

Women's Royal Australian Army Corps

QLD REVIEW



Queensland



Issue 175 November 2024



TRAVELS OF YOUR EDITOR

My sister and I left Brisbane on the 9th September, after many months of planning our trip to Western Australia in our motorhome. Making our way down the Pacific Highway we had five nights at Umina Beach so that I could catch up with my daughter and family. It was lovely to celebrate my grandson's 5th birthday with him. Bypassing Sydney we proceeded south via the North Connex tunnel and headed to Stanwell

Tops Lookout, stopping to take in the magnificent views and then proceeded along the Grand Pacific Drive over the Sea Cliffe Bridge. It was a beautiful drive alongside the ocean, very scenic, past lovely beaches and then green meadows. Staying at Nowra for the night, we then headed further south to Ulladulla. Stopping at the lighthouse to see if there were any whales, but none in sight. Back on the road to Batemans Bay. We then followed the Kings Highway (long and winding road) to Braidwood, passing Pooh's Corner (too unsafe to get a photo sadly).



Saddened to see so much roadkill on the Monaro Highway leading into Cooma, bypassing Canberra and Queanbeyan, to have a few nights with our cousin and his wife. Cooma and the surrounding area is just beautiful, but ever so cold. It was lovely to see the Wall of Sporting Fame which has Josh Alford's photo and achievements, our cousin's son. It was also fascinating going through the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre, just amazing displays and videos. They took us to Nimmitabel where our cousin was the only policeman for a posting of 5 years. During their time there they started a museum in the old jail which had been decommissioned. Sadly, we couldn't see it as the policeman was out on duty. We saw the pub which featured in the film "The Sundowner". The next day we went for a drive up to Jindabyne but couldn't go any further due to the weather.

After leaving Cooma we headed into Canberra to see Floriade which neither of us had seen before, it had the most beautiful display of flowers and artwork. Then onto Yass, Gundagai and into Holbrook. Exploring the many attractions in Holbrook including Lady Gail's Bookshop and curios, an Art and Craft Shop and the National Pottery Museum. The Information Centre was closed so we went to visit the HMAS Otway submarine and museum. The top half of the sub was purchased from Sim's Metal for the price of scrap metal at the time and then transported to the park in Holbrook and reassembled. The museum presented a hologram and Mrs Holbrook told the story of her husband and the sub and how the town was named after him instead of Ten Mile Creek. We then ventured into the high country to Stringybark Creek Reserve (this is where the Kelly Gang killed four policemen).

After travelling on a single lane gravel winding road up the mountain for 28 kilometers the campground was nowhere to be found, so we camped at the car park for the night all on our own, there was no way I was driving back down the mountain in the dark. After exploring the Reserve the next morning, we headed back down to Glenrowan where we visited the Information Centre, the museum and a replica of Kate's cottage.



We also visited the site where Ned was shot and eventually arrested. Heading into Benalla, at the Information Centre and museum, we saw the green cummerbund that was given to Ned Kelly for saving a young lad from drowning. The boy's parents gave it to him, and he wore it every day thereafter under his armour. In Benalla I visited the RSL Subbranch and chatted with some male veterans' and a WAAF lady who was very informative and showed me around the museum, which is a work in progress

We then headed into Victoria to follow the Silo Art Trail. We are so pleased we did it as the artwork is simply amazing on such a large scale, well done to all the artists involved. It has also brought many tourists to their area, which is great for the smaller communities. We were very surprised how flat and dry the land is in both Victoria and South Australia. Travelling through the states it is so lovely to see how the towns honour their veterans who have served and the way they acknowledge their community and farmers. Particularly at the Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum and the wonderful acknowledgement of Vietnam Veterans from Tongala in their Avenue of Honour. At the Lake Boga Museum we met the daughter of a Catalina pilot whose photo was on display, she was also visiting that day and she shared how the museum had changed since she had taken her mother there in 1995, adding that her dad would be so proud of keeping the history alive. A real credit to the Lions Club for such a wonderful display.



