



# MARCHING ALONG



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

Volume 12 Issue 3

Jun - Aug 2021



Kerry Holmes (Wallis), Leanne Tingey (Kimpton) Sarra-Jane Gill, Juanita Strachan (Price),  
Sue Shaw (Waugh) and Margaret Manley (Spice)

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](mailto:president@wransact.org)

Secretary: Mrs Judith Rowe (Knight)  
Tel: 02 6247 3448  
Email - [secretary@wransact.org](mailto:secretary@wransact.org)

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

## June – August 2021

### WRANS - Naval Women Association (ACT)

#### WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) - Activities

##### **Summary**

Well, the ACT nearly avoided COVID-19 lockdown but alas, it is not to be. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel some activities to follow the rules. If you do go out, please remember to use the CBR check-in.

However, the ongoing impact of self-isolation for some members is 24 hours a day seven days a week. To ease the loneliness a regular phone call to friends and family is a good idea as a way of staying in touch. Please take care and let the committee know if we can help in any way.

Once out of lockdown we will resume our monthly morning teas and lunches. These activities are invaluable with members being able to enjoy each other's company while having a return to some sort of normalcy. Spouses, family and friends are always welcome to come.

The ACT WRANS remain in contact through Facebook, emails and the website. Pat McCabe posts photos on the [www.wransact.org](http://www.wransact.org) website and Rose Van Dijk (Wood) posts items of interest onto WRANS-Naval Women's Association (ACT) Facebook page. If you have, any photos send them in so we can all enjoy them.

##### **Elinor Swan**

For your information, Elinor Swan (nee Douglas) health has deteriorated in the past few months and she is now in the high dependency unit. Elinor served in the WRANS between 1943-45 (WR1351). Elinor will turn 100 years old in October 2021.



##### **June**

##### **Executive Meeting**

On 01 June, the WRANS executive held a meeting at the Southern Cross Club to discuss ongoing business which includes the arrangements for the WRANS Memorial Service and the Christmas dinner.

##### **June morning tea**

On June 03, thirteen members attended our monthly morning tea. Margaret Manley (Spice) attended her first morning tea since returning from living in Adelaide. Sigi Kropp attended with a friend who was welcomed by the group. The Tulips café, Pialligo accommodate our requests and ensure we have plenty of room to spread out.



**Back Row:** Leanne Tingey (Kimpton), Sarra-Jane Gill, Judith Rowe (Knight), Sue Shaw (Waugh), Margaret Manley (Spice), Juanita Strachan (Price), Kerry Holmes (Wallis), Trish Goddard (Thurston), Rae Milfull (Cooper),

**Front Row:** Lyn McCoy (Middleton), Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Sigi Kropp (Engel) and Gaye Doolan (Holt)





Lyn McCoy (Middleton), Kerry Holmes (Wallis), Gaye Doolan (Holt), Leanne Tingey (Kimpton), Sarra-Jane Gill, Juanita Strachan (Price), Sue Shaw (Waugh), Margaret Manley (Spice), Judith Rowe( Knight)

Margaret Manley (Spice), Rae Milfull (Cooper), Sigi Kropp (Engel), friend, Kerry Holmes (Wallis)

### ***Theatre 3 Rope***

On 05 June 2021, a few WRANS attended this theatre production. Margaret Findlater-Smith organises the tickets for the plays. The story was about two university students from Chicago who believed they were intellectually superior to their contemporaries. They murder a neighbour and hide his body in a trunk, which they later use for entertaining. The motive for the murder was purely to see if they could get away with it. They held a cocktail party, served food from the top of the trunk where the body was hidden. Tension and suspicions increase as the evening wore on. Did they succeed?



### ***June monthly lunch***

On 20 June, the informal lunch was held at the Ainslie Football club. This lunch had been our biggest turnout since the COVID -19 restrictions. We are privileged that so many WRNS turn up for our gatherings. The conversations were fast and flowing. Genuine friendships flourish and much laughter was had.



Trish Goddard (Thurston), Heather Milward (Gunner), Sue Wheeler, Kathryn Spurling (Norris), Margaret Manley (Spice) and Olwyn-Anne Cook

Sarra-Jane Gill, Chris Lamb (McNicol) and Rosemarie Millar







Dollah West, Rosemarie Millar, Heather Milward (Gunner), Olwyn-Anne Cook, Trish Goddard (Thurston), Judith Rowe (Knight), Leanne Tingey (Kimpton), Beth Roberts (Cozens), Sue Wheeler, Kathryn Spurling (Norris), Sarra-Jane Gill, Margaret Manley (Spice), Janice Stewart (Odgers), Chris Lamb (McNicol), Sheila Middleton, Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Heather Schmitzer and Merle Hare (Storrie)

## July

### July morning tea

On 01 July, our monthly morning tea was held at Tulips café Pialligo. Always a surprise who turns up. Conversations travel in all sorts of directions. All welcome.



