoon tea at Poppys café.

Margaret Smith laid a wreath during the ceremony.

## December - Christmas dinner

No photos available

06 December, Kerry Holmes (Wallis) organised the WRANS – ACT Christmas dinner which was held at Olive in Mawson ACT. It was agreed by all who attended that instead of having a secret Santa among themselves that the attendees would donate the money to the *Angels for the Forgotten*.

The attendees donated \$300. The Restaurant owner donated an additional \$50 to the charity on hearing about the cause.



On 11 December, Rae Milfull (Cooper), Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Kerry Holmes (Wallis) and Margaret Smith travelled to Goulburn and presented the monies to Melina Skidmore for the Angels for the Forgotten charity.



## December - WRNS lunch held at Amaroo



On 10 December, four members of WRANS-ACT attended the WRNS 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch held in a private residence in Amaroo. Lunch was enjoyable and the interaction between the attendees was like old friends catching up.

Everyone who attended would like to see a closer relationship develop and share possible activities in 2018.

## December - Presentation to TS Canberra

No photos available

In December, Rae Milfull (Cooper) attended the last parade for 2017 for the Naval Cadets of TS Canberra at HMAS Harman. Rae presented a certificate to the top female Cadet.

## VALE



Melba Petrovich (Hewitt) passed away in December. Melba's service was undertaken in the WRANS between 1944 to 1946. Melba was living in a retirement home in Castle Hill when she passed away.



Please pass this Newsletter along to your Navy friends for information.

## WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)

### Proposed - EVENTS PROGRAM 2018

DATE	TIME	FUNCTION	VENUE	RSVP
Mon 12 Feb	1800	General Meeting followed by the AGM and Dinner	Southern Cross Club Woden	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Mon 25 Apr	1000	ANZAC Day March Please arrive prior to 1000.	Placement 2, ANZAC Parade	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Mon 25 Apr	1230	ANZAC Day Lunch	<b>TBA</b>	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Mon 7 May	1800	General Meeting and Dinner	Southern Cross Club Woden	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Sat 18 June	1230	Mid-Winter Lunch	<i>TBA</i>	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Mon 8 Aug	1800	General Meeting and Dinner	Southern Cross Club Woden	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Sat 22 Oct	1100	Annual WRANS Commemoration Service	WRANS Memorial at HMAS <i>HARMAN</i>	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Sat 22 Oct	1230	Lunch following Memorial Ceremony	<i>TBA</i>	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Mon 7 Nov	1800	General Meeting and Dinner	Southern Cross Club Woden	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527
Wed 7 Dec	1830	Christmas Dinner	<i>TBA</i>	To <a href="mailto:secretary@wransact.org">secretary@wransact.org</a> Ph: 0412 122 527

*The above Events Programme is to be confirmed but please note the meeting dates in your diary.*

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES 2018**

Membership renewals are now due so if you have not already done so, could you please pay your annual membership subscription of \$20.00 before the next Annual General Meeting either by

cash or by cheque made out to the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT) and forwarded to

The Treasurer,  
WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT),  
PO Box 402,  
WODEN ACT 2606

or if you prefer you could pay online by direct transfer. The account details are

*BSB Number*            *633000*

*Account number*    *120 827 027*

*Account name*        *WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT)*

Payee Reference – your Surname/Mship 2018

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME JOINING FEE IS \$10.00  
PLUS THE ANNUAL \$20.00 SUBSCRIPTION  
(Application Form on website)**

**INVITE YOUR NAVY FRIENDS ALONG TO OUR MEETINGS!**

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**Personal Details**            -            New email address – moved?

We need to continually update our contact details so if you have changed address, email etc., would you please complete the following and either return it to the Membership Secretary, PO Box 402, Woden ACT 2606 or hand it in at the next General Meeting.

### **PERSONAL DETAILS – UPDATE**

Surname ..... Given Names .....

Address .....

Telephone (Home) ..... (Work) .....

(Mobile) .....

(Email address) .....

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