In Murtoa we visited the Stick Shed. It was constructed in 1941 as a solution for grain storage during WWII as it could not be exported. What an amazing place, constructed in just 4 months it has 56 rows of 10 unmilled poles (560 in total). It is the only one left in Australia and is now part of the National Trust. The shed is 270 mtr long, 60 mtr wide, and 19 mtr high, the photos don't do it justice. We met a local lad of 91 years who had worked there for two years in his younger days as a fitter, but left as he couldn't work under "Union" rules. I asked him if he had passed on his knowledge, as sadly one day it will be lost forever, to which he replied he gave some of the history for the video they made for visitors to view. Whilst in Horsham our taxi driver said he used to take his wheat there as a young man when he was a farmer in the district. Lovely to hear local information from the locals.

After four days of Silo Art Trails, we headed to Port Augusta. Here we visited the Wadlata Outback Centre "Tunnel of Time" museum. Absolutely fabulous and so deserving of the many awards they have won. Arriving at Kimba, which is halfway across Australia and then onto Ceduna, the start of the Nullarbor. Crossing the Nullarbor in five days we came across five lone cyclists (more guts than me). We are now in Esperance and making our way along the coast to Albany and then up to Freemantle where we will be for 13 days for the Red Hat Society convention. I am looking forward to catching up with Dale Reynolds. Hopefully, I will be able to catch up with Delma from WRAAC WA in Perth.

So far we have seen many beautiful gardens, wild flowers, paddy melons growing wild, magnificent canola fields in flower, tumbleweeds on the very windy days, wild gazanias growing on the side of the road. Tree sculptures, monuments, wheat fields that go for miles, desert on both sides of the highway, historical homes, villages, hotels, pink lakes, and green lakes, we even visited the town that Bob Hawke (our 23rd Prime Minister) was born in and his family home, rivers and dry creeks. We crossed the mighty Murray River (the world's 3rd longest) twice and followed along beside it for many miles. Australia is a land of contrasts, from snowcapped alps, tropical forests, dust filled deserts, such an amazing country we live in. We are both looking forward to continuing with our travels until we return to Brisbane in December.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and may 2025 be a great year for us all. My sincere thanks to Narelle for taking over the newsletter in my absence, much appreciated.

