



# MARCHING ALONG



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

Volume 17 Issue 1

Nov 2022 – Feb 2023

**November 2022 – February 2023**

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

### **President's Note**

Having reluctantly joined the committee as Vice President last year and then, in reality, performing the role of President I nominated as President at the AGM. I have received, and continue to receive, the generous support of the committee. The committee does you proud. They are invested in keeping the association relevant. BUT, they do have a use by date. Please keep the importance, and future, of our association to us the membership in your thoughts and consider joining the committee in the future. The best way to observe the workings of the committee and judge the work load, which is not onerous, is to nominate as Vice President.

The programme for 2023 is a busy one. If attendance at our morning teas and lunches are an indication our membership continues to enjoy these events. I look forward to joining you at as many events as possible.

Please reach out if there is anything we can do to help you, support you or just provide a shoulder or listening ear.

Sigi

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

### ***New 2023 Committee***

At the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11 February 2023, the following were elected to the committee:

President	Sigrid Kropp (nee Engel)
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Judith Rowe (nee Knight)
Treasurer	Rachael 'Rae' Milfull (nee Cooper)
Assistant Treasurer/	
Membership	Christine Lamb (nee McNicol)
Ceremonial	Sue Wheeler
Social Events	Pauline Gribble (nee McCormick)
DVA Liaison	Pat McCabe

### ***WRANS Memorial Service 2023***

The Commanding Officer of HMAS Harman, CMDR Danielle Radnidge, asked if we would consider changing the date of our Memorial Service from October to Sunday 2 July. It would be for this year only to coincide with the week of celebrations for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commissioning of HMAS Harman. The WRANS Memorial at HMAS Harman had been officially opened in July 2003 during the celebrations of Harman's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The memorial service has been held each year since, on the Saturday closest to the 20<sup>th</sup> October which was the anniversary of the formation of the WRANS Association. At the General Meeting on Saturday 11 February, the members agreed that the memorial service should be moved for this year only, from October to Sunday 2 July 2023.

The service will be held at the memorial (weather permitting) followed by light refreshments at the Bonshaw Mess. In case a bad weather, the service will be held at the Bonshaw Mess. Those attending will need to provide names in advance so that they can be allowed access to Harman. Those staying on for the refreshments will need to pay \$10 per head in advance for catering purposes. Point of contact is Pauline Gribble at [pegribble@gmail.com](mailto:pegribble@gmail.com) and names are required by 31 May 2023.

We have also been invited to join the Freedom of Entry to Queanbeyan march on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. At the General Meeting the membership agreed to participate. More details will be provided in due course.

### ***20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)***

This year on 20 October it will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of our Association. We usually hold the memorial service on the Saturday closest to this date but as we are moving the service forward to 2 July to coincide with the celebrations of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commissioning of HMAS Harman, an informal lunch will be held on Saturday 21 October 2023 to celebrate our anniversary. Details of venue and cost will be provided once bookings have been made. **Save the date!**

## ***Naval Cadets Training Ship Canberra***

The Vice President Sigi Kropp and the Secretary Judith Rowe attended the TS Canberra Naval Cadets End of Year Parade on Friday 9 December 2022. Sigi presented the award to the Female Cadet of the Year. Our association has been presenting this award every year commencing in 2007. This year the award was presented to Cadet AB Emma Toohey. Pictured is Sigi holding the shield listing all awardees since 2007, Emma with her certificate and LEUT ANC Cherrie Climas, Commanding Officer of TS Canberra. Sigi also presented Emma with a copy of the David Dufty book 'Radio Girl' (a biography of Florence Violet McKenzie, known as Mrs Mac.)



On Friday 17 February 2023, the President, Sigi Kropp attended the presentation of the Navy League of Australia Award for the Most Efficient Training Ship to TS Canberra at the Naval Cadet unit at HMAS Harman.

## ***Naming of Neighbourhood Park at Campbell Shops***

Last year Chris Lamb saw an article regarding the naming of the neighbourhood park behind the Campbell, ACT shops and asking for suggestions. The streets in Campbell have defence force personnel as their theme. However, women are not well represented with Provan Street being the only street commemorating a woman. Frances Betty Provan was WRAN 1. She joined as a Telegraphist and later became a Third Officer WRANS.