**Standing:** Janice Stewart (Odgers), Judith Rowe (Knight), Sarra-Jane Gill, Margaret Manley (Spice) and Pauline Gribble (McCormick),  
**Sitting:** Lyn McCoy (Middleton), Kerry Holmes (Wallis), Kath Sutton, Kathryn Spurling (Norris), Sue Shaw (Waugh), Chris Lamb (McNicol) and Merle Hare (Storrie)

### July monthly lunch



On 18 July, our monthly lunch was held at Ainslie Football club. We enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere and caught up on what everyone has been doing.

**Standing:** Trish Goddard (Thurston), Dollah West, Heather Milward (Gunner), Margaret, Manley (Spice), Olwyn-Anne Cook, Rae Milfull (Cooper), Judith Rowe (Knight), Kathryn Spurling (Norris).  
**Sitting:** Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Merle Hare (Storrie), Chris Lamb (McNicol)

## August

### **Meeting with the new Commanding Officer HMAS Harman**

On 04 August, Kerry Holmes (nee Wallace) and Pauline Gribble (nee McCormick) met with the new Commanding Officer of HMAS Harman CMDR Danielle Radnidge the Executive Officer LCDR Katey D'Costa, and the base Warrant Officer to discuss the WRANS history at *HMAS Harman* and the WRANS memorial.

As you may be aware, the WRANS Memorial is not in a sustainable position with it being located alongside two fuel tanks. The plan by *HMAS Harman* is to create a historical precinct at the front of the base in sight of the entryway for security reasons. The history precinct will have a heritage cottage from the base, the Rotunda and the WRANS Memorial. These actions will likely take place 2023-24.

### **August morning tea**

On 05 August, another morning tea was held in a relaxed atmosphere, which ensures a good catch-up. Members come and go depending on their personal commitments on the day.



Merle Hare (Storrie), Carol Harris (Baker)  
and Lyn McCoy (Middleton)



Sylvia Sinfield (Kelly) and Judith Rowe (Knight)



Pauline Gribble (McCormick),  
Kathryn Spurling (Norris), Sigi  
Kropp (Engel), Sylvia Sinfield  
(Kelly), Carol Harris (Baker),  
Judith Rowe (Knight), Sarra-  
Jane Gill, Merle Hare (Storrie),  
Lyn McCoy (Middleton), and  
Juanita Strachan (Price)

### **HMAS Canberra Commemorative Service**

On 06 August, Pauline Gribble (nee McCormick) and Kathryn Spurling (nee Norris) laid wreaths for their respective organisations the ACT WRANS and Naval Women's Association and the Australian War Widows –ACT.

The Memorial Service commemorates 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 very near the lake on Wendouree Drive, Kings Park, ACT. The weather was a fine and sunny day, which is different to the previous years.



HMAS Canberra Memorial



Pauline Gribble (McCormick)  
and Kathryn Spurling (Norris)

### **August lunch**

On 15 August, cancelled due to COVID-19 ACT lockdown.

*Unfortunately, until further notice all other WRANS activities have been cancelled.*

### **Possible Future Event**

#### **WRANS Memorial Service 23 October 2021**

At this stage, the WRANS Memorial Service will proceed at 1100 on Saturday 23 October followed by a light lunch at the Bonshaw Mess.

**Should this event be cancelled**, it will be advertised on our Facebook page, webpage and via email to members. Hopefully the Memorial Service will go ahead.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>President</b>	Pauline Gribble (McCormick)
<b>Vice President</b>	Heather Milward (Gunner)
<b>Correspondence Secretary</b>	Judith Rowe (Knight)
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Judith Rowe (Knight)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Leanne Tingey (Kimpton)
<b>Assistant Treasurer/Membership:</b>	Christine Lamb (McNicol)

---

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

<b>Events Co-ordinator:</b>	Kerry Holmes (Wallis)
<b>Catering Sub-committee</b>	Kerry Macklin (Franklin) and Trish Goddard (Thurston)
<b>DVA/KOC Liaison:</b>	Pat McCabe
<b>Welfare Officer:</b>	Jill Kelly (Hildebrand)

---

The full list of elected officials is on the WRANS website.