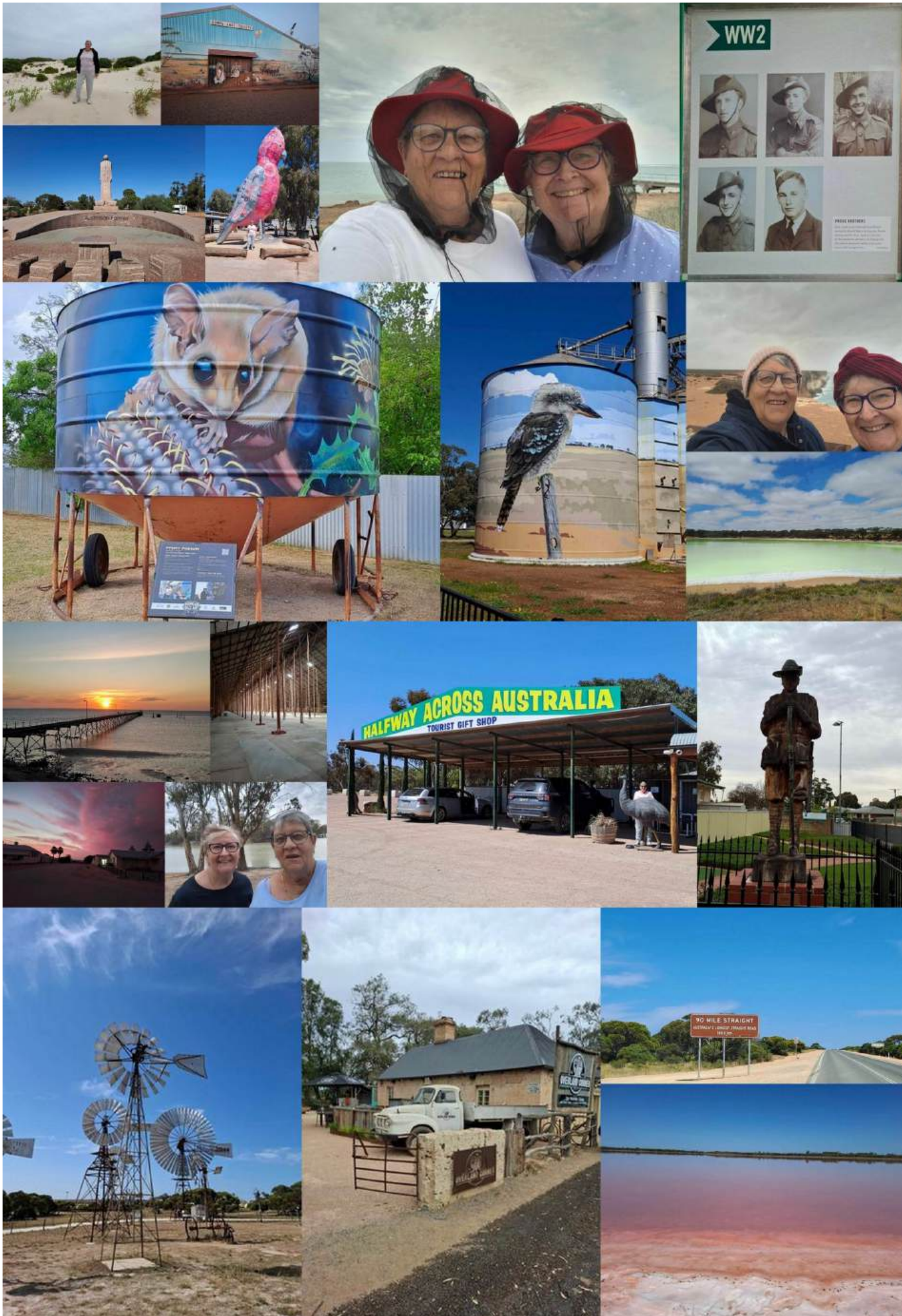
Submitted by Gwenda Smith





Stanwell Tops Lookout







From the President's Pen

Hello all, firstly a big thank you to committee member Narelle Gourlay for putting this Review together while our Editor Gwenda is currently touring a little of the back roads of Australia. (ABC's Heather Hewitt, might lose her job) We have packed a fair bit into these last few months since the committee agreed to have monthly meetings. So much so, we have already got our 75th Anniversary in our sights while currently planning our 74th Anniversary next year on 8th February.

Goodbye SED

To those who remember our original meeting venue at South Eastern District (SED) Head Office in Oxlade Drive New Farm, we have finally bid a farewell. The new Officer's Mess Restaurant, previously known as Events on Oxlade, has changed its focus and apart from major events, it now has casual dining at the rear of the venue close to the river during the week and weekend, therefore parking no longer exists. Our action to leave was necessary and couldn't have come at a better time. Geebung RSL has been more than welcoming over the last few years to allow us to hold our general meetings and Corps Day Function, I might add, at no expense. The venue is ideal with train/bus nearby and a vast carpark. In the last few months, the committee saw a need to trial a new venue for meetings and did so at the Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch. We were overwhelmed by the welcome and generosity offered by the President and his team and have now been provided with a cupboard for our belongings. While the establishment does not have public transport to the door, we are able to carpool and have a 'pick up run' to the Altandi Railway Station.

