

**WRAAF MILESTONES**

- 1950           1        Decision to re-form Women's Air Force in Australia.  
              2        The WAAAF became the WAAF - no longer an auxiliary.  
              3        King George VI approved the title of WRAAF.
- 1951           First WRAAF members enlisted - Wing Officer D.J. Carter appointed as Director.
- 1952           1        Training ceased at Richmond.  
              2        WRAAF withdrawn from 7SD Toowoomba.  
              3        Ten Coronation medals awarded.  
              4        Squadron Officer E. Brett, our representative at the Coronation.
- 1953           Training ceased at Laverton. Transferred to Point Cook.
- 1954           1        LACW K Pearson awarded the BEM for bravery.  
              2        A decent raincoat on issue.
- 1955           First WRAAF at Edinburgh.
- 1956           Short sleeves in summer frocks.
- 1957           1        Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother graciously accepted the  
              2        appointment of Honorary Air Commandant of the WRAAF.  
              2        Wing Officer D.J. Carter awarded OBE.
- 1958           1        Flight Officer V. Levy MSA 1st Substitution Officer - appointed as  
              2        Accountant Officer.  
              2        WRAAF included in DFRB Scheme.  
              3        Permanent commissions approved - not granted.  
              4        Allison Committee determined airwomen pay rates at 75% male rate.
- 1959           1        Six year engagements followed extension of DFRB Scheme to cover WRAAF
- 1960           1        Wing Officer L.K. Pitman, BA, Dip Soc Stud succeeded Wing Officer D.J.  
              2        Carter OBE as Director of WRAAF.  
              2        Aircraft Plotters introduced.
- 1961           1        WRAAF to Darwin at last.  
              2        First Officer (Flight Officer J. Dines) on Advanced Administrative Course.
- 1962           1        Courses were held for NCOs for the first time.  
              2        WRAAF at 1 CRU Brookvale  
              3        Wet Canteens - Restricted hours for WRAAF.  
              4        Revision of Uniforms including introduction of new style hats.

- 1963      1      Approval given for new designs for WRAAF uniform.
- 2      New mustering EDP operator.
- 3      New Policies. Section Officers to be promoted after 3 years.

**ANNEX C contd**

- 1964      1      First award of Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to a WRAAF, W35340 Sgt Stirling CLKEA.
- 2      Some new uniforms received and issued.
  
- 1965      The WRAAF Year.
  - 1      Two new Squadron Officer posts were established.
  - 2      Pay rise.
  - 3      Permanent Commissions granted.
  - 4      Townsville opened for airwomen.
  - 5      Mess Kit worn for the first time.
  - 6      Recruit Training moved to Edinburgh and was incorporated as a squadron of No. 1 RTU.
  
- 1966      1      Fabric gloves for summer.
- 2      Highest 'peace time' strength figure 898.
- 3      First WRAAF Officer (Sqdn Off E Brett) and first airwoman retired.
  
- 1967      1      First WRAAF to serve overseas - Squadron Officer Dines and 11 airwomen took part in Operation 'Southern Cross' - a combined Australian and New Zealand exercise.
- 2      New quarters were built at Amberley.
- 3      Major re-grouping of musterings. WRAAF members in top grouping for first time.
  
- 1968      1      New quarters were built at No. 1SD Tottenham and Pearce.
- 2      Wing Officer Pitman awarded OBE.
- 3      No 1 WRAAF Officers' Conference held in Melbourne.
- 4      Major regrouping and realignment of musterings.
- 5      Director of WRAAF post raised to rank of Group Officer.
- 6      First Warrant Officer rank was established and filled.
  
- 1969      1      ABO A 1/39 replaced ABO A 79/57.
- 2      First Warrant Officer Post established (MTU).
- 3      Retention of married WRAAF approved.
  
- 1970      1      WRAAF officers were offered 4 or 6 year short service commissions for the first time since 1959.
- 2      No 2 WRMF Officers' Conference held at No 1SD.
- 3      New mustering of Bookbinder (WRMF) introduced.
- 4      Recruit courses increased to five weeks.

