

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Association Inc.

Joining Forces



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the 19th edition of *Joining Forces*.

The past few months have been a very busy time for the Management Committee and our members.

The Annual Luncheon was a wonderful success with 105 attendees which included buses coming from Bundaberg, Hervey Bay and Brisbane. It was so lovely to see all of these ladies arriving in their "Queensland" attire. It amazes me just how clever and innovative people can be. For example Kerry from Bundaberg dressed as our Queensland Coat of Arms was outstanding. It is not our custom or intention to provide prizes for Best Dressed but had we, she would have won hands down. Thank you to all who attended, you made our day so memorable.

The Events Team led by Deirdre Elliott again out did themselves with the room decorations and table settings. I heard so many people exclaim "oh wow" as they entered the room. Job well done team.

With the pleasures also come the sadness. Our Association has lost four of our longer serving members lately and page 11 is dedicated to their memory.

The year still has a long way to go so members please see page 14 with all of the dates and events until December. As each event draws closer the Events Team will provide any updates that are required. Contacts for any enquires are on page 17.

Our Association also welcomed 8 new members recently. We hope you find great camaraderie and fun in our Association. You are very welcome.

I trust you enjoy this edition of *Joining Forces*.

With respect.

Lorraine Houlihan

July 2024—Nov 2024

Edition 19

Inc Assn IA 59129

ABN 15 390 668 848

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Editor's Note

Once you turn to the first page you will notice that there is an article on Madam Marie Curie. She played a significant role in France in World War 1 that I am sure not many people know about so in keeping with women and military, this is her story.

You will also notice that we do not have a Bio from any of our members this edition. Please consider putting your military history into words as it is so lovely to read about our fellow members service life. I am very happy to assist you if necessary.

Cheers

Lorraine



Madam Marie Sklodowska CURIE

1867—1934

Ask people to name the most famous historical woman of science and their answer will likely be Madame Marie Curie. Push further and ask what she did, and they might say it was something related to radioactivity. (She actually discovered the radioisotopes radium and polonium.)

In 1903, Marie Curie became the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize, jointly with Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel, for their groundbreaking work on radioactivity. In 1911, she garnered further acclaim by receiving a second Nobel Prize, this time in chemistry, for her isolation of radium and polonium. Her relentless pursuit of scientific discovery and her groundbreaking achievements shattered gender barriers in the male-dominated scientific community.

But few will know she was also a major hero of World War I. In fact, a visitor to her Paris laboratory in October of 1917 would not have found either her or her radium on the premises. Her radium was in hiding and she was at war.

For Curie, the war started in early 1914 as German troops headed toward her adopted hometown of Paris. She knew her scientific research needed to be put on hold. So she gathered her entire stock of radium, put it in a lead-lined container, transported it by train to Bordeaux – 375 miles away from Paris – and left it in a safety deposit box at a local bank. She then returned to Paris, confident that she would reclaim her radium after France had won the war.

Marie Curie was a multidimensional person, who worked doggedly as both a scientist and a humanitarian. She was a strong patriot of her adopted homeland, having immigrated to France from Poland. And she leveraged her scientific fame for the benefit of her country's war effort – using the winnings from her second Nobel Prize to buy war bonds and even trying to melt down her Nobel medals to convert them to cash to buy more.

With the subject of her life's work hidden far away, she now needed something else to do. Rather than flee the turmoil, she decided to join in the fight. But just how could a middle-aged woman do that? She decided to redirect her scientific skills toward the war effort; not to make weapons, but to save lives.

X-rays, a type of electromagnetic radiation, had been discovered in 1895 by Curie's fellow Nobel laureate, Wilhelm Roentgen. Almost immediately after their discovery, physicians began using X-rays to image patients' bones and find foreign objects – like bullets.