At our final meeting at SED this month, we removed our property from the cupboard and our Honour Board. Those of us recounted the early years after meetings, when we would take great delight in going down the back stairs onto the lawn abutting the river and sit under the brilliant jacaranda trees to enjoy some good old-fashioned camaraderie, with Eskys full of soft drinks (ha) the odd BBQ and the occasional visit from Santa during Christmas Time. While it was a poignant time that we said our goodbyes to the establishment we called home for 44 years, we left nothing behind except fond memories. We certainly will not miss driving along Brunswick Street on Saturdays. Following on from this and speaking with the Board Secretary, the President of SED granted a refund for venue hire for the last 2 years for which we are most grateful.



Wellbeing and Volunteer Support Officers (VSOs).

While most of you would have received my email regarding our new care practice for all members, for those who missed it, I would like to explain that it is a way that we can keep in touch with you personally. This will mainly be done by means of a phone call or email if necessary. In return, you will have a contact person to call if you have any enquiries or just want a chat. Ten members undertook a RSL Wellbeing Support Officer's Training Course and have linked in with our new Well Being Support Officer Terri-Ann Howard. A breakdown of our member's residence meant that a VSO would be responsible for a particular designated area thereby looking after those who reside there.

Below is the breakdown.

Designated Areas and Volunteer Support Officers

1. **North Brisbane** - Narelle Gourlay – 0417 648 309
2. **South Brisbane** – Chris Clancy 0402 844 648 / Marjorie McShane 0400 038 221 /
Gwenda Smith 0400 818 846
3. **Caboolture/Bribie Island and the start of Sunshine Coast** - Carmel Tunstall 0413 337 329
(Carmel will be assisted by Lorraine Houlihan and Fran Sinclair)
4. **Innisfail/Bundaberg/Hervey Bay/Toowoomba and surroundings**
Lorraine Houlihan 0408 126 710 / Fran Sinclair 0416 013 987
assisted by Dee Elliott 0408 222 592 and Maggie Winduss
5. **Interstate + some North and South Brisbane members** –
Kay Halford 0413 216 643



Continued

If you haven't had a call or email just yet, please don't feel that you have been left off the list. All the VSOs are busy at the moment and it is taking a while to get to everyone. If you don't want any interaction by a VSO, please be respectful when advising them that you are not interested in being contacted. What we aim to achieve is to make certain all members are in contact with a VSO. Setting up this link is to ensure you are ok, and receiving your Newsletters, and to see if you need a voice or assistance and if so, place you in contact with our Well-Being Support Officer. We have approximately 110 members and each membership is important. While the Association is going from strength to strength, where possible, we hope we can assist you if you are in need or perhaps you have a suggestion to offer or if you simply wish to have a chit chat.

New Members

We are fortunate to welcome three (3) new members. Nancye Turner nee Humphreys, Josie Dawson, and Linda Gold nee Parker. Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings/functions. Don't forget our final general meeting for the year is on 23rd November at Geebung RSL which will be followed by our Christmas get-together and nibblies.

To all, I would like to send my warm wishes for the festive season. Thank-you for your support, stay safe and hopefully we will catch up in 2025.



Warm Wishes Kay



Annual Memorial Church Service Albert Street Uniting Church Ann Street, Brisbane Qld 4000

The 34th Annual Memorial Church Service held Saturday 27 July 2024 was reasonably well attended with approximately 30 ex service members.

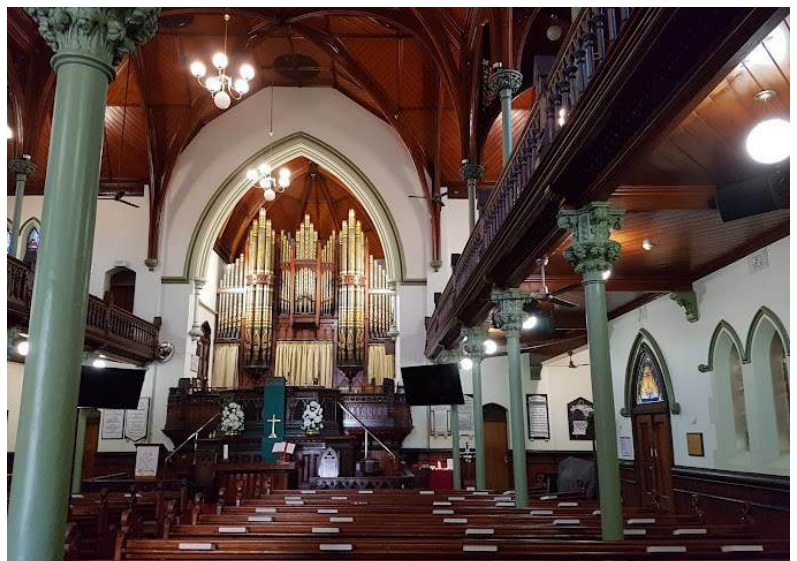
It was pleasing to see many active and current personnel and official guests attending.

