



MARCHING ALONG



WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 4

December 2019



September – December – Happenings in WRANS ACT

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

September - December 2019

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Ladies

Happy New Year to you all and it is hoped that you have not been adversely affected by the current bush fire crisis. If you require any assistance as a result of this crisis, please contact me, or other members of the Committee, at 0407 039 947 or president@wransact.org.

Summary of 2019

This year has been a busy one and full of various activities. Social contact for members has improved with the informal weekday morning teas and weekday lunches. These lunches and morning teas provide opportunities for members to reminisce and enjoy each other's company, especially for those who are unable to attend night-time activities. Spouses, family and friends are welcome to come to the morning teas and lunches.

A number of WRANS were sick or had operations this year including Beth Roberts (Cozens), Vicki Chin (Neville), Elinor Swan (Douglas) and Joan Henstock (Reynolds). Please take care and let the Committee know if we can help in any way.

We are now staying in contact with people through Facebook, email and the website. Pat McCabe posts photos on the website and Rose Van Dijk (Wood) posts items of interest onto Facebook. If you have any photos send them in so we can all enjoy them.

If you would like to join the WRANS Committee for 2020, you will be welcome and appreciated.

September

WRANS Exec meeting

On 03 September, the WRANS Executive met for a meeting at the Southern Cross Club, Woden and a casual dinner afterwards. This meeting finalised the arrangements for the WRANS Memorial Service at *HMAS Harman* in October.

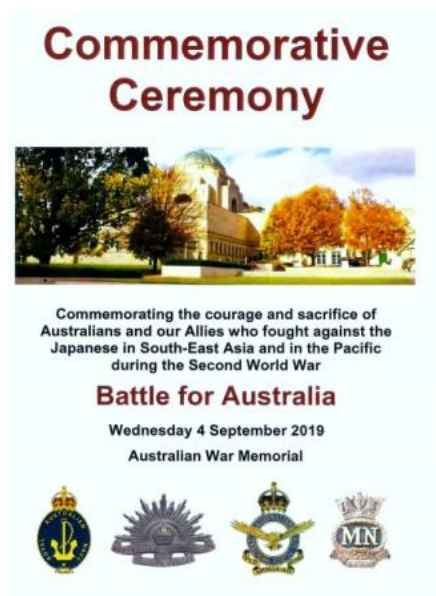
Battle for Australia – Commemorative wreath laying ceremony

On 04 September, the Commemorative Ceremony for the Battle for Australia was held in the Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial. Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Pat McCabe, Merle Hare (Storrie) and Merle's daughter, Ann Hare, attended the ceremony. There were representatives from the ACT Government, the US and UK navies, the Australian Defence Force, ex-Service Organisations and children from various local schools. The children created a wreath during the ceremony and laid it in memory of those lost.

History:

Prime Minister John Curtin first used the term "Battle for Australia" after the fall of Singapore. In 2008, the Battle for Australia Day was formally gazetted, and is commemorated on the first Wednesday in September each year. The Battle for Australia refers to the period in early 1942, including the disastrous Malayan campaign, the fall of Rabaul (in Australian New Britain) and Singapore, the loss of the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia), through to the Japanese occupation of New Guinea and invasion of Papua New Guinea. During this period, Japanese aircraft and submarines attacked Australian towns and shipping.

Also remembered in the Battle for Australia are those who contributed to the war effort on the home front, and subsequent campaigns to liberate New Guinea, the Pacific, and South East Asia, until Japan surrendered in August 1945.



Informal morning tea

On 05 September, we met for our informal morning tea at Tulips in Pialligo, which is always friendly and boisterous. It is a great place to meet because there are so many menu options and places to sit and chat depending on the weather.



Defence Widows luncheon



On 05 September, Pauline Gribble attended the Defence Widows Group (DWG) lunch representing the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT). Chris Lamb is convenor of the Group and had arranged for



Trish Goddard to host a table of ex-service women and Brigadier Jane Spalding, who was representing Chief of Army. The new Patron of the DWG, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, was speaker. Mrs Hurley shared glimpses of her life story from meeting her husband to her current role as wife of the Governor General and she sang for us her own composition 'Defence Widows'. Members of the Canberra branch of the Australian Military Wives Choir also entertained us. It was a lively lunch and yes, we had to sing as Mrs Hurley likes to have singalongs.