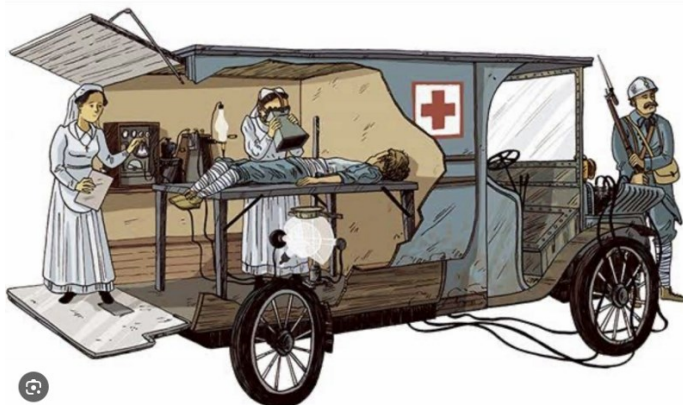
Although Curie had lectured about X-rays at the Sorbonne, she had no personal experience working with them. But at the start of the war, X-ray machines were still found only in city hospitals, far from the French battlefields where wounded troops were being treated. Curie's solution was to invent the first "radiological car" – a vehicle containing an X-ray machine and photographic darkroom equipment – which could be driven right up to the battlefield where army surgeons could use X-rays to guide their surgeries.

One major obstacle was the need for electrical power to produce the X-rays. Curie solved that problem by incorporating a dynamo – a type of electrical generator – into the car's design. The petroleum-powered car engine could thus provide the required electricity.

Frustrated by delays in getting funding from the French military, Curie approached the Union of Women of France. This philanthropic organization gave her the money needed to produce the first car, which ended up playing an important role in treating the wounded at the Battle of Marne in 1914 – a major Allied victory that kept the Germans from entering Paris.

More radiological cars were needed. So Curie exploited her scientific clout to ask wealthy Parisian women to donate vehicles. Soon she had 20, which she outfitted with X-ray equipment. But the cars were useless without trained X-ray operators, so Curie started to train women volunteers. She recruited 20 women for the first training course, which she taught along with her daughter Irene, 17 years old at the time and who later became a Nobel Prize winner herself. Curie was concerned that Irene may be traumatised by the sights of the soldiers' horrific wounds so she carefully and deliberately showed no emotion as she carefully recorded data about each patient.

Following her mother's example Irene continued to work beside her mother throughout the war. Curie didn't allow her gender to hamper her in a male-dominated world. Instead, she mobilized a small army of women in an effort to reduce human suffering and win World War I.



The curriculum included theoretical instruction about the physics of electricity and X-rays as well as practical lessons in anatomy and photographic processing. When that group had finished its training, it left for the front, and Curie then trained more women. In the end, a total of 150 women received X-ray training from Curie.

Not content just to send out her trainees to the battlefield, Curie herself had her own “little Curie” – as the radiological cars were nicknamed – that she took to the front. This required her to learn to drive, change flat tyres and even master some rudimentary auto mechanics, like cleaning carburettors. And she also had to deal with car accidents. When her driver careened into a ditch and overturned the vehicle, they righted the car, fixed the damaged equipment as best they could and got back to work.



Marie Curie in one of her mobile X-ray units in October 1917 Eve Curie

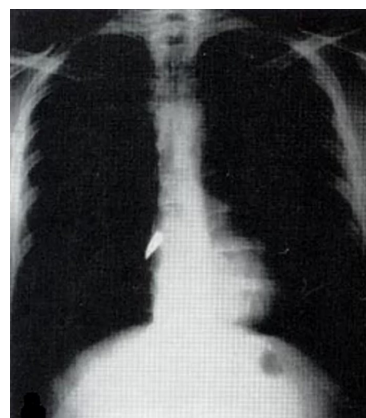


In addition to the mobile “little Curie” that travelled around the battlefield, Curie also oversaw the construction of 200 radiological rooms at various fixed field hospitals behind the battle lines.

In the field and in military hospitals women were not allowed to enter the operating theatres. This was the preserve of men only. To work a way around this obstruction Curie was well known to stand at the slightly open door of the theatre and call out the location of metal objects to the surgeons to ensure that no fragments were left behind in the soldier.



