



MARCHING ALONG



WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 3

September 2019



June – July – August – Happenings in WRANS ACT

Newsletter of the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)
PO Box 402
Woden, ACT 2606

President: Mrs Pauline Gribble (McCormick)
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WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT)

June - August 2019

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We have had a quieter time over the winter months with social activities. The feedback from members is that the informal morning teas and lunches are enjoyable and relaxing affairs, which enables issues be discussed in an amenable and friendly environment.

Remember, if you need assistance with anything - please contact one of the committee because we are happy to help if we can.

Theatre 3 – The World Goes 'Round

On 01 June, Margaret Smith, Dennis and Pauline Gribble (McCormick) attended the production of *The World Goes 'Round*, a retrospective of a prolific musical filled with humour, romance, and drama and non-stop melody. This play was performed through singing and the five performers sang songs from *Cabaret* to *Chicago*. It was an upbeat and fun afternoon of entertainment



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The next general meeting is scheduled for Monday 09 September at the Southern Cross Club, Woden at 6 pm. All are welcome to attend as we usually have dinner afterwards in one of the club's eateries.

Ex-Servicewomen's lunch

On 05 June, an Ex-Servicewomen's lunch was held at the Burns Club, Kambah. Representatives from the three



women's' services - WRANS, WRAAC, WRAAF - and current serving women attended the lunch.

The occasion provided an opportunity to meet new people and discuss similar problems other associations are having with providing activities for members.

Chris Hennessy (Isker), Joan Henstock (Reynolds), Kathrin Spurling (Norris), Trish Goddard (Thurston) and Pauline Gribble attended from WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT).

Informal morning tea



On 06 June, an informal morning tea was held at Tulips from 10 a.m. Nine people attended. Sylvia Sinfield (Kelly) and Kerry Holmes (Wallis) were going on holidays and



they regaled us with their upcoming adventures. Juanita Strachan (Price) even travelled from Goulburn to join us and enjoy the morning.

Mid -Winter lunch



On 15 June, the WRANS annual mid-winter lunch was held at the George Harcourt Inn, Gold Creek. We enjoy this venue as we can sit inside when the weather is nasty which was the case this year.



We had a good turnout and a surprise attendee was ex-WRAN Kathryn Carlisle, who joined in June 1984, as an apprentice WRAN ETC at *HMAS Nirimba*.



Kathryn became the first female apprentice to reach Warrant Officer. She served ten years in the RAN before transferring to the RAAF in Aug 1994. Kathryn was promoted to the rank of Group Captain in 2018 and was posted to the Pentagon in Washington D.C., USA. I hope that we will enjoy Kathryn's company again if her commitments permit.



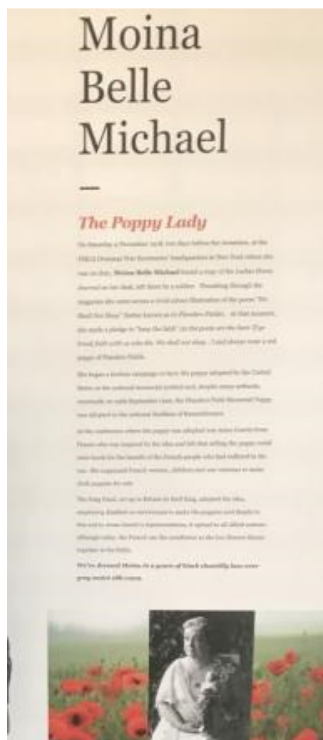
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The exhibition uses a unique format presenting each woman's story told in an outfit she may have worn.

Two things I learned that I thought were interesting:

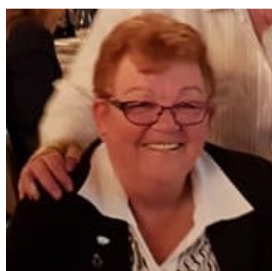
- The age to be a nurse in WW1 was 25 years and over, and
- That the women during that era were very resourceful when left a widow with children to raise and no pension, and living in a foreign country. For example, in England - *One woman rented out seats for opera goers to sit on while waiting to go into the theatre.*



In 2020, another exhibition celebrating D-Day is planned to be held at the Albert Hall in Canberra.