Albert Street Uniting Church is a heritage-listed church built 1888 to 1889, of sandstone construction of the Victorian Gothic Revival style. Beautiful carved wood and raised choir ('quires') for choir seating presented on both sides of the church near the altar.

A younger female Padre attended connecting with our ex-service ladies. Padre Jackie conducted the service. Jackie's sermon was both down to earth and relevant to our everyday life focusing on our worries, our health and loss issues.

The smaller church embraced the number of attendees perfectly.

Lunch was buffet style provided in a function room located behind the church – wholesome sandwiches, meringues and fresh fruit with tea and coffee were served in the large sunlit room. Guests welcomed the refreshments and the chance to chat. The presentation of our refreshments was enhanced by the crisp white tablecloths. A very pleasant occasion.



Chris Clancy

Care Corner



Wellbeing Support Officer Activities have continued at a cracking pace with the role out of the Welfare Call system. Hopefully everyone should have received the correspondence from your President Kay Halford explaining the process. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Kay and VSOs for all their efforts and hard work to get this off the ground. And collectively offer feedback to you the members of the association. As hoped the contact is being warmly received, some members have flagged needs for assistance, whilst friendships and contacts have been rekindled and there has been reports of uplift to the spirits and wellbeing of both the VSOs and members. I think ladies suffice to say, this will continue to be a worthwhile and fulfilling service within the Association. Remember as with all new concepts it may take a while to contact everyone so, please don't feel left out if you haven't received a call yet.

Kallangur Memorial and Wreath Laying Service for Women of Australia



I was extremely honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of WRAAC Association at this Service in September and Chris Clancy did a magnificent job as a flag bearer.

It was lovely to hear in the opening address acknowledgement to all women, recognising and remembering the generous service of the often-unnoticed women who help and support others – The Red Cross, The CWA, The War Widows.

And the many women who serve without joining organisations to do it - they just get on with helping others wherever they can.

Chris Clancy, Carmel Liddelow OAM, Terri-Ann Howard

It is good to hear feedback that for some of the members who have recently sought Wellbeing Support are now in receipt of assistance from Veterans Home Care and the provision of tailored services, Aides and Appliances which will truly be of benefit for their health and wellbeing. We have several members with upcoming surgeries in November that I know of and they too now have necessary support pre and post discharge.

I recently attended a Welfare Support Officer training day sponsored by Kawana Sub Branch of which I wanted to share there is an extensive team of Welfare and Wellbeing Support Officers that volunteer their time to be of assistance to our Veteran community. The network is like a spider's web, and can be rather daunting for some to navigate so Ladies please always feel free to reach out as there maybe support available that we can assist with. Sometimes it is easier to share the load, or have another set of eyes look at the needs or the question at hand. An additional page has recently been added to the WRAAC webpage titled 'Health' and we will endeavour to use this as a space to share any information that is relevant to 'Health & Wellbeing'.

Veterans' Health Week (VHW) 2024 the theme *Keep Connected*, aims to promote good health and wellbeing in the everyday life of veterans and families, and shines a spotlight on the importance of *social connectedness*. I look very forward to meeting more new faces at the upcoming visit to the Queensland Police Service Museum and sharing lunch and a chat.

