



# MARCHING ALONG



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

Volume 16 Issue 2

May-Jul 2022



From Left to Right: Di Bodsworth, Margaret Manly, Lyn McCoy, Chris Hennessy, Katey De Kosta

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

**May – July 2022**

## **WRANS - Naval Women Association (ACT)**

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

#### ***From the Secretary***

As we suffer through another severe winter with the Covid-19 numbers not getting any better, I hope that this newsletter helps to brighten your spirits a little. To all those who are suffering from Covid or the flu, I wish you a speedy recovery. Please keep warm and safe.

Included are photos from the monthly morning teas and lunches which continue to be popular and often include new faces. If you have not been as yet, I would encourage you to join us and enjoy some fellowship. The next major event on our calendar is our annual Memorial Service at HMAS Harman and I hope that we can have a good attendance this year as last years' service had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions. See the article later in the newsletter for more details.

#### **Morning Tea on Wednesday 4 May**

From left to right, back row: Trish Goddard, Toni Hazelwood, Di Bodsworth, Janice Stewart (partly obscured), Juanita Strachan, Kerry Holmes and Chris Hennessy.

Second row: Margaret Manley, Dallys Young, Gaye Doolan and Beth Roberts.

Front row: Lyn McCoy, Pauline Gribble, Merle Hare and Alison Gillett.



#### **Lunch on Sunday 15 May**



From left to right, back row: Margaret Manley, Olwyn Anne Cook, Heather Milward, Beth Roberts, and Rae Milfull.

Front row: Di Sell, Pauline Gribble and Janice Stewart.

#### **Morning Tea on Thursday 2 June**

From left to right, back row: Lyn McCoy, Margaret Manley, Dallys Young, Sue Shaw, Carol Harris, Sylvia Sinfield and Judith Rowe.

Front row: Gaye Doolan, Merle Hare and Pauline Gribble.





## **Lunch on Sunday 19 June**

From left to right, back row: Jane Tsakissiris, Rosemarie Millar, Trish Goddard, Heather Milward, Sue Wheeler, Di Sell, Beth Roberts, Margaret Manley, Dollah West, Joe and Joan Henstock.

Front row: Heather Schmitzer, Merle Hare and Pauline Gribble.



## **Morning Tea on Tuesday 5 July**



From left to right, back row: Alison Gillett, Lyn McCoy, Juanita Strachan, Margaret Manley, Chris Hennessy, Sue Shaw, Di Bodsworth and Jane Tsakissiris.

Second row: Pauline Gribble and Kate Delaney.

Front row: Janice Stewart, Merle Hare and Dorothy Weston.

## **Lunch on Sunday 17 July**

From left to right, back row: Sue Wheeler, Rae Milfull, Olwyn Anne Cook, Heather Milward, Dollah West and Judith Rowe.

Front row: Merle Hare and Dot Weston.



## **WRANS Memorial Service – 22 October 2022**

The annual WRANS Memorial Service will be held at the WRANS Memorial at HMAS Harman commencing at 1100 on Saturday 22 October 2022. This service has been held every year since 2004 except for last year when it had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

HMAS Harman personnel will be assisting with the service and the Naval Cadet unit will be providing the Catafalque Party.

Refreshments will be served in the Bonshaw Mess after the service. The cost will be advised closer to the date.

All are welcome to attend and to bring family and friends, however, names of those attending must be advised beforehand so that the security personnel on the gate have a list of attendees to enable entrance to the base. Numbers are also needed for catering purposes.

Please advise your attendance to Sue Wheeler ([susan.wheeler@defence.gov.au](mailto:susan.wheeler@defence.gov.au)) at your earliest convenience but no later than 4 October 2022.

## **Women's Museum of Australia**

The Women's Museum of Australia in Alice Springs celebrates the achievements of women by showcasing the courage, determination and perseverance of ordinary women who have achieved extraordinary things,

whether they were pioneer women of Central Australia, are Australian women first in their fields or are new migrants. Their stories are truly inspiring.

Founded in 1993, the museum, which first opened as the Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame, was the vision of Molly Clark, a remote station owner, tourism operator, advocate for women and a long-term resident of Central Australia.

One of the exhibitions is titled "Ordinary Women. Extraordinary Lives" and focuses on Australian women breaking new ground in professional areas, from those first permitted a tertiary education in the 1870s, to the first female ordained priests in the 1990s and the first female political leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Included in this list of women is Florence Violet McKenzie OBE affectionately known as "Mrs Mac". She was Australia's first female electrical engineer, founder of the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps (WESC) and lifelong promoter for technical education for women. She campaigned successfully to have some of her female trainees accepted into the all-male Navy, thereby originating the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS). Some 12,000 servicemen passed through her signal instruction school in Sydney, acquiring skill in Morse code and visual signalling (flag semaphore and International Code of Signals).



She set up her own electrical contracting business in 1918, and apprenticed herself to it, in order to meet the requirements of the Diploma in Electrical Engineering at Sydney Technical College. Described at the time as Australia's "Mademoiselle Edison", in 1922 she became the first Australian woman to take out an amateur radio operator's licence. Through the 1920s and 1930s, her "Wireless Shop" in Sydney's Royal Arcade was renowned amongst Sydney radio experimenters and hobbyists. She founded *The Wireless Weekly* in 1922, established the Electrical Association for Women in 1934, and wrote the first "all-electric cookbook" in 1936. She corresponded with Albert Einstein in the post-war years.