# **ACT Office of Seniors & Veterans News**

## **COVID Update**

14 August 2021

The ACT Government has responded quickly to provide emergency food relief for Canberrans most in need during this 7-day lockdown.

The ACT Government has partnered with VolunteeringACT and the State Emergency Service to provide emergency food to those in need.

Any Canberran who is significantly and adversely impacted by this 7-day lockdown and is unable to feed their family is encouraged to call 1800 43 11 33. Callers will be linked with a VolunteeringACT staff member who will place a shopping order on their behalf and members of the SES will then collect the order and deliver it to them.

The SES are unable to enter a person's home, so the groceries will be left on the doorstep after a knock at the door.

Please share this information within your networks and contact me on 0466 770 201 if you have any questions.

Further information can be found [HERE](#).

13 August 2021

The ACT Government's Office for Seniors and Veterans continues to provide additional information in relation to the current COVID-19 lockdown.

They advise –

“The ACT Government's COVID-19 website <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/> continues to provide up to date information on a range of COVID-19 topics, including statistics, public health directions, staying safe and healthy and accessing support. The Helpline is also open to help you stay informed and access services related to COVID-19. The helpline operates on **02 6207 7244 between 8am and 8pm daily**.

Finally, we have received a number of queries regarding the importance of social connection during this period. We would like to confirm that individuals who live alone are able to identify one other household that they can visit or receive visits from during this period.

Further information on business and community restrictions can be viewed on the ACT COVID-19 website at, [Lockdown in the ACT - COVID-19](#)”

## **DVA News**

### **The Hon Andrew Gee MP**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel  
Federal Member for Calare

### **MEDIA RELEASES**

10 August 2021

#### **ADDITIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR WHITE CARD HOLDERS**

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Andrew Gee today announced the Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program has been expanded to provide additional support for DVA White Card holders with an accepted mental health condition.

“The Australian Government already provides free mental health care to anyone who has served one day in uniform,” Minister Gee said. “This program goes a step further in providing dedicated and coordinated care to veterans with chronic conditions and complex care needs.

“No two veterans have had the same experience while in service, and their level of health care requirements and support should reflect these differences. The CVC Program aims to specifically support each participant based on their individual needs.

“Expanding the program means veterans with complex mental health needs can access this life saving support through their local GP.

“Our country asks so much of our men and women in uniform. In return, Australia needs to ensure they have the best care possible we can provide once their service concludes. This further mental health support is a very welcome and positive development.”

Previously open only to DVA Gold Card holders, the CVC Program engages General Practitioners and practice nurses to provide veterans in need with a multi-disciplinary care team, who develop and deliver comprehensive care plans to suit the individual needs of each veteran.

“The CVC program has proven to be effective in reducing unplanned hospitalisation and improving the quality of life for veterans in need of critical mental health care,” Minister Gee said.

Further Information on the DVA CVC Program can be found [HERE](#).

## **16 August 2021**

### **Support available for Australians who served in Afghanistan**

This is a distressing time for many of our Defence personnel and veterans who served our nation in Afghanistan with courage, dignity and honour, and made such a significant contribution to the allied military effort.

We must never forget the 41 Australians who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Australia owes a great debt of gratitude to all our veterans who served with distinction and their families who supported them.

Over the past 20 years our nation has been unwavering in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan.

I understand many of those who served our nation in Afghanistan may feel frustrated, concerned and distressed at what is unfolding there.

My primary concern is the wellbeing of all of our veterans, Defence personnel, here at home and abroad, and their families.

I have asked the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to contact the families of ADF members who lost their lives in Afghanistan, as well as any veterans the Department is aware of who could suffer adversely as a result of what is currently happening in Afghanistan.

I encourage anyone who served in Afghanistan to reach out to support services available to them and their families if they need it.

For those who are not currently registered with DVA, please know that help and support is there for you. Please call DVA if you would like to access services or call Open Arms for counselling support.

ADF personnel, veterans and their families can call Open Arms 24 hours a day on 1800 011 046.

If you need to talk but don’t want to disclose your name, please call Safe Zone Support which offers anonymous counselling service for ADF personnel, veterans and their families. Its free and available 24/7.

You can call 1800 142 072.



Please also reach out to any mates and their families who you know may be finding it difficult at this time. Although COVID restrictions are keeping us apart, there has never been a more critical time to ensure we stay connected.



*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](http://www.OpenArms.gov.au)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES 2021

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 633 000  
Account number 120 827 027  
Account name WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT)

Payee Reference – your Surname/Mship 2021

**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) .....