

WRAAF QUEENSLAND



Newsletter
January - March 2018



To All Our Readers, may your Easter be decorated
with love, peace and joy.

From your Editor



January's AGM saw the return of 2017 Executive Members with all General Committee Members who were nominated for re-election being endorsed. See the last page of this Newsletter for the names of the Management Committee & Delegates for 2018.

PRESIDENT

Mrs Carol McCool
53 Kurumba Street
Kippa-Ring 4020

Ph. 3284 3490

Email:

stewienecarolmccool@gmail.com

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Mrs Pam Condie OAM
1 Whitecedar Circuit
North Lakes 4509

Ph. 3491 9560

Email: pcondie@mac.com

SECRETARY

Ms Janet Noack
30 Scrubby Creek Road
Browns Plains 4118

Ph. 3800 3031

Email: secretary@wraaf.org.au

TREASURER

Mrs Truus Perry
40 Sunnyside Road
Scarborough 4020

Ph. 3203 5583

Email: treasurer@wraaf.org.au

ASST. SEC/TREASURER

Ms Jill Buckland
2/19 Nina Parade
Arundel 4217

Ph. 5594 6856

Email: jillbuckland@bigpond.com

Editor's Report (continued)

We welcome new committee members Anne Quinell and Bev Stokes and say good bye to Gillian Sheperd who this year decided to become a social member. However, Gillian's enthusiastic support to the Branch continues with the mailout of Minutes. A big thank you Gillian, your efforts and support is most appreciated.

It is hard to believe that a 1/4 of the year has almost gone.

- * The AGM was followed by a scrumptious buffet at the Soffitel which I'm certain all will agree should be an annual event;
- * Some 80 plus ex- servicewomen came together to celebrate the recognition of all Servicewomen who had served in the ADF with the unveiling and Dedication Service at Maroochydore 1st March; (See page 4 & 5 for the story)
- * Four Day Cruise for Ex-Servicewomen to Airlee Beach. (See page 6 & 7)



**ANZAC DAY 2018 WILL BE AN HISTORICAL DAY FOR ALL
EX-SERVICEWOMEN THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA,**

Capital cities will acknowledge the contribution of all Ex-Servicewomen with the coming together of all Branches and Associations to march with veterans from the WVNA "By the Left' campaign. Some WVNA veterans will march behind the Service they identify with while others may march as a unified block behind the Navy Women.

Let's make this day one for all ex-servicewomen to remember. Please join us at the corner of Elizabeth and George Streets at 9.30am for the biggest gathering of female veterans to march together this ANZAC Day



VALE

Von HEIN, Beris
WRTC 054 Pt Cook 18/8 – 17/9/1954

Beris had a long illness suffering with Dementia
Passed away 7/1/2018

RIP



VALE

COBBE, Rita
WRAAC NCO and WRAAF COMMISSIONED
OFFICER

Rita lost her long battle with cancer
20th February at Blayney Hospital NSW

Rita was a Redcliffe girl and retained close friendships with
both ex- WRAAC and ex-WRAAF

RIP



MEDIA RELEASE: FEMALE VETERAN INITIATIVE 'BY THE LEFT'

In 2018, a veteran initiative called 'By the Left' is broadening the public's perception of what a veteran looks like. This is in response to many veterans, predominantly younger and/or female veterans being challenged about their medals. In most circumstances, veterans are being mistakenly questioned about whose medals they are wearing. However, some are being aggressively challenged and abused for apparently wearing someone else's medals on the left side. This has resulted in hundreds of veterans, particularly those who have been consistently questioned for many years, feeling isolated from the veteran community as their experiences mean that they no longer march or wear their medals.

'By the Left' coordinator Ms Kellie Dadds is asking the public to view veterans as young, old, male, female, serving and ex-serving. 'If asked what a veteran looks like, most will describe an older white male marching proudly with medals swinging. As a result, many veterans who do not fit that identity are being questioned about their medals'.

'By the Left' seeks to broaden the identity of a veteran particularly given the recently updated definition of a veteran from 'returned service' to 'current and ex-serving members of the ADF'. The inclusion of those who provided home service has been important to many. There is a generation of veterans who served between Vietnam and East Timor who did not have the opportunity to deploy, however their service is no less valued than those who did serve overseas.

'By the Left' is not about medals, it is about the identity of a veteran. But the initiative's apparent focus on medals is because the public often only identifies a veteran when they wear their medals.

