



MARCHING ALONG



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

Volume 18 Issue 2

March - May 2024



WRANS contingent marching at the Australian War Memorial on
Anzac Day 2024

Newsletter of the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT)
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From the President:

Friday 19 April, on behalf of us, I placed a cross at the War Widows' 29th Field of Remembrance Dedication Ceremony at the Sir Leslie Moreshead Manor & El Alamein Village. Her Excellency Mrs Hurley as patron of the War Widows ACT, gave the address.

ANZAC day found our members in a number of places. As the organisation of the main service at the War Memorial was excellent and included jeeps for those not able to march, perhaps more of us will attend that service next year. Personally, I was in Bungendore with other members of my family.

It was lovely to catch up over morning tea at Tulips on the 3rd May, a pleasant way to start the new month. In May a small group of us who served with June Baker raised a glass in her honour over lunch at the Tradies in Dickson. I have attended or been aware of a lot of funerals in the last few months - not all navy. It makes one very conscious of the passing of the years and the vulnerabilities that accompany these senior years.

Covid and other respiratory diseases are raising their ugly heads. Thank goodness wearing a mask is now an accepted practice. Please be over-cautious.

At the last general meeting concern was expressed over the cost of living and the number of people struggling to access enough food and resources including warm clothing. The food banks, church agencies and refugee/asylum seeker organisations are all reporting an increased call on their resources. If you are struggling, please reach out. There is no shame in changed circumstances making it difficult to meet basic needs. Here I speak from experience.

However, if you have spare then consider donating to your local pantry or organisation. Some suggestions: - Community Pantry - Tuggeranong & Gungahlin 62936500; Canberra City Care 61968630; Companion House - helping refugees and asylum seekers 62514550 (asylum seekers receive no government financial support, many have no work rights); Uniting Care Kippax 62541733. Keep warm

Sigi

Sigrid Kropp

Open Day at Government House

On Saturday 16th March there was an open day at Government House in Yarralumla and all of the associations for which the Governor General is a patron were invited to participate with an information booth. The Naval Association were invited and asked the Wrans if we would like to join them on their

booth. We worked out a roster with Sigi, Trish and Pauline working in the morning and Sue and Judith working in the afternoon. There was not a lot of interest but we did get a couple of potential new members. At the end of the day, the Governor General walked around and thanked all those who participated. See attached photos.



From left to right: Trish Goddard; Pauline Gribble; Sue Wheeler; Sigi Kropp; Judith Rowe.

From left to right: Judith Rowe; Sue Wheeler; General David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), the Governor General, David Manolas, President of the Naval Association of Australia; Darren Rush, Naval Association ACT.



ANZAC Day



The ACT Wrans were joined by Wrans from Queensland and Western Australia for the march along Anzac Parade to the Australian War Memorial. There were a total of 15 ladies marching behind our banner.

WRANS gathering on Anzac Parade prior to the march to the War Memorial

After the march, the ladies and some of their families gathered for lunch at Tulips at Pialligo.

From right to left: Heather Milward, Kerry Macklin and Kathryn Spurling

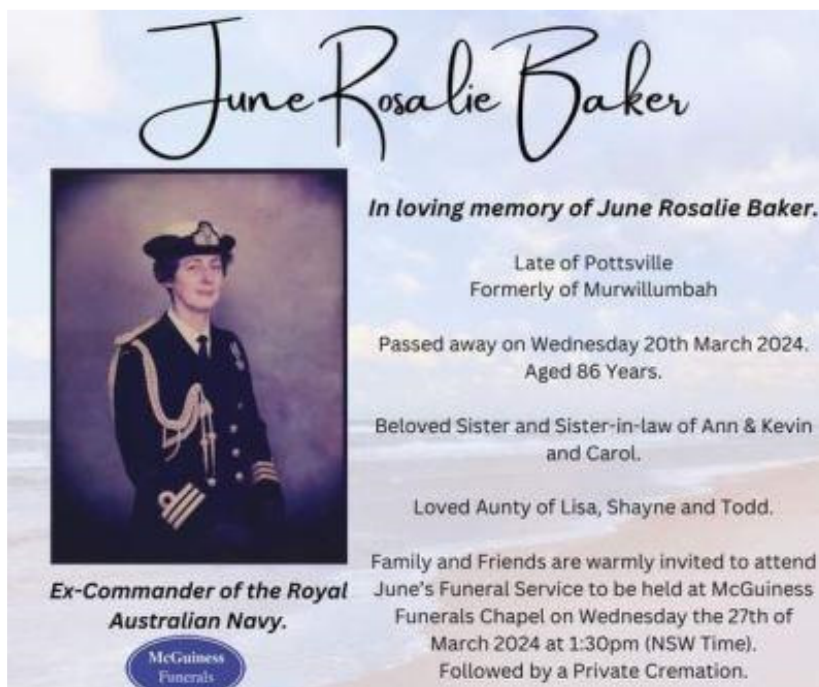


Vale CMDR June Baker

At the funeral for Commander June Baker at the McGuinness Chapel, Murwillumbah on Wednesday 27 March 2024, Ron Bossink, a member of the Murwillumbah RSL gave the following tribute to June's service.

