



MARCHING ALONG



WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT) Newsletter

Volume 18 Issue 3

June – August 2024



HMAS Canberra Memorial Commemoration
Trish Goddard, Sigi Kropp and Pauline Gribble

Newsletter of the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)
PO Box 450
Erindale, ACT 2903

President: Sigi Kropp (nee Engel)
Email: president@wransact.org

Secretary: Mrs Heather Milward (Gunner)
Email: secretary@wransact.org

WRANS - Naval Women's Association (ACT)

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From the President:

Spring appeared to come early; the flowers and trees have told us so. We have had some glorious days when the wind was light and the sky cloud free. Then a reminder that we don't control nature, **a minus 6.9!!** Don't put your winter woollies away yet.

We continue to enjoy the Morning Teas at Tulips and have welcomed and loved the presence of serving members from *HMAS Harman*. Merle did so have fun trying on the various caps.

Trish, Heather and Pauline have been visiting those members who have had the misfortune to be hospitalised, a visit from these three is like a tonic, well done ladies. Wishing everyone a speedy recovery and improved health.

Keep the 19th October free for the WRANS Memorial Service at *HMAS Harman*. Don't forget to vote first although pre-poll is open from the 8th.

Our Christmas luncheon will be on the 7th December at the YOWANI Country Club. Details are below. Pat has been updating the Facebook page with Pauline's photos as well as the dates for upcoming events. Thank you.

Don't forget the General meeting on Saturday 21 September at 11 am followed by lunch at the Woden Southern Cross Club the last meeting before our Christmas Lunch. Hope to catch up with you then.

That's all from me

Sigi

Sigrid Kropp

Upcoming Events

HMAS Sydney Association BBQ, 17 October

The HMAS Sydney Association is holding a Health Week BBQ on Thursday 17th October at the Duntroon Golf Club commencing at 1200. Several WRANS attended the BBQ in 2023 and enjoyed catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Please email Pauline Gribble at pegribble@gmail.com by Monday 14 October if you are intending to go or if you have any questions.

WRANS Memorial Service – Saturday 19 October 2024

The annual WRANS Memorial Service at HMAS Harman will be held on Saturday 19 October 2024 commencing at 1100. The service will be followed by morning tea/light lunch in the Bonshaw Mess. If you wish to attend you need to give your name to Heather Milward (secretary@wransact.org) before 15 October so that she can ensure that you gain access to the base. (The guards on the gate will not let you in if you are not on the list that we give them.)

If you are staying for refreshments afterwards you will need to pay \$15 in advance (before 15 October). 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/Mem Svc 2024

WRANS Christmas Lunch – Saturday 7 December 2024

The annual WRANS Christmas Lunch will be held on Saturday 7 December at the Yowani Country Club, Canberra commencing at 1230. The cost of the lunch will be \$45 per head, payable in advance. We have held the last two Christmas lunches at this club and they were both a great success. Please come along and bring your partners. RSVP to Heather Milward (secretary@wransact.org) before 26 November. 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/Xmas Lunch

Events attended by our members.

HMAS Canberra Memorial Service, Friday 9 August

On the 9th August on behalf of the WRANS, President Sigi laid a wreath at the HMAS Canberra Memorial on the shore of Lake Burley Griffin. Trish Goddard and Pauline Gribble also attended the service. The Memorial commemorates the loss of HMAS Canberra I off Savo Island in the Solomon Islands group on 9 August 1942.

HMAS Canberra Memorial



Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Service, Sunday 18 August



On Sunday 18th August at the Vietnam Veterans Day service, President Sigi placed a book at the Vietnam Veterans memorial on ANZAC Parade. The book, 'Radio Girl' by David Dufty a Canberra author, tells the story of Florence Violet McKenzie (Mrs Mac) and will be donated to an ACT school library.

Pat McCabe and Sigi Kropp

Regular Social Events

Tuesday 4 June Morning Tea

Unfortunately, Pauline could not make it to the morning tea as she was suffering from a bad cold and didn't want to share her germs. Thanks Pauline.

We had 15 members present plus Gaye Doolan's daughter Amie and Di Bodsworth's grand-daughter Frankie.

As it was Juanita Strachan birthday that day we all sang Happy Birthday followed by another rendition for Margaret Manley whose birthday was the next day.

From left to right, back row: Sue Shaw, Maureen Jeffrey, Margaret Manley, Di Bodsworth (holding her grand-daughter Frankie), Alison Gillett, Chris Hennessy.

Middle row: Lyn McCoy, Julie Lewis, Leanne Tingey, Heather Milward.

Front row: Judith Rowe, Gaye Doolan, Merle Hare, Juanita Strachan, Janice Stewart.