The committee discussed a number of options and decided to nominate Joan Streeter OBE. Joan joined the WRANS as an assistant writer in January 1943 and served for 23 years, 15 years as Director WRANS. ACT Planning thanked us for the nomination and will let us know when they have made a decision.

## ***Naming of a Building at HMAS Harman***

The Commanding Officer of HMAS Harman advised that a new Joint Information Warfare Building (JIWF) at Harman will open in July 2023 and they are planning to name the building after someone who has connections to Harman, Cyber and Communications.

The project would like to make the decision by Mid-March. Therefore, she apologised for the short turn around, and asked for any possible candidates to be submitted by 24 February. The CO would really love to see the building named after a WRAN.

After much discussion, the committee agreed to nominate Florence Violet McKenzie (Mrs Mac) and Commander Norma Uhlmann. While Mrs Mac was not a Wran, she campaigned successfully to the Navy to accept women and she accompanied the first Wrans to the Naval Wireless Transmitting Station, Canberra that was later to become HMAS Harman. CMDR Uhlmann served on many occasions at HMAS Harman as both a WRAN and an officer and was the first female linguist.

## *Morning Tea and Lunches*



### **Wednesday 2 November 2022**

From left to right standing: Trish Goddard, Joan Henstock, Joe Henstock, Sue Wheeler, Juanita Strachan, Gaye Doolan, Sue Shaw, Beth Roberts, Margaret Manley, Rae Milfull, Chris Hennessy, Alison Gillett, Janice Stewart.

Sitting: Dot Weston, Merle Hare, Pauline Gribble.

### **Lunch Saturday 19 November 2022**

This lunch was our Christmas Lunch. We had previously held a Christmas Dinner but some of our members were not keen on going out at night so we decided to move the event to a lunch time. A total of 36, members with some partners attended and such a good time was had that we forgot to take a group photo like we usually do at our get togethers.



From left to right: Rae Milfull, Beth Roberts



From left to right: Heather Milward, Merle Hare, Judith Rowe.



### Morning Tea Thursday 1 December 2022



From left to right standing: Sylvia Sinfield, Juanita Strachan, Lyn McCoy, Sue Shaw, LEUT Danielle, Beth Roberts, Sigi Kropp, Sarra-Jane Gill, Rae Milfull, LEUT Kathy, Joan Henstock, Kerry Holmes, Keryn Northrope, Judith Rowe.

Sitting: Pauline Gribble, Dot Weston, Merle Hare, Gaye Doolan, Janice Stewart.

### Lunch Sunday 18 December 2022

From left to right standing: Rosemarie Millar, Di Sell, Olywn Anne Cook, Beth Roberts, Dollah West, Dot Weston, Sue Wheeler, Janice Stewart, Judith Rowe, Pauline Gribble.

Sitting: Heather Schmitzer, Merle



### Morning Tea Tuesday 3 January 2023



From left to right standing: Lyn McCoy, Juanita Strachan, Janice Stewart, Keryn Northrope, Dot Weston, Gaye Doolan.

Sitting: Sigi Kropp, Judith Rowe, Merle Hare, Sue Wheeler, Rae Milfull.

### **Lunch Sunday 15 January 2023**



At this lunch we celebrated the upcoming 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of Merle Hare (her birthday is on 20 January).

From left to right standing: Judy Hughes, Di Sell, Heather Milward, Sigi Kropp, Natalie Read, Dollah West, Dot Weston, Keryn Northrope, Margaret Maher, Rae Milfull, Leanne Tingey, Sue Wheeler, Chris Lamb, Chris Hennessy, Pat McCabe (partly obscured), Lyn McCoy Janice Steward.

Sitting: Judith Rowe, Pauline Gribble, Merle Hare, Olwyn Anne Cook, Sarra-Jane Gill.

### **Morning Tea Wednesday 1 February 2023**



From left to right standing: Leading Seaman Julie Waller, Judith Rowe, Kerry Holmes, Juanita Strachan, Lyn McCoy, Tina Davey, Sue Wheeler, Trish Goddard, Pauline Gribble, Rae Milfull.

Sitting: Sylvia Sinfield, Dot Weston, Merle Hare, Janice Stewart.