The culminating event for the 'By the Left' initiative is encouraging female veterans in particular, to march in normal Anzac Day marches in 2018. Marching on Anzac Day is symbolic for many veterans as it is a gathering of those who have served marching towards the cenotaph to honour those who did not return home. Ms Dadds stated 'for one year only, female veterans are being invited to march together to welcome back and support their mates who have been impacted by this issue.' 'By the Left' is also encouraging all veterans to march with a group who they feel best identifies their service. 'Indications so far are that hundreds of women will be marching, many for the first time, with the usual ex-service women organisations who have marched together for over 40 years.

We anticipate that Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney will have the largest gatherings'. Ms Dadds said.

Further information about 'By the Left' and Anzac Day events is detailed on the 'By the Left' facebook page.

Pictured at the Australian War Memorial

'By the Left' campaign supporters



Ledy Rowe, Lucy Wong, Allison Gillam, Kellie Dadds and Jan-Maree Ball

Maroochydore Combined Ex-Servicewomens Association Plaque/Bench Dedication



On 1 March 2018 the President, Committee and members of the Maroochydore Combined Ex-Servicewomen's Association, with much pride, held a dedication ceremony for a plaque and park bench acknowledging and remembering all Service Women who have served in the Australian Defence Forces.

This special event was first mooted 9 years previously by the President of the Association, Jan Thorne, and fully supported by the committee and all members throughout the long and arduous process. Numerous previous attempts to place a plaque at Cotton tree Park had been unsuccessful. However, in 2017 with the assistance and support of Tony Ferris, President, Sunshine Coast District RSL and his committee and Sunshine Coast Councilor Jason O'Pray the dream came to fruition.

On this very hot and humid day, our guest speaker was Judith Munday OAM, WRAAC who provided a thoughtful and entertaining speech about her service and the service of women in the Defence Forces. The Association was very grateful indeed for Judith's contribution to this day.

Two of our Association's World War 2 members, Kathleen Hodges (WAAAF Airforce Nurse WW2, (see photo) and Dorothy Powell had the honour of unveiling the plaque.

The dedication service was conducted by Padre James Hall, from the Anglican Church, Nambour who is the current Padre to the 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment, Galloipoli Barracks, Enoggera. Padre Hall dedicated and blessed the plaque and bench seat with a special anointing oil brought from Jerusalem.



Our event numbers were capped at 50 guests due to insurance and council regulations which govern the use of this park. However, the massively positive response to the invitation, issued via all sections of the Ex-Servicewomen's network, very much surprised our association. On the day, 82 women attended both the dedication and the morning tea. It's fortunate that we had Counsellor O'Pray as a special guest, given we significantly exceeded our capped number! Women from all service branches attended in great numbers, as well as RSL buses coming from Greenbank, Caloundra and Redcliffe.

Maroochydore Combined Ex-Servicewomens Association Plaque/Bench Dedication

continued

At the conclusion of the official ceremony, all parties adjourned to the Maroochydore Events Centre for a very welcome air-conditioned venue and a lovely morning tea.



Truus Perry, Heather Mewett, Ellen Thompson, Fay Ison Carol, McCool, Dawn Cooper, Jan Nicholls

The camaraderie between all those attending was exceptional and the President, Committee and members of Maroochydore Combined Ex-Servicewomens Association were gratified with the most generous response from all concerned. It was a very proud day indeed for our association.



Judy Morris, Janet Noack, Gillian Shepperd, Pam Condie, Gwen Lovett

Special Thank you to Lorraine Houlihan for providing the article and Jan Thorne for the photographs



Cruise Photo Gallery



Sea Princess

Ex-Servicewomen's 4 day cruise – Brisbane / Airlie Beach / Brisbane 8th March – 12th March 2018

Not exactly the best start to a cruise when you receive a message the afternoon before departure, that due to extreme winds, our departure time had been delayed by several hours and we would not set sail from the Cruise Terminal but be bused to Fisherman's Island.

As a result, the planned gathering at the terminal with all twenty-two ex-servicewomen wearing their Branch Polo shirts did not occur. We would have looked impressive and did eventually gather for dinner on board the Sea Princess at 5.30pm with Val and Margaret being the last to arrive via the shuttle bus.

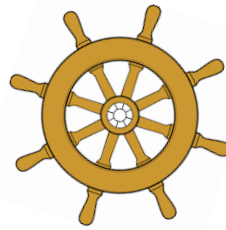
The weather remained rough and very windy throughout so there were no games of skill on the Sport Court to sort out the WRAAF (8) from the WRAAC (12).