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Macklin (Franklin), and Pauline Gribble and briefing session for Woden Valley RSL.

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Jill Kelly (Hildebrand) introduced us to the group and outlined our upcoming activities. There is always room for more volunteers if you wish to participate.

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On 21 July, 10 attended the informal lunch at the Ainslie football club. We had the pleasure of Trish Goddard's granddaughter Jordan who came to lunch. Judith Rowe (Knight) explained about the tour she and Brian are taking during August to northern Australia.



Heather Milward (Gunner) and Judith Rowe educated us about their varied experiences while using ablutions they have encountered during trips to Japan.



It was a great catch-up and we always walk away with new knowledge from attending the lunch. WRANS are so interesting and adventurous.



Norma Jolly – 90th birthday



On 23 July, Chris Lamb, Margaret Smith, Rosalie Callan (Fischer) and Pauline Gribble had a birthday afternoon tea with Norma Jolly (Maynard) who turned 90 years old on 24 July 2019.

Norma, Rosalie and Margaret served together in *HMAS Coonawarra*, Darwin as WRANS. While at *HMAS Cerberus* Norma used to have a sideline in cutting and trimming WRANS unruly hair. However, Norma did say that she was not paid for her hairdressing services.

The afternoon was very enjoyable watching old friends reminisce about their different experiences in the WRANS in the 1950s.

We gave Norma an orchid in a pot and a silver stemmed poppy brooch as gifts for her birthday, which thrilled her.



Informal morning tea - Poppy's café – Australian War Memorial (AWM)



On 01 August, an informal morning tea was held at Poppy's café at the Australian War Memorial. The reason for the change of venue was at the request of Rhondda Vanzella, Chair of the Honouring Women United by Defence Service (HWUDS).

Rhondda contacted Pauline Gribble and asked if she could take photos of Merle Hare (Storrie) for

the HWUDS dinner held on 14 August at Parliament House honouring WWII and Korean female Veterans.

OJ Ruston interviewed Merle, and the WRANS that attended also provided context.



Filming Merles' memories



On 07 August, Suzannah Cowley from Nviro Media and Nigel the camera operator visited Merle Hare's home to interview her about her service and memories during World War II. Pauline Gribble was present during this event to support Merle. Merle was happy and honoured to share her experiences. For information, Merle is 99 years and 7 months old.



Merle has a healthy cumquat tree in her garden and makes her own liqueur using brandy. She separates the fruit from the liquid and uses the fruit in cakes and a topping for ice cream. Merle generously gave Nigel a small taste of her cumquat liqueur (made with brandy). The video was viewed at the national dinner on 14 August at Parliament House.

HMAS CANBERRA (I) Memorial Service

Memorial Service
to
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Friday 9th August 2019



Order of Service



On 09 August, Pauline Gribble laid a wreath on behalf of the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT), at the Memorial Service to commemorate the loss of HMAS *Canberra* (I).

Representatives from the ACT Government, the US and UK navies, the Australian Defence Force and ex-Service Organisations attended.

The Memorial is located on Wendouree Drive, Kings Park, ACT very near the lake. The weather was wet, windy and very cold and so they had a wet weather routine for the service.



The WRANS were the only female ex-weather and attended the Memorial Commanding Officer at HMAS Howard who showed an interest in our in October.



service association that braved the Service. Pauline met the new Harman – Commander Amanda upcoming WRANS Memorial Service

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On 10 August, Margaret Smith, Dennis and Pauline Gribble attended this performance. The performance of "The Art of Coarse Acting" is a selection of six short plays demonstrating how everything possible that can go wrong will go wrong. Such as missed lines, sets upside down etc.

The audience was engaged with the liveliness of the performers.



Honouring Women United by Defence Service

Honouring Women and Families United by Defence Service held two events in Canberra in August. The events aimed to bring together widows of the Australian Defence Force, current and ex-serving women, mothers and families whose lives are affected by their service or service of a loved one. Videos are on the HWUDS.com to view

The Last Post, AWM – 14 August 2019



On 14 August, many WRANS attended the Last Post at the AWM. Merle Hare, Chris Lamb, Heather Milward and Pauline Gribble laid wreaths during the Last Post ceremony. The Last Post was well supported by the public, serving members and schoolchildren even though it was a cool day.



