



MARCHING ALONG



WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 3

June 2018



WRANS visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum near HMAS Albatross

Left-Right: Pauline Gribble, Heather Milward, Margaret Smith, Christine Lamb, Vicki Chin

Front: Pat Quick

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

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WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)

April – June 2018

WRANS - Naval Women Association (ACT)

Activities

Events/Representations

April



ANZAC Commemoration Service – Canberra hospital

On 18 April, Margaret Smith represented the WRANS (ACT) and laid a wreath at the Canberra Hospital ANZAC Commemoration Service. The service was held in the Veterans Remembrance Garden. Chris Lamb (McNicol) and Pat McCabe attended the service but as representatives for other organisations.





War Widows Field of the Remembrance

On 20 April, Rae Milfill (Cooper) and Pat McCabe attended the ANZAC Day Service at the El Alamein village in Lyneham. Rae represented the WRANS (ACT) and placed a cross in the War Widows Field of Remembrance during the ceremony. Pat McCabe also attended representing another organisation.

ANZAC Day March



The WRANS marched and supported the '*By the Left*' initiative on ANZAC day, marching with the women veterans' contingent but under the WRANS banner. LS Sarra-Jane Gill led the '*By the Left*' contingent. Kerry Holmes (Wallis) and Alison Hartigan from '*By the Left*' were interviewed by the ABC reporter for local pre-march coverage.

The '*By the Left*' initiative was well supported across the national ANZAC day marches.

ANZAC Day - Villers Brettoneux



Pauline Gribble (McCormick) and her husband Dennis had the opportunity to attend the 2018 ANZAC Day dawn service for 100th anniversary of the battle of Villers Brettoneux. It was a very cold and wet morning. This was part of a 2-week tour for the Western Front Battlefield tour which had 140 Australians who were ex-military or had a military past. The tour included visits to France, Belgium and The Netherlands. Some of the places visited were; the Flanders Fields Museum the battlefields of Pozieres, Morlancourt, Mont St Quentin, and around Ypres. We also attended a sunset ceremony at Menin Gates. While on tour, Pauline met Jennifer Weiberle an ex-WRAN Communicator who currently lives in Sydney with her family.

May

Thea Commins Memorial service



On 08 May, Pauline Gribble attended the funeral of Thea Adrienne Comins a WWII WRAAC who was asked to lead the '*By the Left*' initiative for the 2018 ANZAC Day national march. A couple of days prior to ANZAC

Day Thea was presented with a 'quilt for heroes', which she was proud and thrilled to accept. Unfortunately, not long after receiving the quilt Thea became ill and was unable to lead the national march and on 29 April 2018 she passed away. She was 96 years and 2 days old. During her memorial, her family reflected on the prayer she lived by:

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can, and the
Wisdom to know the difference.*

Battle of the Coral Sea



On 11 May, Pauline Gribble attended the 76th Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration held by the Australian - American Association Canberra at the Field Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey Square, Canberra. It was a very cold day but well attended, by the Governor-General and representatives of the US and Japanese embassies, the Australian Defence Force and ex-Service Organisations.

NSW WRANS annual Memorial Church service





On 27 May, Margaret Smith, Heather Milward (Gunner) and Pauline Gribble travelled to Sydney to attend the WRANS Naval Women's Association NSW Annual Church Service held at the St Stephens Church Sydney. The service was well attended and an enjoyable day catching up with old friends. We travelled by car to Campbelltown and caught the train into the city, which made the trip worry free.

Women's Royal Naval Service lunch

On 10 June, Chris Lamb and Pauline Gribble attended a lunch held by the WRNS at the Ainslie Football Club. A dozen people attended the lunch, which was an enjoyable afternoon on a cold winter's day. We discussed their possible attendance at our WRANS Commemorative Service in October and said we will ensure an invitation is sent.

Mid-winter lunch



On 16 June 2018, the mid-winter lunch for the WRANS was held at the George Harcourt Inn in Nicolls. Nine people attended the lunch, which was relaxing and enjoyable even though it was a very cold day. During conversation, it was suggested the possibility of having more informal lunches throughout the year; maybe on a Sunday in different areas in Canberra and Queanbeyan.

Visit to Fleet Air Arm Museum Nowra and HMAS Albatross



On 27 June, the HMAS Sydney Vietnam Association invited members of the WRANS (ACT) to join them on a day trip to Nowra. Heather Milward, Vicki Chin (Neville), Pat Quick (Hyland), Chris Lamb, Margaret Smith and Pauline Gribble all attended. Members from HMAS Sydney Vietnam Association, WRANS (ACT) Legacy ACT and the Naval Association made up the travellers.

We were fortunate to have a guided bus tour on HMAS *Albatross* base, by the Executive Officer. The tour of the base brought back many memories. I enjoyed listening to reminiscences and living history from the members who served at HMAS *Albatross* in various roles.