But before signing off I would love to share with you a story which I think exemplifies the importance of social connectedness and how a mere morning tea or get together can be contagious and truly bring a sheer moment of joy to many.

So please read on...and I hope you feel the joy I did when I was sitting at the other end of the table and heard this unfold at a recent Combined Services morning tea hosted by Fran Sinclair at Beerwah.



Care Corner Continued

A Random Meeting by Gay Liddington

A light splatter of rain began as I parked my car then strode quickly towards the Beerwah Health Hub and the VWF Command Post Café designated for this month's ex-servicewomen's lunch.

The atmosphere buzzed as old friends caught up. I hung back waiting to introduce myself to Fran Sinclair who had been my contact via Facebook. I spied another woman who introduced herself as Faye, also a first timer. The aroma of coffee hung in the air as extra tables were pushed in place to accommodate the growing crowd.

There were three spare seats at the end of a table, Faye and I claimed two then, another woman who said it was also her first time sat opposite me. We quickly bonded with questions regarding our service.

Faye shared that she had served in the air force.

"I was in the army... joined up in 1969," I said.

The woman across from me added, "I joined the WRAAC in 1968. Where were you posted after rookies?"

"RMC Duntroon in Canberra."

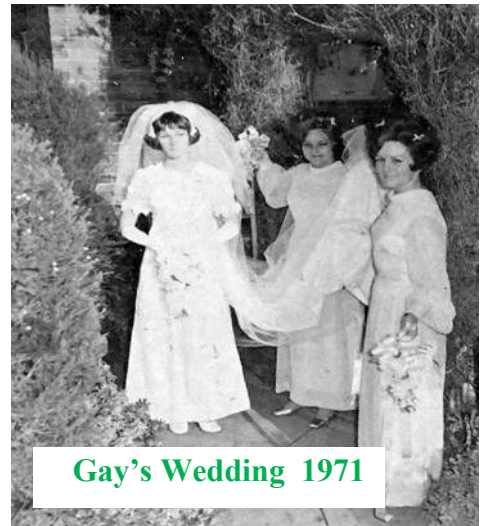
A weird look came over her face as she leant forward. "What was your maiden name?"

"Whitworth," I said.

"We were roomies! I was Linda Parker!"

"And you were my bridesmaid when I got married," I shot back.

We stared at each other struggling to recognise our aging features, but as the waters of time settled after being stirred with memories, we could see the resemblances of those young women, fresh-faced and full of hope, keen to fulfil their service duty.



Linda has recently joined WRAAC Assoc. (Qld) and I sincerely hope that Gay may also join you.

Until next time, Take Care.



If you have celebrated an Anniversary, Birthday or maybe a Lotto Win ...

*We hope enjoyed your special day!
Whatever you were celebrating!!*



Don't Forget!

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 31 MARCH EACH YEAR

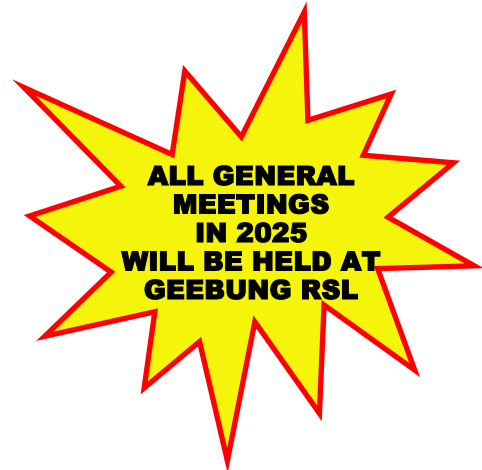
FEES ARE **NOW** **OVERDUE** FOR 2024



HAVE YOU PAID?

CAN'T GET TO GENERAL MEETINGS AND FEEL LIKE YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON INFORMATION?