The National Dinner Parliament House – 14 August 2019



On 14 August, the National Dinner at Parliament House, honoured World War II and Korean War ex-serving women and widows. These ladies were given a special entry into the national dinner with Merle Hare being escorted down the Great Hall of the Australian Federal Parliament by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Rtd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.



Those that attended the dinner enjoyed meeting new and old friends. Beccy Cole sang her songs *Broken Soldiers* and *Poster Girl*. The OZY Youth choir provided other entertainment.



Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance service

On 18 August, Pauline Gribble attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance Service. Pauline laid a wreath on behalf of the WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT).

It was well attended, by the Governor-General and representatives of the US and UK embassies, the Australian Defence Force and ex-Service Organisations.



August Informal lunch



On 18 August, eight people attended the informal lunch at the Ainslie Football club. It was Joan Henstock's first outing after a recent trip to hospital.

As usual, the conversation was lively and boisterous. Everyone is welcome to come along to the lunches as the atmosphere is relaxed and the more the merrier.

WRANS extra activities

Keryn Northrope – Anzac speech given to the Sheeppark community in 2019



On 25 April, Keryn Northrope (Porter) delivered the ANZAC Day speech to the Sheeppark Community War Memorial. Thirty people marched and approximately 300 spectators watched the march.

The Sheeppark Community War Memorial is on the Grawin Opal Field, which is 70 kms from both Walgett and Lightning Ridge. Volunteer labour was used to build the Memorial. Keryn received many compliments on the speech, which I have included in full below.



Why do I march?

“I am a woman, I have never been to war, I served my time as a radio operator in Canberra.

So why do I march?

I march for all those women who have been involved in front line duties.

The Boer War saw the first Australian nurses work in a conflict area. About 60 nurses went with the colonial medical contingent. A further 20 volunteered or paid their own way over to South Africa.

World War 1 saw Australian women working as nurses and ambulance drivers. They felt the effects of war when the hospital ships they were working on were sunk in the Gallipoli conflict. They operated the field hospitals on the Western Front and they worked in the clearing stations for the wounded just behind the lines. They were so close that as the line moved up or back, they had to move as well.

World War 2 saw women joining all three services to take on those tasks that freed up the manpower. What roles you may ask? Too many to list but there were radio operators, radar plotters, drivers, cooks, stewards and clerical staff. World War II saw the Army nurses once again feeling the pain of conflict. Nurses were killed outright with many more dying in prisoner of war camps. Following the end of World War II, all females were discharged from military service.

During the Korean conflict, nurses were working in Japan where our soldiers went for treatment. They also worked in Seoul preparing men for evacuation to Japan. Air force nurses travelled on the flights with the injured between Korea and Japan.

The work force shortages at the advent of the Korean War led to the permanent establishment of female branches in all three services.

Vietnam - Once again, the nurses were the support team for our service personnel. Forty-three women from the Army nursing corps posted to Vietnam. They were not volunteers, but permanent members of the nursing corp. These women returned with their general health worse than other Australian women of a comparable age.

In 1975, the International Year of Women saw many reforms. Women could be deployed on active service in support roles. Pregnancy was no longer grounds for instant dismissal. When I announced my pregnancy in 1973, I was made a civilian in about three hours.

By 1990, the restriction on women in combat related positions eased. For the first time women could go to sea on war ships, serve in air force combat squadrons and in many positions in the Army. However the ban on positions involving physical combat remained.

The expansion of women's roles within the services now sees them involved in most peacekeeping operations and in defence deployments around the world. Female sailors went into a combat zone in 1991 aboard HMAS Westralia. Female medical personnel deployed to Iraq, Western Sahara and Rwanda and 440 of the 5,500 deployed to East Timor were women.

Since 1998, women have been involved in peacekeeping missions in the Persian Gulf, Kurdistan, Western Sahara, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, Bougainville, Haiti, East Timor, Solomon Islands and Sudan.

Women will continue to be a significant part of Australia's Defence Force. With nearly 7,000 female personnel, they make up 13 percent of the current armed forces. In 2019, women are on active service in combat areas, they fly, navigate and maintain war planes, crew and command ships including submarines.