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| 1971 | 1 | New six pay level scheme introduced.  |
|      | 2 | Wing Officer post created at HQSC.  |
|      | 3 | New quarters were built at Williamstown.  |
| 1972 | 1 | Three flight officers were promoted against 3 RMF squadron leader posts.                          |
|      | 2 | Group Officer Pitman retired 17 May 72 and Group Officer Parsloe was appointed Director of WRAAF. |
|      | 3 | Airwomen's pay rose to 100% of male rate at basic level.  |
|      | 4 | Three year initial engagements were introduced.   |
|      | 5 | Air Board approved new style uniforms.  |
|      | 6 | New quarters were built at MTU and Wagga.   |

### **ANNEX C contd**

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| 1973 | 1  | New quarters were built at Point Cook.  |
|      | 2  | ABO P Section 23 replaced ABO A 1/39.   |
|      | 3  | Promotion examinations introduced for WRAAF Officer.  |
|      | 4  | Discharge on grounds of incompatibility introduced.   |
|      | 5  | Barracks control policy updated.  |
|      | 6  | De facto relationships recognised.  |
|      | 7  | Study commenced on diversification of employment for WRAAF officers.                                  |
|      | 8  | Average life of serving WRAAF officers is over 11 years.  |
|      | 9  | Proportion of married WRAAF reached 21%.  |
|      | 10 | New uniforms approved by Defence Department.  |
| 1974 | 1  | Brookvale closed.   |
|      | 2  | Working Party formed to determine basis for pay for Women Officers.                                   |
|      | 3  | New policy on barracks organisation introduced.   |
|      | 4  | New policy on homosexuality introduced.   |
|      | 5  | New syllabus for training WRAAF officers introduced.  |
|      | 6  | Dress rules revised to allow a ring to be worn.   |
|      | 7  | Cyclone Tracy wiped out Darwin (WRAAF Quarters condemned).  |
| 1975 | 1  | No 3 WRAAF Officers' Conference held at Fairbairn.  |
|      | 2  | Maternity leave approved.   |
|      | 3  | First female DCS cadet on radiography course.   |
|      | 4  | First female Cat 1A trainee on course at RADS.  |
|      | 5  | First female CLKFA in the Service.  |
|      | 6  | New uniforms introduced.  |
|      | 7  | Air Board approved in general terms the diversification of female employment.                         |
|      | 8  | Commissions in all branches except GD open to females.  |
|      | 9  | Female Sergeant CLKEA promoted against male Flight Sergeant post.                                     |
|      | 10 | Enlistment age reduced to 17 years.   |
|      | 11 | Sleepers/studs approved for pierced ears.   |
|      | 12 | MTU disbanded but WRAAF barracks retained at Froggnall to accommodate airwomen in the Melbourne area. |
|      | 13 | WRAAF recruit training moved from Edinburgh to Tottenham.   |

- 14 Pay rates still being deliberated.
- 1976
- 1 Female EDO and ACCTO appointed to RAAF.
  - 2 Two Wing Officers promoted against Wing Commander posts.
  - 3 Three year re-engagement approved.
  - 4 Retirement age for airwomen raised to 55.
  - 5 Female officers appointed to ADMIN, ATC and EQUIP.
  - 6 First female officer to Staff College.
  - 7 First female officer to Industrial Mobilisation Course.
  - 8 WRAAF NCO SUP courses integrated with SERGSUPMAN.
  - 9 Female FSGT SPLR promoted against male WOFF establishment.
  - 10 Committee of Reference considering basis of female pay fixation.
  - 11 Changes to AF(W8)Rs concerning rank nomenclature and command responsibilities awaiting Ministerial approval.
  - 12 Working Party Paper on Integration referred to CASAC.
- 1977
- 1 WRAAF Training Unit formed at Laverton with first WRAAF Commanding Officer.