Medics at a French WWI field hospital locating a bullet with X-ray machine Library of Congress Prints and Photographs



Through her efforts, it is estimated that the total number of wounded soldiers receiving X-ray exams during the war numbered more than one million. Although few, if any, of the women X-ray workers were injured as a consequence of combat, they were not without their casualties. Many suffered burns from overexposure to X-rays. Curie knew that such high exposures posed future health risks, such as cancer in later life. But there had been no time to perfect X-ray safety practices for the field, so many X-ray workers were overexposed. She worried much about this, and later wrote a book about X-ray safety drawn from her war experiences.

After the war the French government recognised her daughter Irene's efforts by awarding her a military medal. No official recognition was awarded to Marie Curie for the enormous part she had played in the treatment of French soldiers. It is believed that this was due to the bureaucrats dislike of her past behaviour where she had an affair with a married man sometime after her husband's death.

Curie survived the war but was concerned that her intense X-ray work would ultimately cause her demise. Years later, she did contract aplastic anemia, a blood disorder sometimes produced by high radiation exposure.

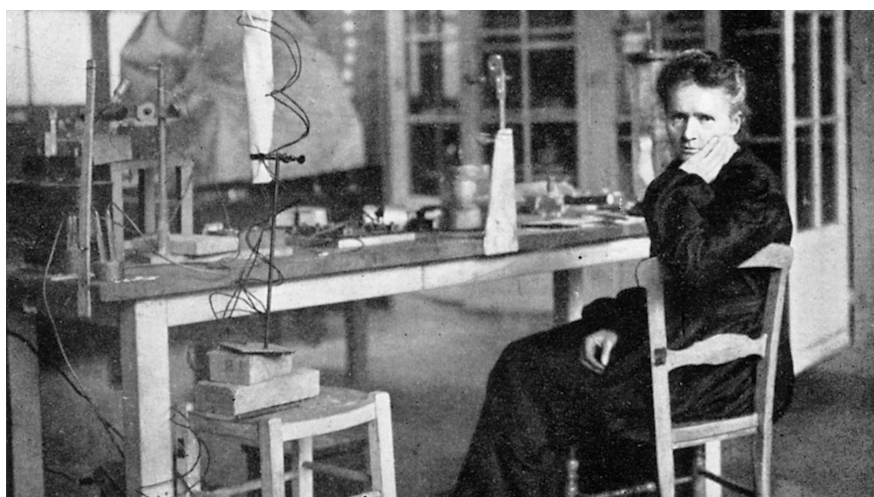
Many assumed that her illness was the result of her decades of radium work – it's well-established that internalized radium is lethal. But Curie was dismissive of that idea. She had always protected herself from ingesting any radium. Rather, she attributed her illness to the high X-ray exposures she had received during the war. (We will likely never know whether the wartime X-rays contributed to her death in 1934, but a sampling of her remains in 1995 showed her body was indeed free of radium.)

Tragically, Marie Curie's life was cut short by her exposure to high levels of radiation and she passed away in 1934, but her enduring legacy lives on as a source of inspiration for scientists and women in particular. Her unwavering commitment to scientific discovery, her groundbreaking research on radiology.

As science's first woman celebrity, Marie Curie can hardly be called an unsung hero. But the common depiction of her as a one-dimensional person, slaving away in her laboratory with the single-minded purpose of advancing science for science's sake, is far from the truth.

Despite facing discrimination and adversity, Marie Curie's determination and brilliance opened doors for future generations of women in science. She became a role model for aspiring female scientists around the world, inspiring them to pursue their passions and make significant contributions to their fields. Curie's enduring influence serves as a testament to the power of perseverance and the impact of scientific innovation.

Marie Curie's legacy extends far beyond her scientific accomplishments. As a fervent advocate for the use of scientific knowledge for the betterment of humanity, she dedicated herself to advancing medical treatment through the use of radium. Her work led to the development of radiography, which revolutionized medical diagnosis and treatment. The profound impact of her discoveries continues to save and improve countless lives to this day.



Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assn Inc Annual Luncheon June 2024



NAVY Women

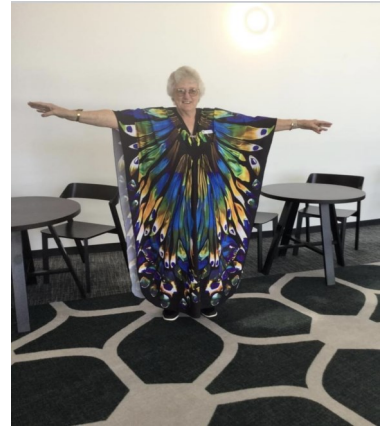


WRAAF + 1 x RAAF



WRAAC





Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence - Monthly luncheon on 8th May 2024

Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea.