So the next time you see a women with a row of medals on the left hand side, don't assume she had put her dads medals on the wrong side, she may in fact have earned them herself. “

Upcoming events

September

- 03 Sept - WRANS Exec meeting – Sthn Cross Club Woden commencing at 6 p.m.
- 04 Sept – Battle for Australian – Australian War Memorial commencing at 11 a.m.
- 05 Sept – Informal Morning tea –Tulips Café, Pialligo commencing at 10 a.m.
- 09 Sept – General Meeting - Sthn Cross Club Woden commencing at 6 p.m.
- 15 Sept – Informal lunch – Ainslie Football Club commencing at midday

October

- 03 Oct – Informal Morning tea –Tulips Café, Pialligo commencing at 10 a.m.
- 19 Oct – WRANS Memorial HMAS Harman commencing at 10 a.m.

November

- 07 Nov – Informal Morning tea –Tulips Café, Pialligo commencing at 10 a.m.
- 16 Nov – NSW WRANS lunch, St Stephens Church Sydney
- 17 Nov – Informal lunch – Ainslie Football Club commencing at midday
- 26 Nov - WRANS Christmas dinner – Sthn Cross Yacht Club

December

- 05 Dec – Informal Morning tea –Tulips Café, Pialligo commencing at 10 a.m.
- 15 Dec – Informal lunch – Ainslie Football Club commencing at midday

Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA)

Veterans' Health Week to focus on mental health

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of veterans will be the key focus for this years' Veterans' Health Week to be held from 26 October to 3 November 2019.

Free annual health checks for personnel leaving defence force

FROM 1 July 2019, all Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel leaving full-time service can access a fully-funded comprehensive health check from a GP every year for the first five years.

Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel Darren Chester today announced the expanded Veteran Health Checks that will help optimise the physical and mental health and wellbeing of veterans in the years following transition from the ADF.

Veteran Treatment Cycle initiative

"The health and wellbeing of veterans and their families is a high priority for the Morrison Government.

We have listened to feedback from health professionals who deliver care to the veteran community about the need for more support to accompany the changes to allied health referrals, scheduled to start on 1 July. The changes will now begin on 1 October, 2019 to provide more time for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to meet with stakeholders."

The new Veteran Treatment Cycle will not include TPIs for physiotherapy and exercise physiology.

Productivity Commission report into Compensation and Rehabilitation of Veterans released

The Coalition Government today tabled in Parliament the final Productivity Commission report into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans - A Better Way to Support Veterans.

The Government has yet to announce which, if any, of the 69 recommendations and 12 findings it will accept and adapt. The Government did make an election promise that DVA would not be subsumed into the Department of Defence. The Government will be standing by that promise.

AWM Director thanked for outstanding achievements

THE Federal Government will undertake a nationwide search for a new director of the Australian War Memorial after Dr Brendan Nelson AO has announced that he would finish in the role at the end of the year.

After seven years as Director, Dr Nelson told Australian War Memorial staff this morning that he will conclude his service when his appointment ceases at the end of the year.



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

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.

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)

.....

.....

.....

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

WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)

EVENTS PROGRAM 2019

Date	Time	Function	Venue
Tue 3 Sep	1800	Committee Meeting	Southern Cross Club Woden
Thu 5 Sep	1030	Informal Morning Tea	<i>Tulips café, 8 Beltana Road, Pialligo</i>
Mon 9 Sep	1800	General Meeting and Dinner	Southern Cross Club Woden
Sun 23 Sep	1200	Informal Lunch	<i>Ainslie Football Club</i>
Thu 3 Oct	1030	Informal Morning Tea	<i>Tulips café, 8 Beltana Road, Pialligo</i>
Sat 19 Oct	1100	Annual WRANS Commemoration Service	WRANS Memorial, HMAS Harman
Sat 19 Oct	1200	Lunch following Memorial Ceremony	Bonshaw Mess, HMAS Harman
Thu 7 Nov	1030	Informal Morning Tea	<i>Tulips café, 8 Beltana Road, Pialligo</i>
Sun 18 Nov	1200	Informal Lunch	<i>Ainslie Football Club</i>
Wed 20 Nov	1830	Christmas Dinner	Southern Cross Yacht Club
Thu 5 Dec	1030	Informal Morning Tea	<i>Tulips café, 8 Beltana Road, Pialligo</i>

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 –

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

BSB Number 633000
Account number 120 827 027
Account name WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT)

**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!**

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.