VALE



Joy Harrison

It is with sadness that I advise of the passing of Joy Harrison (Waller) on 29 June 2018. Joy serviced in the WRANS from 1954 to 1957 as a LWRTTEL(S). Joy was living in Traralgon Victoria when she passed away.

Upcoming events

“Hallowed Ground – Women Doctors in War”

25th July - Friends of the Memorial have been invited to attend a production of "Hallowed Ground - Women Doctors in War", if you would like to reserve a place, please email marketing@awm.gov.au

The Chairman of the Council of the Australian War Memorial,
Mr Kerry Stokes AC, and the Memorial's Director,
Dr Brendan Nelson AO

warmly invite you and a guest to attend
the matinee of a new theatrical production

“Hallowed Ground - Women Doctors in War”
The play is a composite of first hand experiences of Australian
women doctors in the military.

Wednesday, 25 July 2018

BAE Systems Theatre
Australian War Memorial, Treloar Crescent, Campbell.
2pm - 3.30pm

RSVP: marketing@awm.gov.au by 18 July 2018.

This event is proudly supported by Christine Zeitz,
Chief Executive, Leidos Australia and her team.



This play is inspired by the book - "Not for Glory" by Susan J. Neuhaus and Sharon Mascall - Dare.

HMAS Canberra

10 August - WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) are invited to attend the HMAS Canberra Commemorative Service, which will be held at the HMAS Canberra Memorial, Wendouree Drive, next to the Pavilion. The Service will commence at 11am.

Vietnam Veteran's Remembrance Day Service

18 August - WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) are invited to lay a wreath for the Vietnam Veterans' Remembrance Day Service. The Commemoration will be held on Anzac Parade and will commence at 10am.

Honouring Women United by Defence Service

On 11 September, as part of the end of Centenary of Anzac, two commemorations for the 'Honouring Women United by Defence Service 2018' are being held. The events will commemorate and honour all women whose lives have been impacted by Defence service. All are welcomed to attend the Last Post and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial at 1645. This will be followed by a national dinner event to be held at the Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Canberra which will commence at 1830.

For more information and to purchase tickets: www.tinyurl.com/hwuds or telephone 1800 451 615.

DVA News



As of 1 July 2018 ALL ADF and ex-ADF personnel who have served for more than one day are now able to access services utilising a DVA white card for all mental health medical treatment and medications. This does not include Reservists at this stage.

As of 1 July 2018, the mental health services were extended to ALL children of ALL ADF and ex-ADF personnel of any era. This includes all Service eras – WW2, Korean War or any other era – where the children (of any age) can access DVA mental health services.

To utilise the DVA mental health services just call **1800 011 046** to register for the services. Please pass this information to any family member who may be assisted by this service. For further information see the DVA Fact Sheet HSV109 – Non-Liability Health Care.

The Non-Liability Health Care Card is also available to any ADF and ex-ADF person who is diagnosed has having cancer. There are a few eligibility criteria for this service. These criteria are also listed on Fact Sheet HSV109.

Eligible widowed partners and spouses can now access childcare assistance under the Family Support Package. To be an eligible widowed partner or spouse see the DVA Fact Sheet MRC53.

There is also availability for the Family Support Package for Veterans who are not Widowed. See DVA Fact Sheet MRC52 for further eligibility criteria. This family support package includes access to childcare funding and entitlements.

NB. If you are unable to access these fact sheets contact me and I will mail them to you.

The next **WRANS reunion** will be held in Perth between 27 - 30 August 2020.

WRANS-RAN Women's Association WA

warmly invites you to Perth for the 2020 National Reunion
27th August – 30th August 2020.

Expressions of interest to be returned by email to: - reunion2020@bigpond.com
Or post to

Reunion 2020, PO Box 3094,
Mandurah East. 6210

Registrations will commence in January 2020.

Name:.....

Maiden Name:.....

Service No:.....

Years of Service:.....

Contact Details: (Address, email or phone no)

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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 13 Aug	1800	General Meeting and Dinner	Southern Cross Club Woden	To secretary@wransact.org Ph: 0412 122 527
Sat 20 Oct	1100	Annual WRANS Commemoration Service	WRANS Memorial at HMAS <i>HARMAN</i>	To secretary@wransact.org Ph: 0412 122 527
Sat 20 Oct	1230	Lunch following Memorial Ceremony	<i>HMAS HARMAN – Bonshaw Mess</i>	To secretary@wransact.org Ph: 0412 122 527
Mon 12 Nov	1800	General Meeting and Dinner	Southern Cross Club Woden	To secretary@wransact.org Ph: 0412 122 527
Wed 5 Dec	1830	Christmas Dinner	<i>TBA</i>	To secretary@wransact.org 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!

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)
