

Women's Royal Australian Army Corps

QLD REVIEW

Issue 174 August 2024



Memorabilia goes South

By Kay Halford

Some of you may remember earlier this year when Gai Hutchison, the President of the then WRAAC Association (N.S.W.) Inc., put a 'shout out' to anyone who would kindly donate a pair of dark green Major epaulettes to complete a uniform in a collection of memorabilia which was to go on a display.

It so happened that we had two pairs of the late Thelma Crouch's epaulettes in our Association's memorabilia collection, however I decided to wait a while to see if Gai received any replies.

A month later, I followed up with a call to Gai who said that she had not received any responses so I set about discussing this with the committee to see whether we should donate a pair. To get a general feeling of members it was raised at a general meeting followed up with making contact with those who were particularly close to Thelma and all agreed to have them sent to NSW to be put on display in the Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park in Sydney.

We also forwarded photographs and information regarding the late Major Thelma Crouch. Below is a copy of a letter of thanks to our Association from Gai Hutchinson together with photographs.

Dear Kay

Thank you for the generosity of your Association in sharing precious memorabilia with us.

The staff at the Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney, are delighted to accept Major Crouch's epaulettes to complete Major Joan Scully's uniform in their collection.

Given the synchronicity of their service as enlistees in the initial WRAAC CMF intake in 1953 and both going on to command the CMF Companies in Queensland and NSW it is particularly meaningful.

Using the photos and information you sent, I was able to give them a folder of supporting material to personalise the donation.

With warm regards and appreciation,

Gai Hutchinson



Gai handing over the folder with the information of Major Couch



Recent Acquisition cabinet



The memorial

SUNSHINE COAST EX-SERVICE AND SERVING WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC ANNUAL LUNCHEON 6 JUNE 2024



QUEENSLAND DAY (Beautiful one day perfect the next)

This year the luncheon coincided with Queensland Day and the night before Qld won the 1st of the State of Origin games so there was a sea of maroon with some sunny yellow (including bananas, pineapples, a map of QLD T-shirt, and the QLD Coat of Arms) splashed around the room.

We travelled from far and wide - Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Gold Coast, Woodgate, Bribie Island, Glasshouse Country, Brisbane CBD to all verge on Maroochydore RSL to celebrate with our local ladies from the Sunshine Coast. The camaraderie and catch ups between all services (Army/WRAAC, Navy, Air Force and Nursing Corps) was magnificent.

The Maroochydore RSL President was the guest speaker. What a moving speech – well thought out and from his heart. He made us all feel special and honoured to be female veterans especially being acknowledged by the RSL President.

The table decor set the scene - yellow and pineapples - a place for our scrumptious food to be placed down.

My highlight was singing our Anthem to the tune of Hallelujah. If we didn't feel a tingle down our back, goosebumps, and maybe a tear of camaraderie and happiness when the RSL President spoke, we did now - so powerful.

Many thanks to the Committee and your hard work to bring it all together.
Until next year.

Narelle Gourlay



Victory in Europe Commemorative Service

Carolyn and I attended the VE Day 79th Commemorative Service at SED RSL New Farm. The Service was in 2 parts – 1st being formalities and Wreath Laying. Carolyn and I laid a Wreath together on behalf of WRAAC Association Qld.

We then moved indoors for the 2nd part of the service, the Commemorative Ceremony. The Guest Speaker was Major General Ash Collingburn DSM AM, Commander 1st (Australian) Division. Major General Collingburn gave a thought-provoking speech on the state of the world but praised the Australian Defence Force for its capabilities.

The Ceremony concluded with the Reciting of the Ode by the President RSL SED/The Last Post/Minute of Silence/Rouse and the Exhortation by the Chaplain.

Brisbane is the only City in Australia to hold a Commemorative Service for VE Day, but it is hoped that next year, the 80th Anniversary of VE Day will be held in other Cities throughout Australia.

Marjorie McShane
Secretary



WOMEN'S ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY CORPS ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC.



*From the
Editor*

The next Issue of the Review will be kindly published by Narelle Gourlay, in my absence. Please send any articles and photos directly to Narelle for publishing. The Deadline is the 19th October 2024. Her email address is nelleg57@gmail.com

I have not officially retired, but have taken leave till the 1st December 2024 from my employment. My intention being not to return to work. My sister and I have purchased a motorhome and we are embarking on a three month trip to Western Australia, leaving early September. I am looking forward to catching up with Dale Reynolds whilst we are there.

Stay safe and well.