Surname Given Names

Address

Telephone (Home) (Work)

(Mobile)

(Email address)



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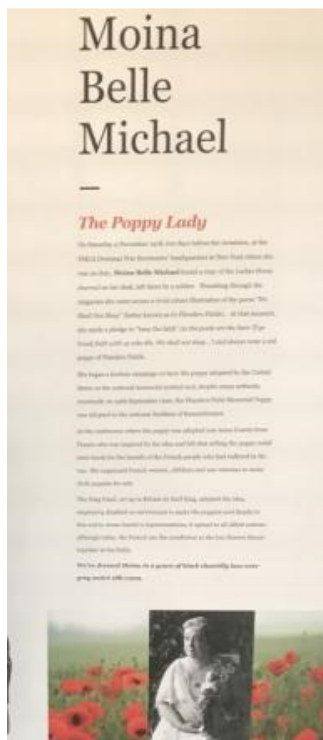
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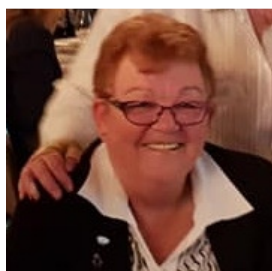
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Those that attended the dinner enjoyed meeting new and old friends. Beccy Cole sang her songs *Broken Soldiers* and *Poster Girl*. The OZY Youth choir provided other entertainment.



Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance service

On 18 August, Pauline Gribble attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance Service. Pauline laid a wreath on behalf of the WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT).

It was well attended, by the Governor-General and representatives of the US and UK embassies, the Australian Defence Force and ex-Service Organisations.



August Informal lunch



On 18 August, eight people attended the informal lunch at the Ainslie Football club. It was Joan Henstock's first outing after a recent trip to hospital.

As usual, the conversation was lively and boisterous. Everyone is welcome to come along to the lunches as the atmosphere is relaxed and the more the merrier.

WRANS extra activities

Keryn Northrope – Anzac speech given to the Sheeppark community in 2019



On 25 April, Keryn Northrope (Porter) delivered the ANZAC Day speech to the Sheeppark Community War Memorial. Thirty people marched and approximately 300 spectators watched the march.

The Sheeppark Community War Memorial is on the Grawin Opal Field, which is 70 kms from both Walgett and Lightning Ridge. Volunteer labour was used to build the Memorial. Keryn received many compliments on the speech, which I have included in full below.



Why do I march?

“I am a woman, I have never been to war, I served my time as a radio operator in Canberra.

So why do I march?

I march for all those women who have been involved in front line duties.

The Boer War saw the first Australian nurses work in a conflict area. About 60 nurses went with the colonial medical contingent. A further 20 volunteered or paid their own way over to South Africa.

World War 1 saw Australian women working as nurses and ambulance drivers. They felt the effects of war when the hospital ships they were working on were sunk in the Gallipoli conflict. They operated the field hospitals on the Western Front and they worked in the clearing stations for the wounded just behind the lines. They were so close that as the line moved up or back, they had to move as well.

World War 2 saw women joining all three services to take on those tasks that freed up the manpower. What roles you may ask? Too many to list but there were radio operators, radar plotters, drivers, cooks, stewards and clerical staff. World War II saw the Army nurses once again feeling the pain of conflict. Nurses were killed outright with many more dying in prisoner of war camps. Following the end of World War II, all females were discharged from military service.

During the Korean conflict, nurses were working in Japan where our soldiers went for treatment. They also worked in Seoul preparing men for evacuation to Japan. Air force nurses travelled on the flights with the injured between Korea and Japan.

The work force shortages at the advent of the Korean War led to the permanent establishment of female branches in all three services.

Vietnam - Once again, the nurses were the support team for our service personnel. Forty-three women from the Army nursing corps posted to Vietnam. They were not volunteers, but permanent members of the nursing corp. These women returned with their general health worse than other Australian women of a comparable age.