### **Lunch Sunday 19 February 2023**

From left to right standing: Chris Sutherland, Judith Rowe, Dollah West, Heather Milward, Kerry Holmes, Pauline Gribble.

Sitting: Joan Henstock, Dot Weston.



## Australian War Memorial Places of Pride

A few years ago the Australian War Memorial (AWM) launched a program to record the location, accompanied by a photograph, of every publicly accessible war memorial in Australia. In 2022 the War Memorial reported that over 10,000 memorials had been identified and the data base continues to grow through the efforts of ex-service organizations, local councils and volunteers to name but a few of the contributors.

The Places of Pride library is easily accessible by the general public via the website [placesofpride.awm.gov.au](https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au) and it is not necessary to have an account to enter the site and search the data base through an intuitive and straightforward menu. It is possible to locate memorials within your local area or further afield during your travels. You might be surprised by the number and type of memorials in your local area and elsewhere.

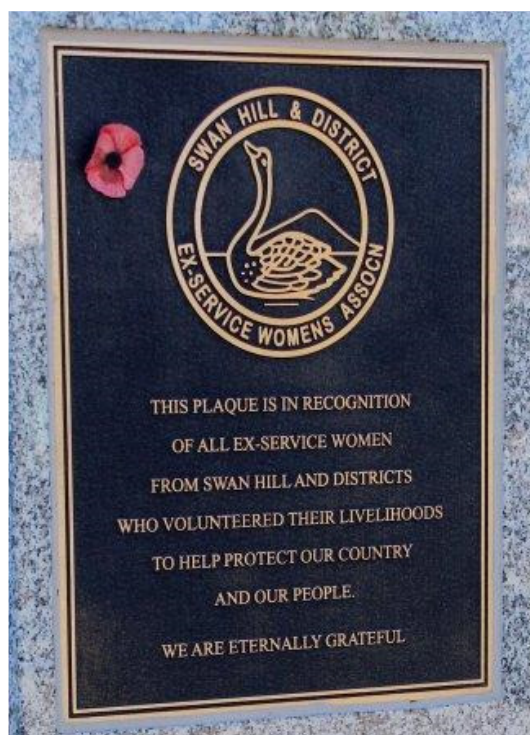


Whereas in the past War Memorials were firstly established mainly by local

communities after the Boer and First World wars to allow families to grieve and pay their respects to local servicemen and women, they have over time developed to encompass a broader perspective to recognise servicemen and women engaged in conflicts and peacekeeping operations from the Boer War to Afghanistan.

Servicewomen have not been ignored. To be found in the World War II galleries of the Australian War Memorial there is a striking sculpture of two WRANs and within the western grounds there is a memorial dedicated solely to all servicewomen (see accompanying photographs). Increasingly across the country local communities and organizations are commissioning and dedicating memorials to specifically honour servicewomen from their district or service. Recently examples were seen in Swan Hill, Victoria and Adelaide. There are many more such memorials to be found in every State.

While our tendency is to pay homage at memorials on special occasions such as Anzac Day or Armistice Day why not when next “out and about” close to home consider stopping by a local memorial to check it out, or



when traveling further afield consider researching the Places of Pride website before you go and plan a stop at one of the memorials dotted around the countryside. Who knows you might even stumble upon one that has not been

registered and/or photographed and become a contributor to the Places of Pride collection. Many folk will come to appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Article and photograph provided by Brian Rowe.

## **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**

#### **DVA Consultation on Legislation Reform**

##### **Information received from the DVA Secretary**

“The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Defence Personnel, The Hon Matt Keogh MP, has today announced that the Government will be undertaking consultation with the veteran community and other stakeholders about a proposed pathway to simplify the veterans’ legislative framework: [Veterans’ Legislation Reform Consultation Pathway takes shape | Minister for Veterans' Affairs \(dva.gov.au\)](#) .

As you know, the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide found that the complexity of the veterans’ system is adversely affecting the mental health of veterans. The proposal being put forward for consultation by the Government is for a future model where all claims would be considered under the existing *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*, rather than the three legislative schemes as is currently the case. This proposal would effectively implement many of the reforms recommended by the Productivity Commission in its 2019 report *A Better Way to Support Veterans*, with simpler outcomes.

