



MARCHING ALONG



WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 5

Nov - Dec 2021



Backrow: Di Sell (Julian), Margaret Manley (Spice), Trish Goddard (Thurston), Heather Milward (Gunner), Sigi Kropp (Engel), Beth Roberts (Cozens), Keryn Northrope (Porter), Leanne Tingey (Kimpton), Sarra-Jane Gill, Judith Rowe (Knight) and Sue Shaw (Waugh)

Middle row: Chris Lamb (McNicol), Chris Sutherland (Fairman), Gaye Doolan (Holt), Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Merle Hare (Storrie), Lyn McCoy (Middleton), Margaret Smith, Judy Hughes (Hirst)

Front row: Rose van Dijk (Wood)

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 Judith Rowe (Knight)
Tel: 02 6247 3448
Email - secretary@wransact.org

WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT)

November – December 2021

WRANS - Naval Women Association (ACT)

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

Summary

With the easing of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions we resumed our monthly morning teas and lunches. These activities are invaluable because members to enjoy each other's company while life returns 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 [WRANS ACT](#) 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.

As many of you are aware I will be stepping down from the President's role in February. I have enjoyed and felt privileged to represent the WRANS at various functions and activities.

I would like to invite everyone to seriously consider for the Associations executive committee, as a number of positions will be vacant next year and new ideas are always welcome – see the Membership Form on the last page of this newsletter.

November

Morning tea



Gaye Doolan (Holt), Merle Hare (Storrie), Sue Shaw (Waugh), Lyn McCoy (Middleton), Juanita Strachan (Price), Judith Rowe (Knight) and Kerry Holmes (Wallis)

On 04 November, we held our first morning tea at Tulips café Pialligo since the end of lockdown in Canberra, ACT. Dianne Lawrence travelled from Nowra to attend. The ladies had a lovely catch up. Everyone is welcome to come



Carol Harris (Baker), Kerry Holmes (Wallis), Dianne Lawrence, Gaye Doolan (Holt) and Merle Hare (Storrie)

Executive Meeting

On 15 November, the executive committee met to review business outstanding and organising end of year events. The meeting commenced at 1800 at the Southern Cross club Woden. The committee had a relaxed dinner after the meeting.

Monthly lunch



Merle Hare (Storrie), Judith Rowe (Knight) and Beth Roberts (Cozens)

On 21 November, we held our monthly lunch at the Ainslie Football Club. We had a mixture of WRANS and WRNS and as usual, the conversations jumped from topic to topic without a breath. The attendees enjoyed the catch up after the lockdown restrictions.



Backrow: Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Kathryn Spurling (Norris), Beth Roberts (Cozens), Heather Milward (Gunner), Judith Rowe (Knight), Di Sell (Julian) and Margaret Maher

Front Row: Janice Stewart (Odgers), Merle Hare (Storrie), Dallys Young and Dollah West

HMAS Sydney Association

On 29 November, the HMAS Sydney Association invited the WRANS to attend an optional walk and barbeque lunch for the Veterans Health Week activity funded by the DVA. The barbeque was held at the Duntroon Golf Club. We had a lovely day after days of rain. Four WRANS attended Pat Quick (Hyland), Kerry Holmes (Wallace) Margaret Manley (Spice) and Pauline Gribble (McCormick). The Veterans cooked the food and it was just right.



Kerry Holmes (Wallis), Margaret Manley (Spice), Pat Quick (Hyland) and Pauline Gribble (McCormick)

WRANS Christmas Dinner



Sarra-Jane Gill, Beth Roberts (Cozens), Merle Hare (Storrie), Sigi Kropp (Engel) and Pauline Gribble (McCormick)

The WRANS Christmas dinner was held at the Canberra Yacht Club Yarralumla. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions the dinner was limited to 30 people only.

It was a lovely catch-up with the attendees. For some this was the first real outing since the lockdown. I hope next year's Christmas dinner will have no restrictions.