Gwenda Smith
Editor



Have you checked our **Website** www.qldwraac.org.au

JUST ONE CLICK AWAY

- * HISTORY * OUR ASSOCIATION ORIGIN * PHOTO GALLERY
- * MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION * UP COMING EVENTS
- * LINKS * CONTACT INFORMATION * AND SO MUCH MORE

Under the tab '**Topical**' is a remarkable article on 'The Story of two Chelsea Pensioners - UK'



plus other interesting articles for your perusal. Grab yourself a cuppa and enjoy! If you are having trouble with any aspect of the website please let your committee know, we are here to help and assist you.



Christmas in July - Bus Trip O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyard



What is the difference between WRAAF and WRAAC Assn Members?

Absolutely nothing!

Both like good food, good wine, good fun, good company and not being good!!

On Saturday 20 July, a big red bus driven by Keith, left the Sunshine Coast with 6 Christmas adorned personnel aboard ... Proceeded down The Bruce, with a stop at McDonalds Bribie Turnoff picking up some more and then into the Big Smoke to pick up another select group of like attired ladies from Ann Street Then off down the M1 to Helensvale Station where Keith then picked up more of these gaily attired ladies. Now totalling 39 (1 in sick bay - *hope you are feeling better now*). The level of chatter in the bus rose somewhat!!!

Uphill. Down dale. Round and round the roundabouts till we arrived at O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyard. WOW! A wonderful setting!

After some retraining on microphone operation Chris briefed us on when and where we should be and what we could expect when we got there! And then, as usual, we just did whatever we wanted to do! ... alpacas, bar, gift shop, bar, dining room, bar, toilets

Alison and the other O'Reilly's staff were excellent. We were treated like 'royalty'. Could not have asked for better. Liaison and organisation were superb! Well done to those involved.

We sat down in a grand dining room at tables decorated with bon bons, Christmas trees and chocolates and were served a Christmas Roast dinner which was to die for ... yummy! Did anyone find a sixpence in their pud?

We had a BIG raffle which was fun ... a raffle with lots and lots of tickets with **different** colours and **shades** of colours (but I won't say anything more, Madam President, *mauve* indeed! Hahaha)

Biggest challenge of the day was getting 39 lovely ladies to stand still for a group photo beside the bus!

By the amount of continual laughter and chatter throughout the whole day, there was obviously a lot of 'old friends' catching up with one another and a lot of new friendships being made.

Difference between WRAAF or WRAAC? None! just a whole lot of camaraderie going on!

Bring on the next combined function!

PS a super big shout out to all those who did anything to make this day the success it was! Great memories!

Di Elsworth

A Change in the Guard – New Wellbeing Support Officer

Brief introduction to Me,

Retired Veteran, 12 years Royal Australian Corp of Signals, and a steeped family history of military service. I am most proud to say my inspiration to pursue a military career came from my parents and more so my mother Maureen Howard (nee Stanley) a WRAAC enlisting 1961.

My military career unfortunately cut short by an accident whilst deployed on Active Service in East Timor. Never lingering on the negative my long rehabilitative journey exposed me to Department of Veteran Affairs processes, RSL Qld support and the services of Occupational Therapy which inspired me to undertake a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours) Degree so I too could support the Veteran Community.

I am very humbled and excited for the opportunity to undertake the position as WSO for your association. I enjoy working with people and always happy to assist. "A Problem shared is a Problem halved".

Please keep the ethos of looking out for each other, and always find a way to let us know if we can assist in any way.

Take care,
Terrie-Ann Mobile: 0409700581



... Care Corner



Wellbeing Support Activities have commenced with attending the recent Memorial service for Linda Davison (nee Brettell) who passed away 30 May 2024. A lovely service with many families, friends and a nice representation of WRAAC for a fitting farewell.

I've been able to visit members from the Gold Coast to Sunshine Coast reaching as far as Beaudesert assisting with transport to a family funeral, assisting with claims for household services and options for ongoing home supports for a WRAAC who is caring for a family member who is also a veteran.

Whilst I haven't been in the seat very long, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the support of the Volunteer Wellbeing Officers that will make my role easier as I cannot possibly support the vast area that the Qld WRAAC Association covers.

To date my support has also covered assisting one of our lovely members to finally receive her Australian Defence Medal well overdue now that she is in her young 90s.

If you would like assistance to apply for your Medal/s I would be honoured to help, alternatively I have provided some information in this newsletter Care Notes.