General Meeting

On 09 September, a General meeting and dinner was held at the Southern Cross Club at Woden. It was agreed that an agenda item for the AGM in 2020 would be to increase the general meetings from two to three per year.

An email advising the proposed change to the rules of the Association will be sent in early January.

Informal lunch



On 15 September, an informal lunch with seven attending was held at the Ainslie Football Club. This is a nice way to while away a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon with friends. Family and friends all welcome.

October

Informal morning tea



On 03 October, we met again at Tulips café for a relaxed morning tea. The day was fine, so we sat on the veranda. The different conversations flowed and everyone caught up on news and holidays taken or planned. It also provides opportunities to discuss issues that may be of concern. Remember if you need a lift contact Pauline Gribble or Kerry Holmes (Wallis) 24 hours prior to the event. We even have some members taking a break from work to come along.

NSW WRAAF luncheon



On 12 October, Liz Watts (NSW WRANS), Trish Goddard, Heather Milward (Gunner) and Pauline Gribble attended a WRAAF luncheon in Sydney. This invite



came about after we attended the NSW WRANS annual church service in May. It was an enjoyable lunch. Trish and Heather proved that luck was on their side as they won multiple raffle prizes but happily gave them back into the pool for a redraw.

Open Arms forum

On 17 October, Pauline Gribble attended the Open Arms' Regional Advisory Forum. The forum focused on two issues: The Veteran Suicide Prevention Plan and the Veterans Wellbeing Plan.



Open Arms proposes a strategic partnership with the Black Dog institute, Lifeline, the Returned Services League (RSL), Phoenix Australia and Ex- Service Organisations (ESO) to implement the Black Dog Lifespan framework.

The forum considered the Veteran Wellbeing framework, developed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The forum was well attended by a wide variety of stakeholders.

WRANS Memorial – HMAS Harman



On 20 October, the annual WRANS Memorial Service was held at *HMAS Harman*. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances we had last minute changes with Judith Rowe (Knight) taking on the role of master of ceremonies and Carol Harris (Baker) reading the Naval Prayer.

Cadet Leading Seaman Mackenzie Brown read the naval ode. It was a very windy day, which was testing for Pauline Gribble giving the speech, but the catafalque party did a marvellous job.



In attendance at the Memorial were Mr Gordon Ramsay, MLA, Ms Nicole Lawder, Deputy Opposition Leader ACT, RADM Wendy Malcolm, CMDR Amanda Howard families and friends.



Many photos were taken and can be viewed on our website and Facebook page. Our photographer for the day was Pieter, Rose Van Dijk's husband.



November

Informal morning tea



On 07 November, we held our informal morning tea at Tulips café in Pialligo. It is a good way of staying in touch and sharing news good and bad. Come along all are welcome. It will only cost you time and a cup of coffee.



NSW WRANS Christmas lunch



On 16 November, Heather Milward (Gunner), Trish Goddard and Pauline Gribble once again took a road trip to Sydney. We attended the NSW WRANS Christmas lunch, held at St Stephens's church hall and included the WRAAC and WRAAF women.

Pauline Gribble gave an edited version of her ACT WRANS Memorial speech at the lunch, which was well accepted. If you have the opportunity to visit St Stephens's church do so the windows are quite incredible.

Informal lunch



On 17 November, we met for the informal lunch at the Ainslie Football Club. We had an opportunity to catch up and discuss upcoming trips and events. Everyone is welcome if you need a lift please let Pauline Gribble know.

WRANS Christmas Dinner



On 26 November, the WRANS Christmas dinner was held at the Southern Cross Yacht Club Yarralumla ACT. This was a good night and we had our own room so we could make noise without upsetting other patrons. We were able to mingle around the room with ease. Many photos from the dinner are on front page of this newsletter.