The WRANs were represented by two delightful ladies who joined us at *Cocktail Hour* each afternoon.



Good to the last drop





THE CRUISERS

WRAAC > Dee Elliott, Gloria Hollingworth, Dot Kunde, Jan Thorne, Lorraine Houlihan, Gwen Braga, Leanne Gibbs, Margaret Grayson, Chris Carlile, Barbara Dawson, Cindy Manzie, Trudi Thomas

WRAAF > Janet Noack, Margaret Stevenson, Bonnie Boon, Val Machin, Jill Buckland, Maureen Whitworth-Chalk,(NZ) Judith Evans, Terry Forsyth.

WRAN > Margaret Jones, Lillian Coyne (WW II)



Organiser Deirdre Elliott (WRAAC) with Cdre Giuseppe Romano, Captain and Margaret Jones (WRAN) who provided and presented the plaque.





BRANCH MEETINGS—2018

All meetings are held at the Ann Street Presbyterian Church, Trust Offices Meeting Room at 143 Ann Street, Brisbane City at **10.00am SHARP**.

May 12th, **July 21st, (change of date)**
September 8th, November 10th

APRIL

6th 7th 8th—**65th Anniversary National WRAAF Reunion 2018** - Adelaide SA
25th - **ANZAC Day Parade and Lunch at Tattersalls, booking essential.**

JUNE

7th - **Maroochydore Combined ESW Assn Birthday Lunch at Maroochydoner RSL**
11.30 am for 12.00. Cost \$35.00 > RSVP Jan Thorne on 0410 448 433 by 31 May 2018

30th— **Bus Trip > Mudgeeraba Light Horse Museum with Lunch at Nerang RSL**
Costs: Bus (free to members) Museum (\$10 Entry Fee) Lunch (Own Expense)
See May Minutes for Bus Pick Up Locations and Times.

JULY

14th—**Toowoomba Christmas in July Reunion. 11.30 for 12.00 at Blue Mountain Hotel**
29th - **Council of ESW Church Service, St Andrews Uniting Church, Ann Street Brisbane City.**

AUGUST

18th - **Council of ESW Tri Service Luncheon, Geebung RSL**

SEPTEMBER

12th - **Council of ESW Pine Rivers Memorial Service**

OCTOBER

19th-21st - **Hervey Bay ESW Social Club (34th Birthday Weekend)**

DECEMBER

1st - **WRAAF**
Festive Morning Tea with invited guests

FUTURE EVENT 2019

Ex Service Women's Cruise NZ 14 days
7 Ports of call. 24/2/2019
Round trip from Brisbane
On Sea Princess

Interested? Contact Deirdre Elliott

deirdre_colin@bigpond.com

Further Information will be forthcoming.



YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Carol McCool
Dep. President: Pam Condie
Secretary: Janet Noack
Minute Secretary: Pam Condie
Treasurer: Truus Perry
Assist. Sec/Treas: Jill Buckland



General Committee Members:

Anne Quinell, Vi Speis,
Eunice Smith, Bev Stokes

Delegates & Proxies

Council of Ex Servicewomen

Lyn Wilkes, Margaret Stevenson,
Janet Noack, Truus Perry (Proxy)

RAAFA

Carol McCool, Jill Buckland, Sandy Downes

Health & Well-Being Officer:

Maureen Stewart Ph. 3389 5762 or 0424 741 527
Email morsy@optusnet.com.au

Merchandising Officer: Jill Buckland contact details on front page.

Update Your Details

If you change your email or postal address or phone number **PLEASE** advise the Secretary **ASAP** on secretary@wraaf.org.au or phone 3800 3031 or mail to 30 Scrubby Creek Road, Browns Plains Q 4118

WRAAF ACCOUNT

Payments of membership, functions, fees clothing etc. can be made to the Treasurer at meetings or deposited electronically or manually into our Heritage Bank Account.

- ♦ **Account Name:** WRAAF Branch Queensland
- ♦ **Bank:** Heritage Bank Limited
- ♦ **BSB:** 638-070
- ♦ **Account No:** 13917374
- ♦ **Direct Deposit:** Reference your name and reason eg. Fees, M/Tea
- ♦ **Cheques must be made out to WRAAF Branch Queensland**

WRAAF Hat:

CARE INSTRUCTIONS;

1. Hand wash – machine washing is not recommended
2. A “Shot of Steam” will smooth any creases in the brim or gusset.