Whilst I have visited several members who are managing illness, I would like to report that all are doing as well as can be expected and certainly have well established networks and support. This is a credit to the strong ethos, camaraderie and sisterhood that the WRAAC personifies. Well done, Ladies keep up the good work.

On a final note, I would like to share the following information as it may provide financial assistance.

RSL Queensland's Scholarship scheme **provides funding to assist children & grandchildren of Australian veterans in achieving tertiary qualifications.** The program is managed by the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) on behalf of RSL Queensland.

You as a parent or grandparent may wish to apply for this. Information in Care corner notes.

Until next time, Ladies take care.

Care Corner Notes



Australian Defence Medal

Introduced in 2006 to recognise Australian Defence Force personnel who have served their country since the conclusion of World War Two.

Eligibility

A member who has enlisted for an indefinite period us required to render four years qualifying service, irrespective of any period of initial Minimum Period of Service that may be required.

Note: Former members who did not complete the qualifying period may also be eligible if they:

- died in service;
- were medically discharged;
- **discharged from service due to a discriminatory Defence policy of the time; or**
- discharged from service as a consequence of mistreatment.

<https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/honours-awards/defence-medals-application-form>



AVCAT scholarships are for the children and grandchildren of Australian ex-serving veterans studying at university, TAFE, or an RTO in 2025.

Applications open on August 18, Vietnam Veterans' Day.

And remember, it's never too early to start getting your paperwork ready.

2025 Scholarships APPLICATIONS OPEN 18 AUGUST

Tertiary scholarships for the children & grandchildren of ex-serving veterans

Applications Close 31 October

avcat.org.au

avcat.org.au Australian Veterans & Children Assistance... [Learn more](#)



YOUR OR A FAMILY MEMBER MAYBE CONSIDERING STUDY

<https://avcat.org.au/scholarships/>

Vale

Linda Jane Davison - aka Brettell

04 August 1958 – 30 May 2024

Registered No. F2147716

Association Membership No. 453



A fitting farewell for Linda at Petrie 13/06/24 with a lovely attendance of WRAAC and Ex-servicewomen to support Family and Friends. It was shared that Linda had a tangible love of elephants which was evident in so many ways.

Linda's final farewell will be with her ashes being spread at the Currumbin Elephant Rock ANZAC Day Dawn Service 2025.

Rest in Peace - Soldier of the Queen





From the President's Pen

Hello all, the first Newsletter following the AGM and may I say a very big thank-you to last year's Committee. It was a year full of concepts and projects and all worked well together. The Treasurer, Secretary and President's reports are all available through the Secretary.

This year's new Committee sees a small change as we welcome Carmel Tunstall as our new Vice President and our new Well Being Officer, Terrie-Ann Howard Associate Member. While Terrie-Ann is slowly finding her footing, she has already made great in-roads with her role and in September will come together with the Volunteer Support Officers to strategise the workings of well-being and support within the Association.

This dreaded flu season is upon us and remembering some of those Covid guidelines that we practiced, perhaps it is thoughtful to go through it again. Please don't be offended by the mask wearing, and the refusal of a hug when greeting others, it is far better to protect yourself and others if you are contagious.

Unfortunately, last year and again this year, I have experienced some dreaded bug! While having buckets of medication and going through so many tests, they foundnothing! I still feel they should have included 'kennel cough' as my coughing could be heard by the neighbourhood. It sure kept intruders away.

We are fortunate to welcome nine (9) new members. Shaz **Freebody**, Val **Denholder** nee Bertic and Karen **Maddocks** nee Emery, Linda **Lane** nee Rattle also known as Alford, Carol **Mayes** nee Brown also known as Evans, Shirley **Hoare** nee Brown, Margot **Lowrie**, Lou **Webb** and again Terrie-Ann **Howard**, Associate Member.

Don't forget our August meeting, we will be having a guest speaker, the Curator of the Queensland Police Museum, Lisa Jones.

For now, thank-you for your support and keep warm.

Warm Wishes Kay

DID YOU KNOW?

If you have 5 inches of fat around your tummy you can prevent a bullet reaching any vital organs.

I'M NOT FAT, I'm armored.

aunty acid facebook.com/auntyacid © AuntyAcid 2019 CONTACT US: help@auntyacid.com

Marriage is like a **deck of cards.**

In the beginning all you need is **two HEARTS** and a **DIAMOND.**

By the end, you wish you had a **CLUB** and a **SPADE.**

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aunty acid

My mind says I'm in my twenties... but my body says, "Yeah, you wish!"