A copy of the Minutes from the General and Annual General Meetings will now be emailed or posted to you. If you are not receiving your copy or would prefer not to receive them, please contact the Secretary Marjorie McShane on 0400 038 221 or send an email to secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com and she will be happy to discuss this with you.



DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS & CONTACT NAME IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Have you changed any of your personal details? Please advise the Secretary so we can update our records. Change of address, phone number, email address or contact name and phone number in case of an emergency. If we lose contact with you, we may rely on ringing your contact person.



DEADLINE FOR NEXT REVIEW

Deadline for the next newsletter is **17 February 2025**. Every effort will be made to use all contributions, but it may not be in the next issue. Please send all articles, clear photos, reports and letters to the Editor at the association address or email editorwraac.qld@outlook.com

Your input makes an ordinary Review "Extraordinary"

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



COMMITTEE FOR 2024-2025

PRESIDENT	Kay Halford	0413 216 643	presidentwraac@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Carmel Tunstall	0413 337 329	girl.1944@hotmail.com
SECRETARY	Marjorie McShane	0400 038 221	secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Kay Halford and Carolyn Paul to assist		
TREASURER	Carolyn Paul	0402 078 632	treasurerwraac.qld@outlook.com
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Cindie Manzie	0431 376 843	

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ASSOCIATION INFORMATION



POSTAL ADDRESS: WRAAC Association (Qld) Inc.
30 Scrubby Creek Road, BROWNS PLAINS QLD 4118



WEBSITE: www.qldwraac.org.au

GENERAL MEETINGS

- ◆ 10.30 am
 - ◆ On the 4th Saturday in March, May, August and November
- It is hoped that we will be having a Bus Trip in July and also an Event in October to celebrate Veterans Health Week details TBA*

GENERAL MEETING VENUE:

- ◆ Geebung RSL
323 Newman Road, Geebung

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- ◆ 10.30 am
- ◆ Monthly or as required

COMMITTEE MEETING VENUE:

- ◆ Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch,
19 Gager Street, Sunnybank

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- ◆ **\$15.00** due on **31st March** each year

INTERNET BANKING

- ◆ **ACCOUNT NAME:** WRAAC Assn Qld Inc.
- ◆ **BSB:** 124074 (Bank of Qld) **ACCOUNT NO:** 23017767
- ◆ **PAYEE REF:** Please quote your Initial & Surname and what the payment is for. Eg. ACitizen/Fees

IMPORTANT

Please text or email the Treasurer with your payment details, to ensure your payment can be receipted correctly.



Process for borrowing:

Contact the Librarian Daniela Bensen on 3869 3190 or E: bensen21@hotmail.com

- * Borrowing time will be 3 months.
- * If you are local we would ask that you 'pick up' and 'return' at a meeting.
- * If you are not local we will try and make an arrangement to save a postage fee.

A list of available publications is on our website. For those who don't have a computer, ask the secretary, and a copy will be mailed to you.

Thank you

2024

NOVEMBER

General Meeting 10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung

Saturday 23

Followed by some trivia games and a light **Christmas luncheon** which is being subsidised.

Tables will be Christmas themed so why not dress in the **Christmas Spirit**. There will also be raffles.

Cost \$10.00 per person



RSVP & Payment by the 15th November 2024

To the Secretary: secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com

Internet Banking: WRAAC Assn Qld Inc BSB: 124074 Account No: 23017767

Payee Ref: Please quote your initial and surname/ Eg. ACitizen/Nov

By Mail: cheque no.....for \$.....

Forward to : WRAAC Association (QLD) Inc.

30 Scrubby Creek Road BROWNS PLAINS QLD 4118

JANUARY

2025

Saturday 11

Committee Meeting 10:30am Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch

FEBUARY

Saturday 8

Corps Day - 74th Anniversary—11.30 for 12.00 Lunch-Geebung RSL 323 Newman Road, Geebung. (Please see the last page)

MARCH

Saturday 8

Committee Meeting 10:30am Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch

Saturday 22

General Meeting 10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung



Have you checked the Website for information and details of Events that are happening.