In 1975, the International Year of Women saw many reforms. Women could be deployed on active service in support roles. Pregnancy was no longer grounds for instant dismissal. When I announced my pregnancy in 1973, I was made a civilian in about three hours.

By 1990, the restriction on women in combat related positions eased. For the first time women could go to sea on war ships, serve in air force combat squadrons and in many positions in the Army. However the ban on positions involving physical combat remained.

The expansion of women's roles within the services now sees them involved in most peacekeeping operations and in defence deployments around the world. Female sailors went into a combat zone in 1991 aboard HMAS Westralia. Female medical personnel deployed to Iraq, Western Sahara and Rwanda and 440 of the 5,500 deployed to East Timor were women.

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So the next time you see a women with a row of medals on the left hand side, don't assume she had put her dads medals on the wrong side, she may in fact have earned them herself. “

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Veteran Treatment Cycle initiative

"The health and wellbeing of veterans and their families is a high priority for the Morrison Government.

We have listened to feedback from health professionals who deliver care to the veteran community about the need for more support to accompany the changes to allied health referrals, scheduled to start on 1 July. The changes will now begin on 1 October, 2019 to provide more time for the Department of Veterans' Affairs to meet with stakeholders."

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The Government has yet to announce which, if any, of the 69 recommendations and 12 findings it will accept and adapt. The Government did make an election promise that DVA would not be subsumed into the Department of Defence. The Government will be standing by that promise.

AWM Director thanked for outstanding achievements

THE Federal Government will undertake a nationwide search for a new director of the Australian War Memorial after Dr Brendan Nelson AO has announced that he would finish in the role at the end of the year.

After seven years as Director, Dr Nelson told Australian War Memorial staff this morning that he will conclude his service when his appointment ceases at the end of the year.



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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)

.....

.....

.....

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

WRANS – Naval Women’s Association (ACT)

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PO Box 402,
WODEN ACT 2606

BSB Number 633000
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**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!**

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.

Surname Given Names

Address

Telephone (Home) (Work)

(Mobile)

(Email address)



MARCHING ALONG



WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 3

September 2019



June – July – August – Happenings in WRANS ACT

Newsletter of the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)
PO Box 402
Woden, ACT 2606

President: Mrs Pauline Gribble (McCormick)
Tel: 0407 039 947
Email – president@wransact.org

Secretary: Mrs Kerry Holmes (Wallis)
Tel: 0412 122 527
Email – secretary@wransact.org

WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)

June - August 2019

WRANS - Naval Women Association (ACT)

We have had a quieter time over the winter months with social activities. The feedback from members is that the informal morning teas and lunches are enjoyable and relaxing affairs, which enables issues be discussed in an amenable and friendly environment.

Remember, if you need assistance with anything - please contact one of the committee because we are happy to help if we can.

Theatre 3 – The World Goes 'Round

On 01 June, Margaret Smith, Dennis and Pauline Gribble (McCormick) attended the production of *The World Goes 'Round*, a retrospective of a prolific musical filled with humour, romance, and drama and non-stop melody. This play was performed through singing and the five performers sang songs from *Cabaret* to *Chicago*. It was an upbeat and fun afternoon of entertainment



WRANS Executive meeting

On 04 June, a WRANS Executive meeting was held at the Southern Cross Club, Woden. The next executive meeting is scheduled for 03 September at 6 pm.

The next general meeting is scheduled for Monday 09 September at the Southern Cross Club, Woden at 6 pm. All are welcome to attend as we usually have dinner afterwards in one of the club's eateries.

Ex-Servicewomen's lunch

On 05 June, an Ex-Servicewomen's lunch was held at the Burns Club, Kambah. Representatives from the three



women's' services - WRANS, WRAAC, WRAAF - and current serving women attended the lunch.

The occasion provided an opportunity to meet new people and discuss similar problems other associations are having with providing activities for members.

Chris Hennessy (Isker), Joan Henstock (Reynolds), Kathrin Spurling (Norris), Trish Goddard (Thurston) and Pauline Gribble attended from WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT).