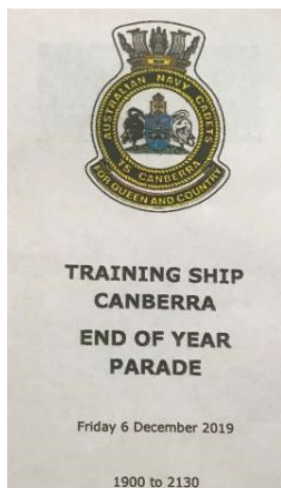
December

Informal morning tea

On 05 December, we had our last informal morning tea for 2019 at Tulips Café Pialligo. Always a surprise turns up. After discussion, the informal morning teas would resume on **06 February 2020**.



Naval Cadets - TS Canberra



On 06 December, Pauline Gribble attended the parade for Naval Cadets of *TS Canberra* at *HMAS Harman*. Pauline presented Cadet Able Seaman Hayley O'Sullivan with a certificate for the top female cadet for 2019. The WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT) sponsors an annual award for the female cadet of the year cadet at TS Canberra – a medallion. TS Canberra cadets provide the catafalque party for the WRANS annual memorial.



WRNS Christmas lunch

On 08 December, Trish Goddard, Chris Lamb, Heather Milward and Pauline Gribble attended the WRNS Christmas lunch at Amaroo. It was a lovely lunch and we had real Christmas pudding made by a WRN from her grandmother's recipe. Sorry, there were no leftovers.



Informal lunch

On 15 December, we held our last WRANS event for 2019. Lunch was at the Ainslie Football Club and the chatter was full of Christmas plans about who was travelling and who was expecting visitors from near and far.



Do you know of a WRAN or family who is ill?

Please let the committee know as flowers always lift the spirits and help to know we care and support you during the trying time.

Other activities

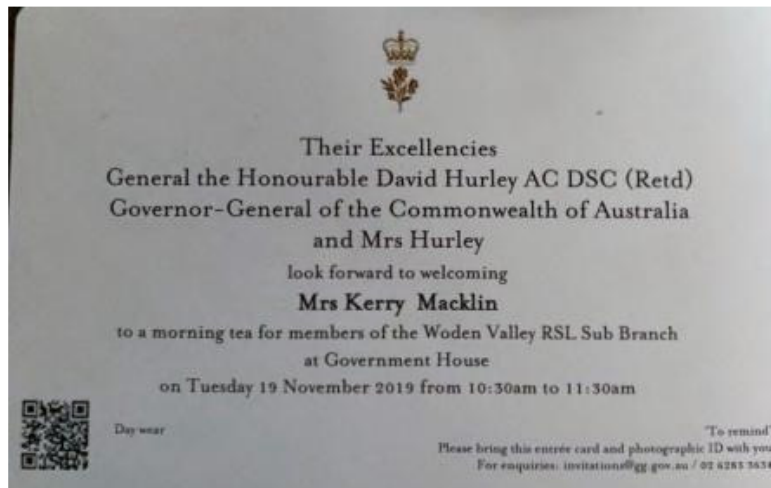
WRANS - visit to Government House

On 19 November, Kerry Macklin (Franklin) and Jill Kelly (Hildebrand) visited Government House for morning tea and had a singalong with Mrs Hurley. Kerry, Jill, Pauline Gribble and Chris Lamb volunteer as part of the social inclusion volunteers with the Woden RSL.



Kerry and Jill on this occasion accompanied the older veterans with the majority in their 90s to Government House. Mrs Hurley had written a special song for the visit and all participants sang along before enjoying the morning tea and speaking to the Governor General.

Seated beside Kerry is Norma Eggleston who is a 95-year-old WWII Army veteran. Jill chatting in the background.



DVA News



The Australian Parliament has now passed the legislation to enact the 'Veterans' Covenant'. The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant serves to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families. The Covenant is supported by the Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath. These provide the opportunity for Australians to identify veterans when they are not in uniform or



wearing their medals, and offer respect to them and their family.

Employers, businesses, local community groups and the broader Australian public are able to commit their support for the Covenant. The Covenant provides the framework that enables veterans and their families to better connect with their community.