Sunday 16 June Lunch



While we only had a small gathering for lunch, we were pleased that three of the ex-Wrens could join us as they often do.

From left to right, back row: Sue Wheeler, Heather Milward, Dollah West, Olwyn-Anne Cook, Rosemarie Millar, Beth Roberts, Maureen Jeffrey.

Front row: Pauline Gribble, Merle Hare, Judith Rowe

Wednesday 3 July Morning Tea

While we only had 6 attendees it was a relaxed and happy catch-up in front of the fire.

From left to right, back row: Margaret Manley, Judith Rowe, Pauline Gribble

Front row: Sigi Kropp, Merle Hare, Heather Milward.



Sunday 21 July Lunch



Pauline Gribble brought two of her grand-daughters to our lunch.

From left to right, back row: Olwyn Ann Cook, Rosemarie Millar, Trish Goddard, Kerry Holmes, Judith Rowe, Heather Milward.

Front row: Janice Stewart, Felicity, Merle Hare, Heather Schmitzer, Alice, and Pauline Gribble sitting on the floor.

Thursday 1 August Morning Tea

We had a much bigger group this time with ten members plus Chaplain Sonja Nugent from HMAS Harman.

From left to right, back row: Julie Lewis and Maureen Jeffrey.

Second row: CHAP Sonja Nugent, Sigi Kropp, Rae Milfull and Lyn McCoy

Front row: Heather Milward, Pauline Gribble, Merle Hare and Judith Rowe.



Sunday 18 August Lunch



Another good turn-out of ladies for lunch this month.

From left to right, back row: Natalie Read, Janice Stewart, Chris Sutherland, Dollah West, Sue Wheeler, Heather Milward, Trish Goddard, Olwyn-Anne Cook, Pauline Gribble.

Front row: Alice, Joan Henstock, Merle Hare and Sigi Kropp

Postal Address

Just a reminder about our change of postal address. Our new postal address is now:
WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)
Post Office Box 450
Erindale, ACT 2903

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday and best wishes to all our members who are having birthdays in the next three months as follows:

September

7	Carolyn Davey
9	Rosalie Callan
13	Leanne Tingey
18	Christine Lamb
21	Janice Stewart

October

2	Pauline Gribble
3	Julie Lewis
10	Natalie Read
14	Beth Roberts
21	Elinor Swan
31	Di Bodsworth

November

23	Gaye Doolan
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Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most, live the longest.

50th Anniversary of Cyclone Tracy

It is hard to believe but this Christmas will be the 50th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy that devastated Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974. For those of us who were there, it is a time that we will never forget.

If you were there, please send us your memories of that time so that we can publish them in the next edition of our newsletter in December. Please send stories to Judith Rowe, Newsletter Editor at b.j.rowe@bigpond.com

Planning is underway for a program of activities, events and interactive projects in Darwin throughout November and December 2024 with an official commemorative ceremony scheduled for 30 November 2024. Details are available online.



The old WRANS Quarters at HMAS Coonawarra immediately after the cyclone showing how the roof had been blown off and the walls of the upper floor had collapsed.

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>

Early

Unless

voting polling places:

otherwise indicated, all polling locations have assisted wheelchair access.

- **Belconnen:** Belconnen Community Centre, Swanson Court, BELCONNEN
- **Casey:** Nicholls Community Centre, Nicholls District Playing Fields, 230 Clarrie Hermes Dr, NICHOLLS
- **Canberra City:** Canberra Museum and Gallery, 176 London Circuit, CANBERRA CITY
- **Dickson:** Ground Floor, 470 Northbourne Avenue, DICKSON
- **Gungahlin:** Level 1, Shop 12, 30&33 Hibberson St, MARKETPLACE GUNGAHLIN (above Big W)
- **Kippax:** Holt Neighbourhood Hall, 80 Beaurepaire Crescent, HOLT (at rear of building)
- **Lanyon:** 17 Sidney Nolan Street, CONDER (next to ALDI carpark)
- **Manuka:** Manuka Oval, Manuka Circle, MANUKA
- **Tuggeranong:** The Salvation Army, Corner Anketell Street & Reed Street North, GREENWAY (opposite South.Point)
- **Weston Creek:** Weston Creek Community Centre, Parkinson St, WESTON
- **Woden:** 2 Bowes St, PHILLIP

Opening times for early voting places:

- **Tuesday 8 October - Friday 11 October 2024:** 10.30am - 6.30pm
- **Saturday 12 October 2024:** 9am - 5pm
- **Monday 14 October - Thursday 17 October 2024:** 10.30am - 6.30pm
- **Friday 18 October 2024:** 9am - 8pm
- **Saturday 19 October 2024:** 8am - 6pm



For further information see - <https://www.elections.act.gov.au/for-voters/how-and-where-to-vote/where-to-vote-early-voting>.