Usually held on 2nd Wednesday each month at 11.00am. This months event was for
Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea.

Contact Fran Sinclair on 0416 013 987 for further info. All welcome.



Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assn Photo Round Up



Mates for Mates Social Outing at Australia Zoo

Lt to Rt

Mates for Mates Social Worker, Dot Kunde, Jenny Shevak and Terri-Ann Howard

Bribie Island Ex-Service Women's Monthly Luncheon

The Luncheon for the Bribie Island Ex-Service Women is held the 4th Monday of the month at the Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bribie Island. Contact Anita Cooper on 0402 246 408 for any further info. All welcome.



The Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assn Inc has seen the passing of four of our wonderful long term members. This page acknowledges and is dedicated to their service, lives and our memories of them.

VALE



Betty Powell
AWAS QF144126
1942—1945
Driver /Signals
Betty was 99 years and 8 months
Died 28 May 2024



Gwen Ladner nee Goodfellow
AWLA & AWAS QF272153
1942—1946
Gwen was aged 98 years & 8 months
Died 30 April 2024



Margaret Jones nee Thompson
WRAN R84577
1955—1959
Margaret was aged 86 years & 6 months
Died 16 May 2024



Nola Hoepper nee Carmont
WRAAF W221163
1961—1967
Rank Sgt
Nola was 84 years old
Died 18 June 2023



Hervey Bay Ex-Servicewomen's Social Club 40th Birthday

Pres: Pam Lock 0409 629 387
 Sec: Andrea Lesmond (07) 4124 0614
 Treas: Julie Chapple 0407 766 545

P.O Box 3339
 Hervey Bay Qld 4655
 judulie@gmail.com

Ruby



Ruby

Ruby

Friday 18TH OCTOBER
 "Casual"

Friday night get together
 RSL on the Veranda
 5.30pm for 6.00pm Start
 Cost : Own Expense
 (Limited drinks)

Saturday 19th OCTOBER
 "" Ruby, Ruby, Ruby "

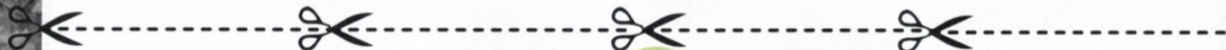
Saturday Luncheon
 RSL in Hervey House
 11.30am for 12.00pm Start
 Cost: \$40
 (Limited drinks included)

Sunday 20th OCTOBER

Indicate interest
 Numbers needed &
 Mijo Cafe
 Breakfast
 Cost: \$20

**This year we want you to wear
 RED, RED AND MORE RED!**

Partners are most welcome. We can't wait to see you there.
 The Courtesy Bus is available for transport to the RSL Club
 for the Friday night function and Saturday Luncheon.
 Phone: 1300 775 287 to book.



Cheques made out to:



Hervey Bay Ex-Servicewomen's Social Club

Branch Name: _____ *Servicewomen's Social Club*

Enclosed Cheque for \$ _____ *(If using direct debit please advise the treasurer at judulie@gmail.com)*

Direct Deposit Details:

BSB 645 646
 ACCOUNT 107946858
 NAME: Hervey Bay Ex-

**Friday Night- Own Expense (limited drinks incl.)
 Saturday Luncheon- \$ 40 pp (limited drinks incl.)
 Sunday Breakfast- \$ 20 pp**

Dietary requirements: _____

RSVP and Payment to SCESWA Treasurer by 1 October 2024

**THE COUNCIL OF EXSERVICEWOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS
QUEENSLAND**

WRAAF Association Qld Inc

RSL Defence Servicewomen's Sub

INVITATION

TO MEMBERS OF ALL MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

TO

**34th Annual Memorial Church Service
for Exservicewomen**

Which commemorates and acknowledges the sacrifice and contribution made
by all exservicewomen to our nation

Saturday 27 July at 11.30am

at

**Albert Street Uniting Church,
Brisbane**

WRAAF Branch Brisbane

Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld Inc

After the service lunch will be provided in the Annex at
a cost of \$25 per person.