- ★ Caboolture Ex-Servicewomen's Lunch on the 2nd Monday of each month
- ★ Beerwah Country Women United by Defence Service on the 2nd Wednesday of each month
- ★ Combined Services Bribie Island Group Lunch every 4th Monday of each month

WRAAC MERCHANDISE

Contact Cindie Manzie
E: cintru@hotmail.com



Car Sticker
\$5



Pte Penny Gadget

A "Torch" to light your way
An "Opener" to help you refresh
A "Tape" to measure
A "Key Ring" to travel with you !
\$4



Lapel Pin
\$8



Pen
I can write
your messages
& I have a
"Stylus" for
your screens
\$3



Car Sticker
\$3



Merchandise



SHOPPING BAG
\$5

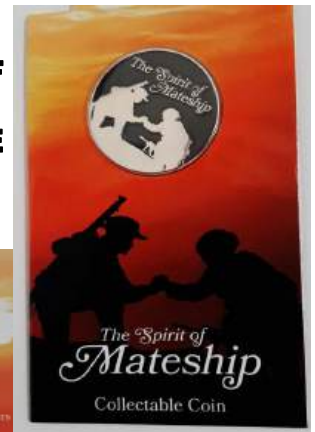


REMEMBER THEIR SERVICE LAPEL PIN
\$5

CERAMIC MUG
\$10



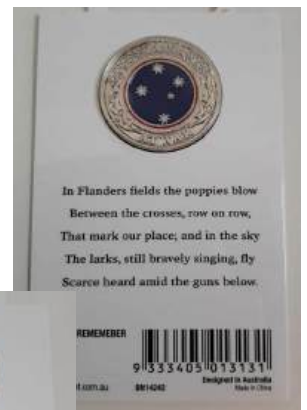
THE SPIRIT OF MATESHIP COLLECTABLE COIN
\$2



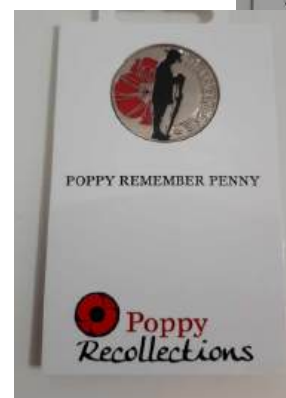
BUNCH OF POPPIES
\$5



TRAVEL MUG
\$5



MAGNETIC MEMO PAD
\$2



POPPY REMEMBER PENNY
\$2



WRAAC CORPS DAY 2025

OUR 74th Anniversary CELEBRATION

For WRAAC and WRAAC ASSN. Members ONLY

SATURDAY 08th FEBRUARY 2025

VENUE GEEBUNG RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung

TIMINGS 11:30 ARRIVAL
12:00 LUNCH (Alternate drop-entrée, main and dessert)

COST \$40.00(pp) each member & carer
\$45.00(pp) each WRAAC non-Assn member/friend

MUST be paid by the RSVP date

Included is a complimentary drink and a lucky door ticket

Bar will be available plus Raffles

RSVP 20th January 2025



WRAAC CORPS DAY 2025

I&..... will be attending the Corps Day Celebration on **Saturday** 08th February 2025.

Payment Options: Payment can be made by cheque, or internet banking.



By Mail: cheque no.....for \$.....

Forward to WRAAC Association (QLD) Inc.
30 Scrubby Creek Road BROWNS PLAINS QLD 4118



By Internet Banking: WRAAC Assn Qld Inc **BSB: 124074 Account No: 23017767**

Payee Ref: Please quote your initial and surname/ Eg. ACitizen/CDay

IMPORTANT please text or email the secretary with details of your direct debit when done,
so that your payment can be receipted correctly.



In Person: at the General Meeting on 23rd November 2024

Do you have any **Special Dietary needs and/or Food Allergies?**

Please advise the secretary, secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com