Information about the consultation process can be found at <https://www.dva.gov.au/legislationconsultation2023>.

The Minister and the Department will be undertaking direct consultation with key ex-service organisations around the country. While details of these consultations are still being finalised, there will be an opportunity for you and your members to participate in these processes.

The Department will also be consulting ex-service organisations through the National Consultative Framework and other key forums. In addition, consultation with veterans and their families, ADF members and other key stakeholders will be undertaken through webinars.

Written submissions from any interested parties, have also been invited, by **12 May 2023**. These can be made through the consultation webpage at <https://www.dva.gov.au/legislationconsultation2023> or by emailing [legislation.reform@dva.gov.au](mailto:legislation.reform@dva.gov.au). Faxed and posted submissions will also be accepted – see the website page for relevant details.

I encourage you to put forward the views of your organisation about the proposal, and you are also welcome to provide your personal views through one of the channels above.

We will continue to update you how consultation is proceeding at our future meetings.

Regards,

**Alison Frame**

Secretary

Department of Veterans' Affairs”



## From the ATO for those affected by the *Douglas Case* decision

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is sending letters to some veterans who are affected by the *Douglas* Full Federal Court decision for the 2010-11 to 2019-20 income years. This covers invalidity pensions paid to veterans under the MSBS (Military Super Benefit Scheme) or DFRDBS (Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme) that commenced on or after 20 September 2007.

The ATO says that over 2,500 veterans have asked to have their prior year assessments amended since this Court decision. Most of these veterans have received tax refunds.

The ATO is sending letters to veterans who have not yet requested a review for prior years. If you have not yet had your amendments done, your letter will be issued in the coming months. The ATO urges veterans to be patient as there are many people to contact.

The letters will include a brief form to complete and a reply-paid envelope. Veterans should consider their personal circumstances and if they want to participate in the ATO's review process.

If you use a tax agent, the ATO will let them know they are sending you a letter. This will make it easier if you need to call your agent about the letter.

The ATO says it is committed to finalising reviews as quickly as possible, but each person's circumstances are different. It may take a while to determine any refund owing to you, but they will keep you informed along the way.

You can get the latest information about the *Douglas* decision and the simplified review process on the ATO's website at [www.ato.gov.au/militarysuper](http://www.ato.gov.au/militarysuper).

### **Important Dates**

Royal Commission started –	8 July 2021
Rent Assistance Eligibility for TPIs begins –	1 January 2022
Royal Commission Interim Report – DONE	11 August 2022
Royal Commission Hearings – Perth –	15 May 2023
Royal Commission Private Session Requestions –	28 April 2023
Royal Commission Submissions close –	13 October 2023
Royal Commission Final Report –	17 June 2024

For further information call 1800 331 800

**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)

## WRANS – Naval Women’s Association (ACT) Calendar of Events for 2023

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
March	Thu	2	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
March	Sun	19	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
April	Tue	4	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
April	Sun	16	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
April	Tue	25	TBA	Anzac March	Queanbeyan
May	Wed	3	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
May	Sun	21	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
May	Sat	27	1100	General Meeting and Lunch	Canberra Southern Cross Club Woden
June	Thu	1	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
June	Sun	18	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
July	Sat	1	TBA	Freedom of Entry March	Queanbeyan
July	Sun	2	1100	Memorial Service	HMAS Harman
July	Tue	4	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
July	Sun	16	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
August	Wed	2	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
August	Sun	20	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
September	Thur	7	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
September	Sun	17	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
September	Sat	23	1100	General Meeting and Lunch	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
October	Tues	3	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
October	Sun	15	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
October	Sat	21	TBA	Lunch for 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association	TBA
November	Wed	1	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
November	Sun	19	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
December	Sat	2	1230	Christmas Lunch	Yowani Country Club
December	Thur	7	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
December	Sun	17	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>President</b>	Sigrid 'Sigi' Kropp (Engel)
<b>Vice President</b>	Vacant
<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>Event 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>	Pat McCabe
<b>Welfare Officer:</b>	Pat McCabe – 0417 291 546
<b>Scrapbooking:</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Judith Rowe (Knight) & Pat McCabe
<b>Librarian:</b>	Sigrid 'Sigi' Kropp (Engle)

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES 2023**

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 2023

**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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