Informal morning tea



On 06 June, an informal morning tea was held at Tulips from 10 a.m. Nine people attended. Sylvia Sinfield (Kelly) and Kerry Holmes (Wallis) were going on holidays and



they regaled us with their upcoming adventures. Juanita Strachan (Price) even travelled from Goulburn to join us and enjoy the morning.

Mid -Winter lunch



On 15 June, the WRANS annual mid-winter lunch was held at the George Harcourt Inn, Gold Creek. We enjoy this venue as we can sit inside when the weather is nasty which was the case this year.



We had a good turnout and a surprise attendee was ex-WRAN Kathryn Carlisle, who joined in June 1984, as an apprentice WRAN ETC at *HMAS Nirimba*.



Kathryn became the first female apprentice to reach Warrant Officer. She served ten years in the RAN before transferring to the RAAF in Aug 1994. Kathryn was promoted to the rank of Group Captain in 2018 and was posted to the Pentagon in Washington D.C., USA. I hope that we will enjoy Kathryn's company again if her commitments permit.



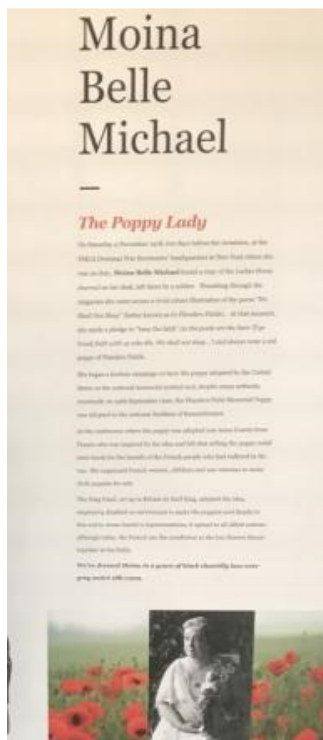
Women of the Empire 1914-1919 Homecoming exhibition

On 26 June, Pauline and Dennis Gribble attended *Women of the Empire 1914-1919 Homecoming exhibition*. This was a unique exhibition celebrating women's experience at the end of the Great War and after through the stories of 30 women from Australia and New Zealand. This exhibition was a sequel to the *Women of the Empire 1914-1918*.

The exhibition uses a unique format presenting each woman's story told in an outfit she may have worn.

Two things I learned that I thought were interesting:

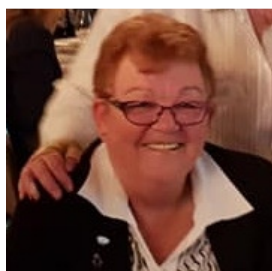
- The age to be a nurse in WW1 was 25 years and over, and
- That the women during that era were very resourceful when left a widow with children to raise and no pension, and living in a foreign country. For example, in England - *One woman rented out seats for opera goers to sit on while waiting to go into the theatre.*



In 2020, another exhibition celebrating D-Day is planned to be held at the Albert Hall in Canberra.



Volunteer Program at the Woden Valley RSL Sub- Branch



On 03 July, Kerry Chris Lamb (McNicol) attended a morning tea new volunteers at the

We were provided a Commonwealth Bank frauds and how to when using online



Macklin (Franklin), and Pauline Gribble and briefing session for Woden Valley RSL.

brief from the on the latest scams and protect your monies banking.



Jill Kelly (Hildebrand) introduced us to the group and outlined our upcoming activities. There is always room for more volunteers if you wish to participate.

Informal morning tea



On 04 July, 14 women turned up to enjoy the morning tea at Tulips at 10 a.m. Lots of boisterous laughter and conversation flowed. Some ladies took time off work to come along and enjoy the company. The morning teas usually last until midday so people come and go during that period. Come along - all family, partners and friends are welcome.



WRNS lunch

On 14 July, Pauline Gribble attended the WRNS lunch, which was held at the Southern Cross Club, Woden. Due to illnesses and clash of commitments, there were four WRNS and Pauline. It was an enjoyable lunch with a wide range of topics up for discussion and it's amazing how much we have in common with our sisters from the UK.

Informal lunch



Heather Milward (Gunner) and Judith Rowe educated us about their varied experiences while using ablutions they have encountered during trips to Japan.

