



MARCHING ALONG



WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 1

Jan – Mar 2021



Leanne Tingey (Kimpton), Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Sylvia Sinfield (Kelly), Joan Henstock (Reynolds),
Beth Roberts (Cozens), Merle Hare (Storrie), Janice Stewart (Odgers)



Janice Stewart (Odgers) , Judith Rowe (Knight), Rae Milfull, Leanne Tingey(Kimpton), Pauline Gribble (McCormick), Joan Henstock (Reynolds), Sylvia Sinfield (Kelly), Merle Hare (Storrie), Beth Roberts (Cozens)

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)

January – March 2021

WRANS - Naval Women Association (ACT)

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

We are in a better place than this time last year. At least we can undertake limited travel and socialise more than we did as long as we follow the rules. Unfortunately, there are still some restrictions on events such as the National ANZAC Day march.

However, enjoy the moment and do not borrow unnecessary troubles. If you require any assistance, please contact members of the Committee, or me on 0407 039 947 or via email president@wransact.org.

This edition of the newsletter is mostly social activities and it is fun to see everyone enjoying themselves again.

January

Informal morning tea



Group Photo

Our first event for the year was on 07 January but due to Tulip's Café Pialligo staff Christmas holidays we had our morning tea at the Ainslie Football club. Morning tea is usually a two-hour activity commencing at 1000 hours. Some people come for the two hours; however, others drop in for a quick coffee on their way to their next activity.



Ladies Chatting

Merle's 101st birthday lunch



Joan, Merle, Joe

On 17 January the WRANS family, had the privilege of celebrating Merle Hare's (Storrie) birthday at her favourite club the - Ainslie Football club. The 26 attendees made for a fun event.



Les, Di, Beth, Joan, Joe

February



Group Photo

WRANS Executive Meeting

On 02 February, a WRANS Executive committee meeting was held at the Southern Cross Club, Woden in preparation for the annual general meeting, held on 08 February. Afterwards we had dinner.

Informal morning tea

On 04 February, our informal morning tea returned to Tulip's Café Pialligo. Numbers vary for the morning teas depending on work, travel or family commitments. The conversation is lively and everyone is welcome and if you need a lift please ask.



Annual General Meeting

On 08 February, the Annual General meeting and General meetings were held at the Southern Cross Club. The Annual General meeting was for the election of officer bearers for 2021.

As you will notice, there is very little change for 2021. Nominations were received prior to the meeting. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Office bearers for 2021 are:

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.

Informal lunch



WRANS and WRENS milling for photo

On 21 February, the monthly lunch was held at the Ainslie football club. Everyone is welcome even if you only come for a coffee, we would like to hear your experiences. You never know who is going to attend.



Merle, Trish, Janice, Rosemarie, Brian



Rosemarie, Olywn Ann, Judith, Joan, Heather, Beth, Kerry, Kerry, Joe, Trish, Dollah, Pauline, Merle, Janice

March

Informal morning tea



Judith and Heather

On 04 March, morning tea was held at Tulips café Pialligo. When you arrive at Tulips café please look around for the WRANS table because we can be



Judith, Trish, Rae, Kerry, Leanne, Pauline, Sylvia, Joan, Joe, Janice, Merle, Beth

anywhere in the café depending on the weather. Morning tea commences at 1000 and is usually a two-hour activity.



Janice, Beth, Trish, Merle, Pauline, Kerry, Leanne, Sylvia, Rae

Stand Out WRAN -

The *HMAS Harman* Junior Sailors Mess committee approached the WRANS (ACT) Association to nominate a stand out WRAN.

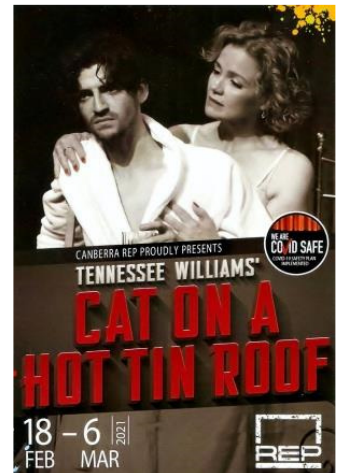
'The committee is currently looking at renaming the mess and we are considering putting forward the idea of naming it after a standout member of the WRANS to publicly recognise their achievements and service. May I please ask you for your opinion of 1 or 2 women who have excelled in their contribution towards the service whom I could put forward to command/the committee (either during 1941-1947 or 1951-1985)? Florence Violet McKenzie would potentially be a front runner, but I'm sure there are many other women who have also made considerable contributions towards Navy.

Pauline Gribble canvassed the members for a suitable nomination and the majority nominated Warrant Officer Agnes Lenore 'Lennie' Maiden WR84591, the first WRANS to reach the rank of Warrant Officer. We settled on a WRAN who had not participated in conflict, which most WRANS did not.

Theatre Three Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

On 06 March, a few of us attended the production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*: Les and Beth (Cozen) Roberts, Margaret Smith, Judi (Hirst) Hughes Pauline and Dennis Gribble.

Tennessee Williams Pulitzer Prize winning *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* is about the dysfunctional but wealthy Pollitt family gathers to celebrate ageing patriarch Big Daddy's birthday. However, there is more to this gathering than a family reunion. Unbeknown to him, Big Daddy is dying of cancer; he has no will, and is yet to determine which of his sons will inherit his estate.....



