



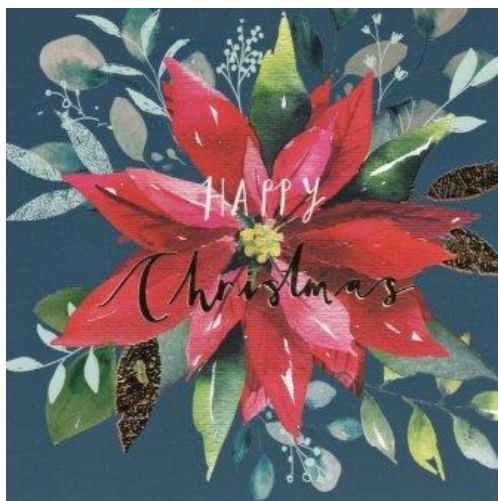
MARCHING ALONG



WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 4

September - November 2023



From the President:

2023 started with a celebration, Merle's 103rd birthday. Throughout the year we continued to meet and enjoy each other's company. Joining HMAS Harman for the freedom of entry and combining those celebrations with our organisation's anniversary was one of several highlights.

Unfortunately, our 20th anniversary luncheon on the 21 October was not a highlight but a bitter disappointment. The caterers had come highly recommended, this was not evident at our lunch.

We did not receive a reply, perhaps not surprisingly, to the letter with our feedback. However, our members are irrepressible and conversation flowed and we enjoyed catching up.

Not everyone has been in good health this year. My wish for all our members is that 2024 brings good and improved health and that we continue to enjoy each other's company.

We end the year with another celebration, our Christmas lunch at the Yowani Country Club. May you have a happy and blessed Christmas.

Sigi

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

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

WRANS ACT Christmas Lunch

The annual Christmas Lunch was held on Saturday 2 December at the Yowani Country Club, Canberra. The lunch was attended by 33 members and partners as unfortunately, some had to pull out at the last minute due to poor health with a couple succumbing to Covid. We had a function room with five tables, beautifully decorated for the season by Kerry Holmes. People mixed freely, the food was delicious and the service very efficient. The following photo shows all the women who attended.



Annual General Meeting – Saturday 10 February 2024

The Annual General Meeting of our association will be held in Community Room 2, Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden at 1100 on Saturday 10 February 2024. Please come along and support your committee. Some of the committee members will be remaining in their positions and we already have volunteers to replace those who are not, so there is no need to be worried about being railroaded onto the committee. However, your input into how the association should go forward would be very much appreciated.

WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT) 20th Anniversary Lunch

The lunch was held at the Bonshaw Mess at HMAS Harman on Saturday 21 October and unfortunately did not go as well as planned. Only 26 attended and the caterer let us down with the food being very disappointing. The caterers had come highly recommended but this was not evident at our lunch and we did not even receive a reply to the letter with our feedback. However, our members enjoyed looking through the scrapbooks that covered the twenty years of our association and reminisced about past gatherings and remembered those who have passed on.

From left to right: Dollah West, Merle Hare and Margaret Manley.



From left to right: Beth Roberts, Pauline Gribble, Rae Milful and Trish Goddard (standing)

Violet McKenzie Park, Campbell

On 06 September 2023 the neighbourhood park in Campbell, behind the Campbell shops was officially named Violet McKenzie Park. The unveiling of the name board with details of Mrs Mac was conducted by the ACT Government Minister Mick Gentlemen. The ceremony was attended by serving Naval personnel, Ex-Wrans, Australian War Memorial personnel, other ACT Government personnel and locals. Details of what is written on the board are as follows:

'Violet McKenzie Park

Florence Violet McKenzie OBE (1890 -1982)

Electrical Engineer, signals trainer, women's advocate.

Florence Violet McKenzie nee Wallace, known affectionately as 'Mrs Mac' played a prominent role to help establish the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) during the Second World War. A pioneer in Australian radio and electrical engineering, she was committed to technical education and training especially for women.

With war looming, McKenzie established the Womens Emergency Signalling Corps in 1939 offering free training in morse code, visual signalling and international code. She campaigned tirelessly for the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal Australian Navy to accept her skilled female telegraphists as defence personnel.

In 1941 she proudly accompanied 14 trainees to the HMAS Harman communications station in Canberra where they began service as the first Wrans. Florence Violet McKenzie was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1950 for voluntary service to the Womens Emergency Signalling Corps.'