On 21 July, 10 attended the informal lunch at the Ainslie football club. We had the pleasure of Trish Goddard's granddaughter Jordan who came to lunch. Judith Rowe (Knight) explained about the tour she and Brian are taking during August to northern Australia.



It was a great catch-up and we always walk away with new knowledge from attending the lunch. WRANS are so interesting and adventurous.



Norma Jolly – 90th birthday



On 23 July, Chris Lamb, Margaret Smith, Rosalie Callan (Fischer) and Pauline Gribble had a birthday afternoon tea with Norma Jolly (Maynard) who turned 90 years old on 24 July 2019.

Norma, Rosalie and Margaret served together in *HMAS Coonawarra*, Darwin as WRANS. While at *HMAS Cerberus* Norma used to have a sideline in cutting and trimming WRANS unruly hair. However, Norma did say that she was not paid for her hairdressing services.

The afternoon was very enjoyable watching old friends reminisce about their different experiences in the WRANS in the 1950s.

We gave Norma an orchid in a pot and a silver stemmed poppy brooch as gifts for her birthday, which thrilled her.



Informal morning tea - Poppy's café – Australian War Memorial (AWM)



On 01 August, an informal morning tea was held at Poppy's café at the Australian War Memorial. The reason for the change of venue was at the request of Rhondda Vanzella, Chair of the Honouring Women United by Defence Service (HWUDS).

Rhondda contacted Pauline Gribble and asked if she could take photos of Merle Hare (Storrie) for

the HWUDS dinner held on 14 August at Parliament House honouring WWII and Korean female Veterans.

OJ Ruston interviewed Merle, and the WRANS that attended also provided context.



Filming Merles' memories



On 07 August, Suzannah Cowley from Nviro Media and Nigel the camera operator visited Merle Hare's home to interview her about her service and memories during World War II. Pauline Gribble was present during this event to support Merle. Merle was happy and honoured to share her experiences. For information, Merle is 99 years and 7 months old.



Merle has a healthy cumquat tree in her garden and makes her own liqueur using brandy. She separates the fruit from the liquid and uses the fruit in cakes and a topping for ice cream. Merle generously gave Nigel a small taste of her cumquat liqueur (made with brandy). The video was viewed at the national dinner on 14 August at Parliament House.

HMAS CANBERRA (I) Memorial Service

Memorial Service
to
Commemorate the Loss
of
HMAS CANBERRA (I)
Friday 9th August 2019



Order of Service



On 09 August, Pauline Gribble laid a wreath on behalf of the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT), at the Memorial Service to commemorate the loss of HMAS *Canberra* (I).

Representatives from the ACT Government, the US and UK navies, the Australian Defence Force and ex-Service Organisations attended.

The Memorial is located on Wendouree Drive, Kings Park, ACT very near the lake. The weather was wet, windy and very cold and so they had a wet weather routine for the service.



The WRANS were the only female ex-weather and attended the Memorial Commanding Officer at HMAS Howard who showed an interest in our in October.



service association that braved the Service. Pauline met the new Harman – Commander Amanda upcoming WRANS Memorial Service

Theatre 3 – The Art of Coarse Acting

On 10 August, Margaret Smith, Dennis and Pauline Gribble attended this performance. The performance of "The Art of Coarse Acting" is a selection of six short plays demonstrating how everything possible that can go wrong will go wrong. Such as missed lines, sets upside down etc.

The audience was engaged with the liveliness of the performers.



Honouring Women United by Defence Service

Honouring Women and Families United by Defence Service held two events in Canberra in August. The events aimed to bring together widows of the Australian Defence Force, current and ex-serving women, mothers and families whose lives are affected by their service or service of a loved one. Videos are on the HWUDS.com to view

The Last Post, AWM – 14 August 2019



On 14 August, many WRANS attended the Last Post at the AWM. Merle Hare, Chris Lamb, Heather Milward and Pauline Gribble laid wreaths during the Last Post ceremony. The Last Post was well supported by the public, serving members and schoolchildren even though it was a cool day.



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(Application Form on website)
INVITE YOUR NAVY FRIENDS ALONG TO OUR MEETINGS!**

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.

Surname Given Names

Address

Telephone (Home) (Work)

(Mobile)

(Email address)