It is necessary to apply for the Veterans' Card and the Veterans' Pin. This can be achieved by going to www.recognition.dva.gov.au. You will be directed to the MyGov website and gain access to MyService in order for the application to be completed.

Should you need assistance to access MyGov or if you do not have a computer, Members of this Association can assist you to obtain both the Veterans' Card and the pin by calling either the President or the Secretary.

Australian War Memorial Director appointed

Matthew Anderson PSM has been appointed as the next Director of the Australian War Memorial by the Government following a formal selection process.

Mr Anderson, a veteran himself, is the current Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

He will replace outgoing Director, Dr Brendan Nelson AO, who will conclude in the role at the end of this year.

The Prime Minister said Mr Anderson's skills, knowledge and experience will ensure the continued success of the Memorial.

"Mr Anderson is well placed to guide the Australian War Memorial through generational change to tell the stories of our more recent conflicts," the Prime Minister said.

"He has demonstrated his passion for military history and ensuring future generations are educated about the service and sacrifice of our personnel, having written three children's books on Australia's involvement in the First and Second World Wars.

"Over the past three years he has further built on his knowledge and passion, serving as the Australian Alternate on the Board of Trustees of the Imperial War Museum and Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

"I would like to congratulate Mr Anderson on his appointment and wish him all the very best for his tenure in guiding the memorial through an important part of its history and upholding its purpose in assisting to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society."

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said as a veteran himself, Mr Anderson will understand the importance of the Memorial's development project and ensuring the stories of our veterans are appropriately told.

"Mr Anderson is a Graduate of the Royal Military College Duntroon, spending eight years as an Australian Army Officer, including three years as Troop Commander for the Royal Australian Engineers," Mr Chester said.

"His service, along with his proven record of achievement in senior diplomatic postings, demonstrated leadership and knowledge of military history, will ensure the continued success of the Memorial."

The Prime Minister thanked Dr Brendan Nelson for all he has done to remember the almost two million people who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations, but also ensuring the stories of those currently serving are told in a solemn and respectful way.

"Dr Nelson has ensured the stories of an entire new generation of service are told and remembered alongside those that inspired their own sacrifice and to do the same for future generations. I wish him all the best for the future," the Prime Minister said.

Expanding access to low cost home insurance for veterans and members of the Australian Defence Force

More than 300,000 additional Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and veterans, including Reservists and Peacekeepers, will be able to access low cost home insurance through the Defence Service Homes Insurance.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said changes to eligibility will mean all current and former ADF members who have at least one day's continuous service can access Defence Service Homes Insurance from 1 January 2020.

"The expansion of eligibility will assist in reducing the cost of living for ADF members, veterans, and their families and ensure those who have protected our interests will have peace of mind knowing their homes are protected," Mr Chester said.

"This is particularly important for those ADF members and veterans in regional Australia and areas at high risk of cyclones and other natural catastrophes, such as northern Australia.

"As a Government, we are committed to putting veterans and their families first and the changes passed through Parliament today delivers on that commitment, providing a real benefit for a key cost-of-living expense."

For the last 100 years, Defence Service Homes Insurance has provided affordable home insurance to eligible ADF members and veterans, and the amendments to the *Defence Service Homes Act 1918* closes existing gaps in eligibility.

The home insurance offered through Defence Service Homes Insurance is comprehensive with economical premiums and includes a range of benefits such as no excess, accidental damage, and fusion of motor cover at no

additional charge.

Defence Service Homes Insurance can also provide access to other personal insurance products such as contents, motor vehicle and caravan insurance. For more information, visit www.dsh.gov.au.



Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling, provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families. Free and confidential help is available 24/7.

Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au

Upcoming events for 2020

January

- 08 January – Advise Kerry Holmes of attendance at Merle’s birthday lunch
- 12 January – Merle Hare’s birthday lunch at the Ainslie Football Club - commencing 1200
- 20 January – Last Post Ceremony commencing 1645 please arrive by 1630 hours AWM commemorating RAAF Sergeant Donald Kelway Storrie – Merle’s twin brother

12 January – 100th birthday lunch

On Sunday 12 January, a lunch is being held for Merle’s birthday at the Ainslie Football Club. The reason for the early lunch is that the following weekend of her actual birthday will be very emotional and busy for Merle.