At the bottom of the board 'Mrs Mac' is spelt out in morse code.

From left to right: Trish Goddard, Judith Rowe, Natalie Read, Kerry Holmes, Pauline Gribble, Commander Chloe Griggs (Navy Sea Power Centre).



ACT Street Names.

Two streets in the ACT are named after WRANS. McClemans Street in Watson is named after Sheila McClemans and Provan Street in Campbell is named after Francis Provan. The suburbs of Canberra have themes for their street names. Watson's theme is judges and members of the legal profession and Campbell's theme is defence personnel.



Sheila Mary McClemans, CMG, OBE (3 May 1909 – 10 June 1988) was a lawyer who graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1930. She joined the WRANS in 1943 and rose to the rank of Chief Officer (Commander) and was Director WRANS from 1944 to 1947.

Francis Provan (17 November 1911 – 21 June 1963) was WRAN No 1, one of fourteen telegraphists from the Womens Emergency Signalling Corps who arrived in Canberra 28 April 1941 to begin working for the Navy in what was to become the WRANS.

After being promoted to Leading Telegraphist and then Petty Officer, she completed the WRANS Officers course and was promoted to Third Officer in February 1943. In October 1946 she was demobilized from the Navy.



First Women Politicians



On International Women's Day 2023, new statues were unveiled in front of the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House) in Canberra to recognize the first two women in parliament. On the left is Dame Dorothy Tagney (1907 – 1985), the first woman elected to the Senate and the first female member of the Australian Labor Party to be elected to the Federal Parliament. She served from 1943 to 1968 and supported the establishment of the Australian National University (ANU), becoming a founding member of the ANU Council in 1951.

On the right is Dame Enid Lyons (1897 – 1981), the first woman to be elected to the House of Representatives in Federal Parliament and the first female member to be appointed to the Federal Cabinet (Liberal Party). She served from 1943 to 1951 and was then the Commissioner of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) from 1951 to 1962. She wrote regular columns for the Women's Weekly and the Melbourne Sun and authored three books.



Social Events

Monthly Gatherings

Thursday 7 September Morning Tea



From left to right, back row: Wendy (visiting from Perth); Rae Milfull, Sue Shaw.

Second row: Pauline Gribble, Lyn McCoy, Kerry Holmes, Judith Rowe, Gaye Doolan, Janice Stewart.

Seated in the front is: Merle Hare.

Sunday 17 September Lunch

From left to right, back row: Heather Milward, Olwyn-Anne Cook, Dollah West, Trish Goddard, Pauline Gribble.

Second row: Merle Hare and Janice Stewart.



Tuesday 3 October Morning Tea



From left to right, back row: Sue Wheeler, visitor, Dot Weston, Juanita Strachan. *Second row:* Lyn McCoy, Carol Harris, Maurine Jeffrey, Judith Rowe.

Front row: Pauline Gribble, Chris Hennessy, Alison Gillett, Kate Fennery, Janice Stewart. Seated is Merle Hare.

Sunday 15 October Lunch

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

Front row: Pauline Gribble, Beth Roberts, Joan Henstock, Merle Hare and Janice Stewart.



Wednesday 1 November Morning Tea



From left to right, back row: Janice Stewart, Judith Rowe, Juanita Strachan, Pat McCabe, Sue Shaw.

Second row: Rae Milfull, Margaret Manley, Lyn McCoy, Heather Milward.

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

Sunday 19 November Lunch

From left to right, back row: Maureen Jeffrey, Heather Milward, Judith Rowe, Olwyn-Anne Cook, Margaret Manley, Trish Goddard, Kerry Holmes, Janice Stewart, Pauline Gribble.

Front row: Rosemarie Millar, Joan Henstock, Merle Hare, Beth Roberts, Gaye Doolan and Heather Schmitzer.



Change of email address

As several internet providers are no longer supporting email, (e.g. Grapevine, TPG, IINET, OzeMail, Bigpond and others will follow) many Members may have to change their email addresses due to changes within their provider services. All these providers have currently moved their mail accounts to The Messaging Company (<https://themessaging.co/>) where your old emails will be sent to you for 12 months. After those 12 months, the Messaging Company will charge you for this account.

To alleviate these additional charges, you may wish to create a new Gmail account and advise all your accounts of your new email address. If you are one of the many affected by this, please let us know your new email address so that we can continue to keep in touch with our news.