Judith Rowe (Knight), Leanne Tingey (Kimpton) and Chris Lamb (McNicol)



Leanne Tingey (Kimpton), Lyn McCoy (Middleton), Sue Shaw (Waugh), Keryn Northrope (Porter), Judy Hughes (Hirst) and Margaret Smith

December

Informal morning tea



CMDR Katey D'Costa, LCDR Georgie Aceituno and Rae Milfull (Cooper)



Trish Goddard (Thurston), Margaret Manley (Spice) and Di Sell (Julian)

On 02 December, we held our last morning tea for 2021 at Tulips café Pialligo, ACT. We had the surprise visit from CMDR Katey D'Costa and LCDR Georgie Aceituno who were doing a handover at HMAS *Harman*. This gave us a chance to say thank you to Katey for all the help she gave the WRANS during her posting. LCDR Aceituno will be our contact at HMAS *Harman* during 2022



Backrow: Margaret Manley (Spice), Di Sell (Julian), Kerry Holmes (Wallis), Rae Milfull (Cooper), Judith Rowe (Knight), CMDR Katey D'Costa, and Sue Shaw (Waugh)

Middle row: LCDR Georgie Aceituno, Trish Goddard (Thurston), Carol Harris (Baker) and Juanita Strachan (Price)

Front row: Lyn McCoy (Middleton), Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Merle Hare (Storrie) and Gaye Doolan (Holt)

Theatre 3 – A Christmas Carol

On 04 December Judy Hughes (Hirst), Margaret Findlater-Smith, Pauline and Dennis Gribble had the opportunity to attend Theatre 3 to watch a Christmas Carol played by the Canberra Repertory theatre. Their first production since the COVID-19 lockdown.

A Christmas Carol is a [novella](#) by [Charles Dickens](#), first published in London by [Chapman & Hall](#) in 1843. A Christmas Carol recounts the story of [Ebenezer Scrooge](#), an elderly [miser](#) who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner [Jacob Marley](#) and the spirits of [Christmas Past](#), [Present](#) and [Yet to Come](#). After their visits, Scrooge was transformed into a kinder, gentler man.



Training Ship (TS) Canberra end of year parade

On 10 December, the WRANS President Pauline Gribble (McCormick) attended the end of year parade to present the top female cadet TS Canberra at HMAS Harman. This year the recipient was CDTPO Steph Hudson who is 15 years old.

I was very impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm of the cadets. The ages range from 13 years and they age out before their 18th birthday.



TS Canberra end of year parade



Pauline Gribble (McCormick) and CDTPO Steph Hudson

Informal lunch



Margaret Manley (Spice) and friend, Gay

The final activity for 2021 was the monthly lunch on the 19 December at the Ainslie Football Club. We had a mixture of WRANS, WRNS and friends and it was a lively lunch.



Janice Stewart (Odgers), Heather Milward (Gunner), Beth Roberts (Cozens), and Heather Schmitzer



Back row: Janice Stewart (Odgers), Judith Rowe (Knight), Heather Milward (Gunner), Beth Roberts (Cozens) and Dollah West

Front row: Merle Hare (Storrie), Heather Schmitzer and Pauline Gribble (McCormick)

ACT Office of Seniors & Veterans News

The ACT Office of Seniors & Veterans has many services available to Veterans in the ACT. Information on this is located at <https://www.act.gov.au/veterans/home>

DVA News

Rent Assistance

Eligibility for DVA clients to receive Rent Assistance and are receiving a disability compensation payment commences on 1st January 2022. The DVA information sheet on this can be found [HERE](#).

Should you have a leasehold arrangement on your property then the DVA webpage [Granny flats, retirement villages and sale leaseback agreements | Department of Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](#) provides a good explanation regarding Rent Assistance eligibility and home owner status when a person pays an entry contribution for accommodation in a granny flat, retirement village or sale leaseback arrangement

The amount of entry contribution that you pay for your residence will determine whether you are considered to be a home owner or a non-home owner for pension purposes.

If you are single or a member of a couple and your entry contribution is less than or equal to \$216,500 you are considered to be a non-home owner for pension purposes. If you are paying rent for the accommodation you also may be eligible for rent assistance. For further information refer to [Help with your rent](#).