On 28 April 1941, Mrs McKenzie accompanied 14 of her WESC trainees (twelve telegraphists and two domestic helpers) and arrived at the Naval Wireless Transmitting Station that was later to become HMAS *Harman* in Canberra. The women were dressed in their green WESC uniform which had been designed by Mrs McKenzie herself – it was several months before a female Navy uniform was ready.

If you would like to know more about the museum go to: <https://wmoa.com.au>

## **Mature Wisdom**

Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

If you can't think of a word, say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.

Senility has been a smooth transition for me.

I love approaching 80, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.

Just remember, once you're over the hill you begin to pick up speed.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be older...this is not what I expected.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So, remember...Don't sing!

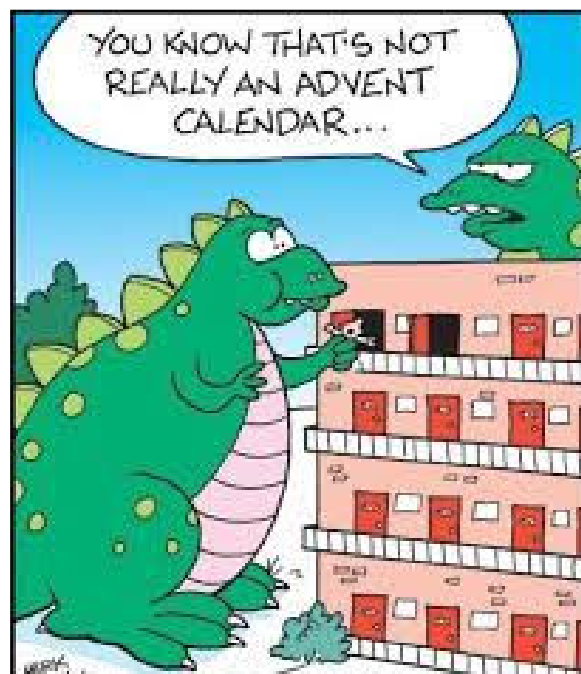
I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humour suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.



"You'll have to get behind me and push."





## Do you recognise any of these Wrans?

If you are able to identify any of the Wrans in the following photos, please contact the Secretary on [secretary@wransact.org](mailto:secretary@wransact.org)



## **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**

#### **Legislation**

The *Defence, Veterans' and Families Acute Support Package Bill 2022* has now been tabled. This Bill “provides more vulnerable veterans and their families with more flexible support through the Defence, Veterans' and Families' Acute Support Package, extending to a wider eligible group the levels of financial support available through the current Family Support Package.

*The measures in this Bill will increase access to support when it is needed most. It will ensure support is provided on the basis of need rather than service type, supporting vulnerable veterans and their families to adjust to challenging life circumstances.”*

The consultation process is being led by the Treasury. The draft Bill – *Treasury Laws Amendment (Measures for a later sitting) Bill 2022: Taxation of military superannuation benefits* – and associated draft explanatory material can be viewed on the <https://bit.ly/3JwbGpy>. The draft Bill reflects the Government's commitment to ensure veterans are not left worse off due to the Douglas decision and that veterans who benefited from the decision retain these outcomes. Further information can be found at <https://bit.ly/3zV1rYP>.

#### **Pension Increases**

The DVA Compensation payments were increased on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in line by approximately 2% in line with the usual CPI/MTAWE Indexation increase. The Government also applied a cost-of-living adjustment to the income support payments of approximately 2% as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. The deeming thresholds also increased from 1 July 2022. This means that the value of financial assets deemed to be earning the lower rate of 0.25 per cent has increased. The higher deeming rate of 2.25 per cent is applied to the balance of financial assets over these thresholds. Further information can be found at <https://bit.ly/3d6fVfo>.

#### **Royal Commission Update**

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide is continuing, and will recommence in Hobart on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and then in Darwin on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022. An interim report will be provided by the Commissioners on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The final report is due to be tabled on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

#### **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 –	17 June 2024

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

## 2022 calendar activities

### August

- 03 Aug – Wed – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 21 Aug – Sun – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie

### September

- 01 Sep – Thurs – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 03 Sep – Sat – General Meeting commencing at 1100 – Southern Cross Club, Woden
- 18 Sep – Sun – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie

### October

- 04 Oct – Tues – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 16 Oct – Sun – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie
- 22 Oct – Sat – WRANS Memorial Service – HMAS *Harman*

### November

- 02 Nov – Wed – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 20 Nov – Sun – Xmas lunch commencing 1200 – TBA

### December

- 01 Dec – Thurs – morning tea commencing 1000 – Tulip's café Pialligo
- 18 Dec – Sun – monthly lunch commencing 1200 – Ainslie Football Club, Ainslie

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Vacant
<b>Vice President</b>	Sigrid 'Sigi' Kropp (Engel)
<b>Correspondence Secretary</b>	Judith Rowe (Knight)
<b>Minute Secretary</b>	Judith Rowe (Knight)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rachael 'Rae' Milfull (Cooper)
<b>Assistant Treasurer/Membership:</b>	Christine Lamb (McNicol)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

<b>Events Co-ordinator:</b>	Pauline Gribble (McCormick)
<b>Catering Sub-committee</b>	
<b>DVA/KOC Liaison:</b>	Pat McCabe

### EX-OFFICIO POSITIONS:

<b>Webmaster:</b>	Pat McCabe
<b>Facebook Manager:</b>	Rose van Dijk (Wood)
<b>Welfare Officer:</b>	Pat McCabe
<b>Scrapbooking:</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Pat McCabe
<b>Librarian:</b>	Sigrid 'Sigi' Kropp (Engel)



## **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!**

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**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) .....

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