'Commander June Baker volunteered for service in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service on the 30th of August 1967. After initial training at HMAS Cerberus, she was posted to HMAS Harman. She was appointed to a commission on 29 March 1968, and following further training, to HMAS Watson in October 1968, Penguin in February 1969, and back to Watson in the same month.

She was posted to Cerberus again in May 1970, and to HMAS Coonawarra in Darwin in October 1971, HMAS Albatross, our Naval Air Station in Nowra in March 1972 and then Navy Headquarters in February 1973.



She returned to Coonawarra in June 1975, and in July 1976 was posted to HMAS Carpentaria on Thursday Island. From there she was posted to HMAS Moreton, in Brisbane, in December 1978. She returned to Harman in January 1979, then Navy Headquarters in July 1979, and Navy Support Command in December 1982. During this time the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service was absorbed into the RAN, so she became Commander Baker, RAN rather than Chief Officer Baker, WRANS. At some time during her postings to Canberra she was appointed Aide de Camp to the Governor General of Australia, as you can see by the photograph of her wearing the aiguillette, but

unfortunately, I can't tell you when, or to which Governor General.

June's final postings were to Penguin in June 1983, Harman in July 1985, and Navy Headquarters in January 1989. She transferred to the Royal Australian Naval Emergency Reserve on the 17 May 1989, and finally retired on the 27th of June 1997.'

Notes:

June Baker was a school teacher prior to joining the Navy.

She was the first woman to be appointed an RAN Executive Officer (at HMAS Penguin on 23 June 1983.)

She was Director WRANS from 16 July 1979 to 10 December 1982.

A keen sportswoman, June represented the WRANS in hockey, sailing, athletics, golf and squash and also had amazing successful results when she trained the WRANS teams for inter-service sports competition.

Merle's Table

Our 104-year-old member, Merle Hare is a regular at the Ainslie Football Club near where she lives. The staff and other regulars know her as she often goes there for a meal at her favourite table by the window. The staff have now placed a special reserved sign on her table. See attached photo.



Regular Social Events

Wednesday 6 March Morning Tea



Standing from left to right: Alison Gillett; Di Bodsworth; Gaye Doolan; Chris Hennessy; Juanita Strachan; Janice Stewart; Sue Shaw; Judith Rowe.

Sitting: Tina Davey; Merle Hare; Lyn McCoy

Sunday 17 March Lunch

Standing from left to right: Chaplain Sonya Nugent; Keryn Northrope; Sue Wheeler; Pauline Gribble; Kerry Holmes; Judith Rowe.

Sitting: Janice Stewart; Merle Hare;



Thursday 4 April Morning Tea



Merle did not attend this morning tea as she had a sore foot and hadn't slept well the night before but otherwise, she is well. Chaplain Jeff Newton, the Navy Buddhist Chaplain attended after meeting some of our members at the service at the Navy Chapel at HMAS Harman in February.

Back row from left to right: Tina Davey, Kathryn Spurling; Leanne Tingey (partly obscured); Chaplain Jeff Newton; Keryn Northrope; Carol Harris.

Second row: Sigi Kropp; Pauline Gribble; Sue Wheeler.

Sitting in front: Joan Henstock; Lyn McCoy; Heather Milward

Sunday 21 April Lunch



*Standing from left to right: Maureen Jeffrey, Natalie Read, Sue Wheeler, Pauline Gribble, Trish Goddard, Margaret Manley, Kathryn Spurling.
Front row: Joan Henstock, Merle Hare, Heather Milward.*

Friday 3 May Morning Tea



Standing from left to right: Di Sell, Chris Hennessy, Alison Gillett, Sue Smith, Lyn McCoy, Maureen Jeffrey, Judy Hughes, Pauline Gribble.

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

(Sue Wheeler and Rosemary Ganly attended the morning tea but were not in the group photo.)