Only pre-advised special dietary requirements will be
available.

Dress of the day : Association 'uniform'. Medals may be worn

Lump sum payment *Treasurer* to:

Acc. Name: Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld
BSB No 124 002 Acc. No.: 22446885 Ref: (Name) Church Lunch

Deadline for payments, attendee and special dietary requirements advice: 10 July 2024

RSVP and Payment via individual Corps Associations only—not thru SCESWA

**OGM & Committee Meeting Dates -2024
Coffee and Chat Dates**



1 August 2024—OGM Maroochydore—RSL Sub Branch



29 August 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



5 September 2024—Bower Tree, 10 Courage St, Sippy Downs



19 September 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



3 October 2024—OGM—Kawana RSL Sub Branch



17 October 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



7 November 2024—Wreath Laying Maroochy RSL Gardens



21 November 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



5 December 2024—OGM and Christmas Lunch—Kawana Surf Club



Monday 15 July 2024

**Bundaberg District Women Veterans
57th Birthday Luncheon.
Members \$30.00 Guests \$40.00.
Theme: Pixies & Pirates**



Saturday 27 July 2024

**Council of Ex Service Women Church Service
(as per attached flyer)**



Wednesday 11 Sept 2024

**Council of Ex Service Women—Pine Rivers
Wreath Laying Ceremony**



Fri 18, Sat 19& Sun 20 October

**Hervey Bay Ex Service Women’s 40th Birthday
weekend**

**Theme: Celebrating 40th-Ruby,(red, and anything
in the colour scheme as per flyer)**

NAVY WOMEN QUEENSLAND CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2024

8 Aug	CESWA AGM and GM	Delegates attend
11 Aug	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	
10 Aug	Victory in Pacific Day	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
18 Aug	Vietnam Veterans Day	
29 Aug	Service @ Jack Southbank	Timor
6 Sep	Battle of Australia Commemoration	
8 Sep	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
11 Sep	CESWA Commemoration to Service Women of Australia	Women's Memorial Pine Rivers Kallangur Formal Uniform
14 Sep	NAA Golden Rivet 2024	CSI Ipswich – Hosted by Redcliffe SS
26 Sep	Service @ Jack Southbank	Sandakan March
10 Oct	CESWA Bi-monthly GM	Delegates attend
13 Oct	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Breast Cancer Fundraising WEAR PINK
October	Hervey Bay Birthday weekend	
17-19 Oct	All Navy Reunion	Sunshine Coast
31 Oct	Service @ Jack Southbank	Sydney II
2 Nov	Navy Women Annual Reunion Luncheon	Tattersalls Club Brisbane
10 Nov	Navy Women Qld OGM	
11 Nov	Remembrance Day Service	
28 Nov	Service@ Jack Southbank	Cyclone Tracey
8 Dec	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Xmas Party
12 Dec	CESWA Bi-monthly GM	Final meeting for 2024



First Saturday of each month	Western Suburb Lunch	
Third Tuesday of each month	Gold Coast Brunch	
Fourth Monday of each month	Bribie Island Lunch	Bribie Island RSL Social Cafe
Last Thursday of each month	Jack Memorial	Ship Inn, South Bank

BIRTHDAYS

August - Lorraine Banks, Joyce Colclough, Irene DeVere, Lyn Zillman-Jones

September—Tracy Casteleijn, Deirdre Elliott, Lorrae Johnson, Kim Keats, Dot Kunde, Jan McLaren, Jennie Promnitz, Lorraine Stone

October—Mo Barnes, Patricia Blaik, Marion Collins, Sam Morgan, Carol Phillips, Joie Scheinpflug, Brenda Treasure

November—Liz Grimes, Carolyn Paul, Trudy Thomas



INTRODUCING NEW MEMBERS

Irene De Vere WRAAC
Judith Dalglish WRAAF
Carol Steley WRAAF
Brenda Treasure WRAAF



Carol Phillips RAAF
Carolyn Paul WRAAC
Judith Prewett WRAN
Particia Blaik WRAAF

Vale

Betty Powell AWAS
Gwen Ladner AWLA & AWAS
Margaret Jones WRAN
Nola Hoeppe WRAAF

POPPY SERVICE



Remember to notify your local RSL Sub Branch if you would like to have a Poppy Service or alternatively ensure you advise your family of your wishes.