Janice, Judith, Merle, Heather, Pauline, Dollah

Informal monthly lunch

On 21 March, we met at the Ainslie Football for our monthly lunch. While the weather was wet and cool it was pleasant and comfortable in the Ainslie Football club. Due to other commitments, there were only a few of us; however, the consensus was it was fun.

I look forward to these lunches because I always learn something new about old and new friends. No subject is taboo; we ask for advice and discuss things that have happened during our life experiences. Some ex-WRENS who we welcome as colleagues usually attend these lunches.

Upcoming events

April

- 01 April – Morning tea at Tulips café Pialligo commencing at 1000 hours
- 16 April – President to place a cross for 25th Field of Remembrance Ceremony commencing 1030 hours.
- 18 April – Lunch at the Ainslie Football club at 1200 hours.
- 25 April ANZAC Day – National ceremony commences at 1030 hours
- 25 April – lunch at the Canberra Bowling Club, Hobart Ave, Forrest, after the National ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

Extra information

25 April ANZAC Day

- ANZAC Day is on Sunday 25th April with the public holiday on Monday 26th.
- Four WRANS volunteered to carry the WRANS banner on ANZAC Day to acknowledge the 80th and 70th anniversaries for the WRANS. That is Pauline Gribble Judith (Knight) Rowe, Rose (Wood) Van Dijk and Sarra-Jane Gill. The final carriers will be determined on ANZAC Day depending on weight of the banner and if everyone is fit.
- The RAN Communications Branch Association (RANCBA) has invited the WRANS to attend their ANZAC Day lunch at the Canberra Bowling Club, Hobart Ave, FORREST after the National ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.
- All are invited even though many cannot attend the National Ceremony.
- The time for lunch at the Canberra Bowling Club depends on the time the AWM event finishes. Due to the shortened ANZAC Day march, the lunch will probably start at 1200.
- When it is felt everyone has arrived, the RANCBA people participate in the Club has a flag raising ceremony.
- Further details to follow.

Last Post Ceremony - the Australian War Memorial

- On 28th April, the WRANS are having afternoon tea at Poppies café at the Australian War Memorial. The event is scheduled between 1445 and 1630 hours.
- The Last Post Ceremony commences at 1645 hours and is for Petty Officer WRAN Cook Maude Veronica Hebson. This ceremony also commemorates the 80th Anniversary since the first members of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) arrived at *HMAS Harman* on 28 April 1941.
- January 2021, is the 70th Anniversary of the re-establishment of WRANS post World War II.

DVA News

Inquiry into the accuracy of information provided to Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) members

On 18 March 2021, the Senate referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee the following matter for inquiry and report by 24 June 2021:

The accuracy of information provided to Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) members, including:

- a. the accuracy of information provided to DFRDB members about the effects of commutation on future retirement pay entitlement, the consequences of this, and what remedial action (if any) could be taken;
- b. whether retirement payments were indexed as required by legislation and, if not, what remedial action (if any) could be taken;
- c. policy and legislative issues, including provisions for:
 - i. use of certain life expectancy tables,
 - ii. permanency of reductions to commuted pensions,
 - iii. indexation arrangements; and
- d. recommendations on any potential changes to administrative arrangements, policy or legislation;
- e. advice on costs associated with any recommendations;
- f. all relevant existing information and previous reviews in relation to DFRDB, including the findings of the Ombudsman's investigation;
- g. the level of understanding among DFRDB members about how the legislation works, and ways to improve this; and
- h. any related issues.

The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to the inquiry and to invite you or your organisation to make a written submission to the committee by 30 April 2021.

The committee prefers to receive submissions online as an attached document by accessing the committee website and selecting the Upload Submission Online link:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/DFRDB

Alternatively, all submissions may be emailed as an attached document to fadt.sen@aph.gov.au or mailed to the address below:

Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Information relating to Senate committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a committee, can be located on the internet at

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Making_a_submission.

Submissions become committee documents and are made public only after a decision by the committee. Publication of submissions includes loading them onto the internet and making them available to other interested parties including the media. Please indicate if you wish the committee to consider keeping your submission, or part thereof, confidential.

The committee will consider all submissions, and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at a public hearing. Should you require further information, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 3535.

Inquiry into TPI Payment (Special Rate of Disability Pension)

On 18 March 2021, the Senate referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee the following matter for inquiry and report by 24 June 2021:

The TPI payment (Special Rate of Disability Pension), with particular reference to:

- a. the purpose, adequacy, structure and indexation arrangements of the TPI pension;
- b. the case made, and analysis provided, by the TPI Federation, including the extent to which the TPI pension value has changed over time and the support available to TPI veterans;
- c. all relevant existing information and previous reviews in relation to the TPI pension, including the recommendations of the Tune review;
- d. recommendations on any potential changes to the payment and any other issues;
- e. advice on costs associated with any recommendations; and
- f. any related issues.

The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to the inquiry and to invite you or your organisation to make a written submission to the committee by 30 April 2021.

The committee prefers to receive submissions online as an attached document by accessing the committee website and selecting the Upload Submission Online link:

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Alternatively, all submissions may be emailed as an attached document to fadt.sen@aph.gov.au or mailed to the address below:

Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
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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

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 633000
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)