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

Royal Commission Update – 7 December 2023

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide has been granted a three-month extension by

the Federal Government to complete its inquiries.

The Royal Commission's final report must now be delivered by **Monday 9 September 2024**.

Launch of Defence Family and Domestic Violence Prevention and Response Strategy

This strategy was released on 30 November 2023 and is underpinned by the four domains of Prevention, Early Intervention, Response and Recovery and healing, as outlined in the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*.

DVA has also launched DVA Family and Domestic Violence Strategy 2020–25 and this work will complement the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children along with our Action Plans

Anzac Day 2024

Registrations open for 2024 Anzac Day Services overseas. Australians are now invited to register their attendance at the 2024 Anzac Day Dawn Services in France and Türkiye to commemorate our Anzacs, and all those who have served our nation in conflict and peacekeeping operations in the years since.

The Gallipoli Anzac Day Dawn Service will take place at the Anzac Commemorative Site on the Gallipoli peninsula. This will be followed by the Australian Memorial service at Lone Pine, the site of one of the fiercest battles that the Australians fought during the First World War.

The Dawn Service in France will be hosted at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux, followed by a service at the Digger Memorial, just outside the town of Bullecourt.

Those planning to attend these overseas Dawn Services can now register for their free attendance passes online at <https://commemorations.teg.com.au/en/>. Registration is essential.

Hearing Aids

Many Ex-Service Organisations have advocated for many years to have the provision of suitable hearing aids for Veterans to be made available. To this end success has been achieved in a small way with approvals now able to be obtained if the hearing aids are required for employment or if the Veteran has dexterity issues that require a hearing aid with Bluetooth facilities.

The DVA Secretary will be trying to obtain funding for additional hearing aids needs to be met with the next budget determining the success, or otherwise, of this endeavour.

Veterans and War Widows are asked to provide the form number D9398 which is a new form for the Audiologists to complete to obtain prior approval for the required hearing aid.

DVA is managing the processes the Department utilises in the prior approval process for hearing aid to identify the barriers and break-points of this process.

If you have any difficulty in gaining approval for the required hearing aid, can you please advise me so that the processes can be identified.

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 – Sydney –	4 March 2024
Royal Commission Private Session Requests –	28 April 2023
Royal Commission Submissions close –	13 October 2023
Royal Commission Final Report –	9 September 2024

For further information call 1800 331 800

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

WRANS – Naval Women’s Association (ACT) Calendar of Events for 2024

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
January	Fri	5	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
January	Sun	21	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
February	Tue	6	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
February	Sat	10	1100	Annual General Meeting & Lunch	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
February	Sun	18	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
March	Wed	6	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
March	Sun	17	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
April	Thu	4	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
April	Sun	21	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
April	Thu	25	TBA	ANZAC Day March	TBA
May	Fri	3	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
May	Sun	19	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
May	Sat	25	1100	General Meeting and Lunch	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
June	Tue	4	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
June	Sun	16	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
July	Wed	3	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
July	Sun	21	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
August	Thu	1	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
August	Sun	18	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
September	Fri	6	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
September	Sun	15	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
October	Tue	1	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
October	Sat	19	1100	Memorial Service	HMAS Harman
November	Wed	6	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
November	Sun	17	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
December	Thu	5	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
December	Sun	15	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Event Co-ordinator	Pauline Gribble (McCormick)
Catering Sub-committee	
DVA/KOC Liaison	Pat McCabe

EX-OFFICIO POSITIONS:

Webmaster:	Pat McCabe
Facebook Manager:	Pat McCabe
Welfare Officer:	Pat McCabe – 0417 291 546
Scrapbooking:	
Newsletter Editor:	Judith Rowe (Knight) & Pat McCabe
Librarian:	Sigrid 'Sigi' Kropp (Engle)

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2024

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 –

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME JOINING FEE IS \$10.00 PLUS
THE ANNUAL \$20.00 SUBSCRIPTION
(Application Form on website)**

Payment can be made 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 2024

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

INVITE YOUR NAVY FRIENDS ALONG TO OUR MEETINGS!

Personal Details New email address – have you moved?

Note - Many email providers will no longer be providing email services. Please let us know your new email address as soon as possible.

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 forward to secretary@wransact.org or hand it in at the next General Meeting.

PERSONAL DETAILS – UPDATE

Surname Given Names

Address

Telephone (Home) (Work)
(Mobile)

(Email address)

(Do you need to change your email address – please advise us when you do)