DVA News

Marking First World War Private Graves Grants

The Government is honouring the service and sacrifice of First World War veterans, with the second round of the Marking First World War Private Graves Grants Program. All over the country, dedicated community organisations work tirelessly to identify the graves of First World War veterans.

This program was developed to support these organisations in their important work, as they seek to acknowledge these veterans, many of whom lie in unmarked graves.

To enable the appropriate marking of graves, this year grant funding has been increased by \$170, with up to \$620 available per grave. Applications close on 5 November 2024.

In 2023, this program delivered funding for 42 graves of veterans whose death was not related to their war service to be marked around the country. Importantly, research undertaken as a result of this program meant 44 veterans were also identified to be eligible for official War Grave status and commemoration

For further information go to <https://bit.ly/47xpeNN>

Institute Veterans Advocacy Consultation

The Ex-Service Organisation Roundtable (ESORT) recently established a working group to consider how advocacy services could be strengthened to benefit veterans and families. Advocates are an important part of Australia's veteran support system. They assist veterans to understand and access support and entitlements from the Government.

The working group has proposed the creation of an Institute of Veterans' Advocates as a national professional association for veterans' advocates.

Under the proposal, the Institute would provide leadership and support to veterans' advocates, set competency and training standards for the sector, and accredit and register advocates. The Institute would similarly establish a code of conduct for advocates and provide members with access to the training and tools they need to deliver high quality advocacy services.

DVA is seeking the views of the veteran community through an [online consultation page](#), which is open for submissions until 4 October 2024.

For further information go to <https://bit.ly/4dP4raM>.

Veteran's Health Week

DVA is providing funding for Veteran Health Week activities. This year's theme is 'Keep Connected', highlighting the importance of staying socially connected to family, friends and peers.

Social connectedness can have a positive impact on mental health, and lead to a longer life, better overall health, and improved wellbeing.

This year HMAS Sydney Association is again providing a BBQ on Thursday 17 October from 1200. All Members and families are welcome. Please email Pauline at pegribble@gmail.com by Monday 14 October

Harwell Home Care



DVA funded Nursing Care in your home

www.harwellhomecare.com.au

no co-payment required for DVA White and Gold Card Holders



Day & Night Care



Medication Care



Personal Care



Wound Care



End of Life Care

DVA is now also funding home nursing services through Harwell Home Care. If you have a Gold or White card these services are at no cost to you. For further information scan the QR code.



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Private and Veteran Support



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

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

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event	Venue
September	Sat	21	1100	General Meeting	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
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	Tue	3	1800	Executive Committee Meeting	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
December	Thu	5	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
December	Sat	7	1230	Christmas Lunch	Yowani Country Club
December	Sun	15	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club

WRANS – Naval Women’s Association (ACT) Calendar of Events for 2025

January	Fri	3	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
January	Sun	19	1200	Lunch - Merle’s 105 th Birthday	Ainslie Football Club
January	Tue	28	1800	Executive Committee Meeting	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
February	Tue	4	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
February	Sat	8	1100	General Meeting and AGM	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
February	Sun	16	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
February	Tue	25	1800	Executive Committee Meeting	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
March	Wed	5	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
March	Fri – Sun	14 - 16		WRANS Reunion	Hobart
March	Sun	16	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
April	Thu	3	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
April	Fri	25	TBA	Anzac Day March	TBA
April	Fri	25	1200	Anzac Day Lunch	Tulips, Pialligo
May	Fri	2	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
May	Tue	6	1800	Executive Committee Meeting	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
May	Sun	18	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
May	Sat	24	1100	General Meeting	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
June	Tue	3	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
June	Sun	15	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
July	Wed	3	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
July	Sun	20	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
August	Thu	7	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
August	Sun	17	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
September	Fri	5	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
September	Sun	21	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
October	Tue	7	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
October	Sat	18	1100	WRANS Memorial Service and Lunch	HMAS Harman
October	Sun	19	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
November	Wed	5	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
November	Sun	16	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
December	Thu	4	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
December	Dec	21	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club

For further information on the WRANS – Naval Women’s Association (ACT)
see www.wransact.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Sigrid 'Sigi' Kropp (Engel)
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Heather Milward (Gunner)
Treasurer	Pat McCabe
Assistant Treasurer	Rachael 'Rae' Milfull (Cooper)
Membership	Judith Rowe (Knight)

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:	Judith Rowe (Knight)
Newsletter Editor:	Judith Rowe (Knight) & Pat McCabe
Librarian:	Sigrid 'Sigi' Kropp (Engle)
Memorial	Sue Wheeler