All welcome to come to the lunch just let Kerry Holmes know by 08 January of your attendance.

We recognise that her family will organise activities for her birthday and we have no intentions interfering with those plans other than to attend the Last Post Ceremony as a show of respect for Merle recognising her sacrifice.

20 January 2020 - Merle Hare is turning 100yrs – Last Post Ceremony.

The committee has written to the Governor General, Ministers, representatives of the ACT Government, Chief of the Defence Force, Chief of Navy and Chief of Air Force to inform them of the upcoming milestone.

Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, AO, DSC will lay a wreath at the Last Post Ceremony. Warrant Officer of the Navy Deb Butterworth (representing CN) will attend. We are not expecting anything from the Ministers but we believe it is important to recognise this milestone.

Merle Hare (WR90)



Merle Hare (WR90) a founding and life member of both the ACT and Victorian WRANS Associations and will celebrate her 100th birthday on 20 January 2020. Merle is in very good health and humour and still lives independently.

This birthday milestone will be very poignant for Merle and her family as the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on



20th January will honour Merle’s twin brother, RAAF Sergeant Donald Kelway Storrie. RAAF Sergeant Storrie was posted to No. 20 Squadron in Batchelor RAAF Air Base in the Northern Territory.

On 7 March 1945, Sergeant Storrie was a crewmember in a Catalina flying boat engaged in minelaying in waters up to Japan. The aircraft failed to return, and has never been located. Sergeant Storrie was 25 years of age when he and his fellow crewmembers were declared lost.

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

<http://www.wranswa.org.au/wrans-ran-perth-reunion-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.

Registrations forms are available at <https://www.wrans-ranreunion2020.com/registration-form> or the form below can 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)

.....

.....

.....

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2020

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 2020

**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 – have you 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)

AGM Committee Elections

All Committee positions will become vacant during the AGM on the 9th February, 2020.
If you are interested in helping your Association please complete the form below and send to the President at president@wransact.org

WRANS – Naval Women’s Association (ACT) COMMITTEE NOMINATION 2020

I,
(please print name) (signature)

agrees to be nominated for the position

of WRANS – Naval Women’s Association (ACT).

Nominated by:

.....
(please print name) (signature)

Seconded by:

.....
(please print name) (signature)

Please forward completed nomination form by 9 February 2020 to:

Membership Secretary – secretary@wransact.org or –
WRANS – Naval Women’s Association (ACT)
PO Box 402
WODEN A.C.T. 2606

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

WRANS ACT - Naval Women's Association

Events Calendar - 2020

Month	Committee Meetings	General Meetings	Informal Lunches	Informal Morning Teas	Misc		
					Date	Event	Location
February	04-Feb-20	10-Feb-20	16-Feb-20	06-Feb-20			
March			15-Mar-20	05-Mar-20			
April	06-Apr-20		25-Apr-20	02-Apr-20	TBA	War Widow's Guild Field of Remembrance Ceremony	Sir Leslie Morshead Manor, Lyneham
					25-Apr-20	Anzac Day March please arrive prior to 1000	TBA
May		11-May-20	17-May-20	07-May-20	TBA	NSW WRANS Church Service	St Stephens Uniting Church, Macquarie St, Sydney
June	02-Jun-20			04-Jun-20	20-Jun-20		Mid-Year Lunch - Harcourt Inn, Gold Creek
July			19-Jul-20	02-Jul-20			
August	04-Aug-20		16-Aug-20	06-Aug-20		27-30 Aug - WRANS Reunion	Perth
September		14-Sep-20	20-Sep-20	03-Sep-20			
October	06-Oct-20			01-Oct-20	17-Oct-20	WRANS Memorial & lunch	HMAS Harman
November			15-Nov-20	05-Nov-20	24-Nov-20	Annual Xmas Dinner	TBA
December	01-Dec-20		20-Dec-20	03-Dec-20			

Informal Lunches - Tulips Café, 8 Beltana Road, Pialligo

Informal Morning Teas - Ainslie Football Club