Facebook – Combined Ex Service and Serving Women Australia

The *Combined Ex Service and Serving Women Australia* is a very informative site on Facebook for ex servicewomen and is independently administered by ex service women. Ex service women from all over Australia have registered and make frequent posts providing interesting information, military photos and fun ditties. To join, simply answer two questions relating to your service, and once the Administrator approves your request you will have unlimited access to other Combined Ex Service Women Australia's members posts, photos and importantly all events that are coming up for numerous Associations throughout Australia. Whilst this Facebook site is not part of our Association, the committee ensures that all events relating to the SCESWA are recorded on this site.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2024

Executive

President: Lorraine Houlihan, Phone: 0408 126 710, Email: president.sceswa@gmail.com

Vice President: Deirdre Elliott, Phone: 0408 222 592, Email: deirdre_colin@bigpond.com

Secretary: Jan Thorne, Phone: 0410 448 433, Email: thornejl@hotmail.com

Asst Secretary: Chris Birch, Phone 0403 905 023, Email: christinebirch52@gmail.com

Treasurer: Judi Taylor, Phone: 0430 597 836, Email: judimtaylor@gmail.com

Committee members

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Events Co-ordinator: Deirdre Elliott, Phone: 0408 222 592, Email: deirdre_colin@bigpond.com

Membership Officer: Chris Birch, Phone 0403 905 023, Email: christinebirch52@gmail.com

Grants & Merchandise: Fran Sinclair, Phone: 0416 013 987, Email: fran@kandfspace.com

General Committee Members

Maggie Winduss

Dot Kunde

Newsletter

Editor: Lorraine Houlihan, Phone: 0408 126 710, Email: l.houlihan1@bigpond.com

Postal Address: Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assn Inc., PO Box 654, BUDDINA, Q 4575

Email: thornejl@hotmail.com

Members: Please note the email address for our Association.



BANKING DETAILS:

Name of the Account:

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and
Serving
Women's Association Inc.

Institution:

Auswide Bank

BSB: 645 646

Account Number: 102736405

Cheque made payable to:

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving
Women's Association Inc.

Forward to:

The Treasurer
PO Box 654, BUDDINA Q 4575

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBS: \$15.00 per year

*Membership payments are Due **31 December** each year*

If you wish to pay by Internet Banking,
Remember to include payee reference: Please quote your
initial and Surname/Subs: e.g. JSmith/subs
Payments will be accepted at the Meeting or Coffee n
Catchup

CHANGE OF ADDRESS DETAILS

***We are having a number of Birthday cards and letters returned
"NOT AT THIS ADDRESS". If you have moved address or
changed your email or phone number, please notify our
Membership Officer, Chris Birch on 0403 905 023. This will
allow your Association to continue to provide you with
updated information throughout the year.***

SCESWA MEMORABILIA

SCESWA has three different types of Badges available to our members. We have Magnetic or Pin name
badges. Please see Jan Thorne to arrange. Cost: Pin \$14.50, Magnetic \$16.00

Cloth badges are available from our Merchandise table. Cost is \$6.50

We also now have SCESWA Baseball Caps, \$22.00. Car Stickers, \$5.00. Note Books, Bags and Coffee Mugs

They may be purchased at all meetings and C n C and luncheon events. Fran will be happy to serve you.

New pieces of Merchandising to come.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the next newsletter is **25 November 2024**

Every effort will be made to use all contributions, but it may not be in the next issue.

Please send all articles, clear photos and letters to the Editor at the association address or email Lorraine at
l.houlihan1@bigpond.com. We look forward to members' input.

Disclaimer: All contributions are welcome. All care will be taken with material but no responsibility is assumed
or accepted by the publisher or the SCESWA Inc.