Sunday 19 May Lunch



Back row from left to right: Rae Milfull, Sue Wheeler, Judith Rowe, Heather Milward, Dollah West, Olwyn-Anne Cook, Trish Goddard, Maureen Jeffrey, and Chris Sutherland.

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

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 and followed by refreshments in the Bonshaw Mess afterwards. If the weather permits, the service will be held at the WRANS memorial, just inside the main gate. Otherwise, it will be held in the Bonshaw Mess as we have been required to do on the last two occasions. More details will be provided closer to the date. Please also note that it will be election day for the ACT Legislative Assembly so please make sure you vote as well.

WRANS Christmas Lunch – Saturday 7 December 2024

The annual Christmas Lunch will be held on Saturday 7 December at the Yowani Country Club again as we have done for the last two years. More details will be provided closer to the date but please mark your calendars so that you don't miss it. At the General Meeting on Saturday 25 May there was some discussion regarding which charity we should support with our collection this year. It was generally agreed that we should donate to a charity that has some relevance to our members and the Stroke Foundation was suggested. If anyone has any other ideas please pass them onto the Secretary.

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

.... Stop Press



Honours list: The King's Birthday 2024 Honours List

Ms Margaret Josceline FINDLATER-SMITH

Kambah ACT 2902

For service to women's affairs in a range of organisations.

One of our members has been named in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours List. Margaret Findlater-Smith was been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her work with the following organisations:

National Council of Women Australia; National Council of Women ACT; Soroptimists International; Soroptimists International Canberra; Equality Rights Alliance; International Women's Day Breakfast and the WRANS – Naval Women's Association (ACT).

Margaret served as a Radio Operator from 1954 to 1958 and was one of our founding members and the inaugural secretary from 2003 to 2006. She was also Treasurer from 2017 to 2020.

Congratulations, Margaret.

Happy Birthday

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

June

Juanita Strachan
Margaret Manley
Sigi Kropp
Di Sell

July

Tina Davey
Sylvia Sinfield
Norma Jolly

August

Kathryn Sutton

Canberra Region Skin Specialist Update

Following the decision by 360uv Skin Cancer Clinic's decision to no longer accept DVA cards, DVA has advised the following:

Below are providers within the Canberra area, who have billed DVA for skin check items.

Provider Name	Provider Full Address
CUMMINS, DR K	2 RYLAH CRES, WANNIASSA, 2903
LIN, DR L,Y	ISABELLA PLAINS MED CENTRE, 9 ARAKOOON CRES, ISABELLA PLAINS 2905
YATES, DR D,G	SE 1, CNR JERRABOMBERRA & COAC, JERRABOMBERRA 2619
DILLON, DR G,M	OCHRE MEDICAL CENTRE KINGSTON, 6/62 JARDINE ST KINGSTON 2604
MOULDING, DR S,J	2A ANEMBO ST, NARRABUNDAH, 2604

The list contains providers who have accepted a DVA card in the last six months. Please note that this does not mean that the provider is still accepting DVA cards or new patients. We recommend that you confirm this when you call them. This is a business decision of the provider and practice.

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

Hearing

The recent 2024-25 Federal Budget enabled DVA to now fund the clinically required hearing aids that are required by Veterans and War Widows. Some Audiologists may be reluctant to try DVA again following years of rejections but you are encouraged to ask them to try again as DVA now has the funding for this.

Should you have any difficulties can you please contact your Welfare Officer, Pat McCabe, on 0417 291 546.

Two Teens and a Trailer

Rohan Martin began this business and they are now expanding out into the wider Canberra region. They now have 14 employees.

They are offering a 'Veteran' discount to any Veteran. When booking a service quote 'Veteran' and you will receive the discount.



WELCOME TO TWO TEENS AND A TRAILER

SERVICES

- Gravel and fill spreading
- Green waste removal
- Lawn mowing and edging
- Gutter cleaning
- Hedge trimming and shaping
- Tree and flower planting
- Weeding
- Household waste removal
- Garden maintenance
- Removalist services
- Mulch spreading and delivery
- Goods transportation
- Chainsaw work

Ph: 0407 195 487 Email: admin@twoteensandatrailer.com.au

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



Trusted Expertise with fully qualified nurses



Private and Veteran Support

National Phone: 1300 064 430
National Fax: 0731555099
admin@harwellhomecare.com.au
Level 1/1024 Ann St, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

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.



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 –	Finalised
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 & 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
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	Tue	3	1800	Executive Committee Meeting	Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden
September	Fri	6	1000	Morning Tea	Tulips, Pialligo
September	Sun	15	1200	Lunch	Ainslie Football Club
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

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