If your entry contribution is more than \$216,500, you are considered a home owner for pension purposes and your entry contribution is not counted as an asset for pension purposes. As you are considered to be a home owner, you are not eligible for rent assistance.

The new legislation does not have any impact on Rent Assistance arrangements for people in this accommodation type, other than they may become eligible for, or have an increase to the amount of Rent Assistance payable as a result of not including Disability Compensation Payments in the calculation for Rent Assistance.

Lawn Mowing – Home and Garden Maintenance

Following a review in 2020-21, the Repatriation Commission agreed to the provision of lawn mowing services under the program without them having to be safety-related. There are no changes to the 15 hours per year service limit or any other home and garden maintenance services.

DVA is working with VHC assessment agencies and service providers to ensure arrangements are in place to meet anticipated demand for lawn mowing services prior to making a formal announcement, which is anticipated before the end of calendar year. All assessment agencies and service providers will be notified of the changes as will other stakeholders including ex-service organisations.

In terms of the client, when their next biannual VHC assessment is due, routine lawn mowing services will be able to be added to a service plan as part of home and garden maintenance services, where there is an assessed need. That said, if a client has an immediate need to receive lawn mowing services, they can contact the VHC agency on 1300 550 450 to request re-assessment and to have this service added to your plan.

An important update for veterans who receive an invalidity pension

CSC WEBSITE UPDATED MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER [Tax-Changes-to-Invalidity-Pensions](#)

CSC has made the decision to immediately start work on implementing a number of changes that will adjust or maintain fortnightly invalidity pension payments, with the aim of having these changes implemented by the next pension payment run on 18 November. At the start of September we alerted veteran customers that the planned changes to invalidity pensions were being delayed. At that time CSC was instructed to halt implementing the changes following a number of Federal Government politicians expressing their concern that some veterans would be receiving less 'in-the-hand' each fortnight.

To date CSC hasn't received any formal direction or guidance in regard to a resolution. However, we are very aware of the stress and anxiety that this issue has caused many veterans and we know that our veteran customers want some certainty about their fortnightly income, especially leading into the holiday period.

What happens now and when will it happen?

A video and further information can be found on the CSC website [HERE](#).

Further information on this provision can be found at –

- a. DVA Fact Sheet – Help with your Rent - <https://bit.ly/3wjYIJs>.
- b. DVA 'How-To' Accommodation Information - <https://bit.ly/3AfJQZM>,

Important Dates

Royal Commission started –	8 July 2021
Rent Assistance Eligibility for TPIs begins –	1 January 2022
Royal Commission Submissions close –	14 October 2022
Royal Commission Interim Report –	11 August 2022
Royal Commission Final Report –	15 June 2023

OPEN ARMS
Veterans & Families Counselling

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

2022 calendar activities

January

Morning tea

- Please note that the morning tea on 6 January is being held at the Ainslie football club at 1000 hours because Tulips will not be open. We will revert to Tulips in February.

Merle's 102nd birthday lunch

- On 20 January 2022, Merle Hare (Storrie) will be turning 102 years of age.
- The WRANS ACT and friends will be celebrating Merles' birthday lunch on Sunday 16 January at the Ainslie Football club.

February

- 01 February – Executive Committee Meeting, Sthn Cross-Club, Woden commencing at 1800.
- 03 February – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 20 February – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie
- 21 February – General Meeting and AGM, Sthn Cross Club, Woden commencing at 1800.

March

- 03 March – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 20 March – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie

April

- 07 April – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 17 April – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie
- 25 April – ANZAC Day march and lunch (TBA)

May

- 03 May – Executive Committee Meeting, Sthn Cross Club, Woden commencing at 1800.
- 05 May – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 09 May – General Meeting, Sthn Cross Club, Woden commencing at 1800.
- 15 May – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie

June

- 02 June – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 07 June – Executive Committee Meeting, Sthn Cross Club, Woden commencing at 1800.
- 19 June – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2022

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 2022

**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)

**WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)
COMMITTEE NOMINATION 2022**

(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 7 February 2022 to:

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

**WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)
COMMITTEE NOMINATION 2022**

(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 7 February 2022 to:

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