LOVEFISHPIC.COM

Designers have invented a new bra for us middle-aged women. They've called it **'The Sheepdog'**, as it rounds them up and points them in the right direction.

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aunty acid www.auntyacid.com.au

Don't stress about your eyesight failing as you get older. It's nature's way of protecting you from shock as you walk past the mirror.

aunty acid's **RIDDLE ME THIS**

What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you throw it away?

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The Council of Ex-Servicemen's Associations Qld

has much pleasure in extending an invitation to the Executive Committee & Members of

All Member Associations

to attend the

KALLANGUR MEMORIAL & WREATH LAYING SERVICE for the Women of Australia

at the Women of Australia Memorial Wall in the grounds of the
Norths Leagues & Services Club and Pine Rivers RSL Sub-Branch on

Wednesday, 11 September 2024 at 11 am

Medals may be worn

Lunch will not be arranged as a group function.

Norths Leagues & Services Club will serve lunch on an individual booking basis.

For lunch reservations please call Norths Leagues and Services Club on 3285 2733

The Women of Australia Memorial

The Memorial was designed to honour the women of Australia, both military and civilian, whom, through their dedication and courage, provided a significant contribution during all wars and conflicts.

The Memorial has two distinct components one honouring civilians and the second honouring female members of the various Defence Forces.

It is hoped that this memorial will remain as a permanent reminder of those who served our Nation and, in particular, honour those women who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

**RSVP: to the Secretary, Marjorie McShane on Mobile 0400 038 221 or email
secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com as soon as possible with numbers wishing to attend**

POPPY SERVICE - So that we can honour you!



If you wish your service to your country to be recognised at your funeral, you need to let your family and/or funeral director know your wishes. Remember to notify your local RSL Sub Branch as well. Our Association cannot interfere, it is your family's responsibility to request this Service.



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.

THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE I HAVE IN COMMON WITH COMPUTERS. WE BOTH START OUT WITH LOTS OF MEMORY AND DRIVE, THEN WE BECOME OUTDATED, CRASH UNEXPECTEDLY, AND EVENTUALLY HAVE TO HAVE OUR PARTS REPLACED!



“A wise woman can predict the future because she creates it.”
~Anonymous



Lucky Member Draw ...



Di Elsworth

Congratulations!

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 **19 October 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, 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	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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(Associate Member)

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WEBMASTER

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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
- ◆ Bi-monthly or as required

COMMITTEE MEETING VENUES:

- ◆ South East District RSL, 42-50 Oxlade Drive, New Farm
- ◆ 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

AUGUST

2024

Saturday 24th *General Meeting* 10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung

Special guest speaker—Lisa Jones, Curator Queensland Police Service Museum, Police Headquarters, Brisbane.



*Why not come early and get a cuppa before the meeting or stay on after and catch up with friends over lunch.
Geebung RSL support us, so why not support them.*

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 7th *Committee Meeting* 10:30am Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch
19 Gager Street, Sunnybank

Wednesday 11th CESWA—Annual Memorial & Wreath Laying Service
More information page 8

OCTOBER

Saturday 5th *Committee Meeting* 10:30am SED RSL New Farm

Friday - Sunday Hervey Bay Ex-Servicewomen's Social Club
18th - 20th
More information page 12



TBA *Veterans' Health Week*



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

- * Caboolture Ex-Servicewomen's Lunch on the 2nd Monday of each month
- * Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence Service on the 2nd Wednesday of every month
- * Combined Services Bribie Island Group who meet for lunch every 4th Monday of each month
- * Caloundra RSL Sub Branch invitation to attend the 2024 Veterans Spring Ball on 12 October.

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

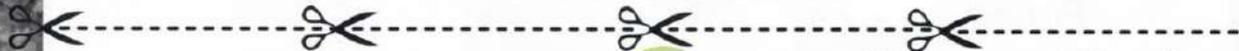
Indicate interest
 Numbers needed &
 Mijo Cafe
 Breakfast
 Cost: \$20

**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: _____

Enclosed Cheque for \$ _____

Direct Deposit Details:

BSB 645 646

ACCOUNT 107946858

NAME: Hervey Bay Ex-Servicewomen's Social Club

(If using direct debit please advise
 the treasurer at [judulie@gmail.com](mailto:jdulie@gmail.com))

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

Dietary requirements: _____

**Check our Website for Motels within walking distance to the RSL Club
 RSVP 4TH OCTOBER 2024**

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



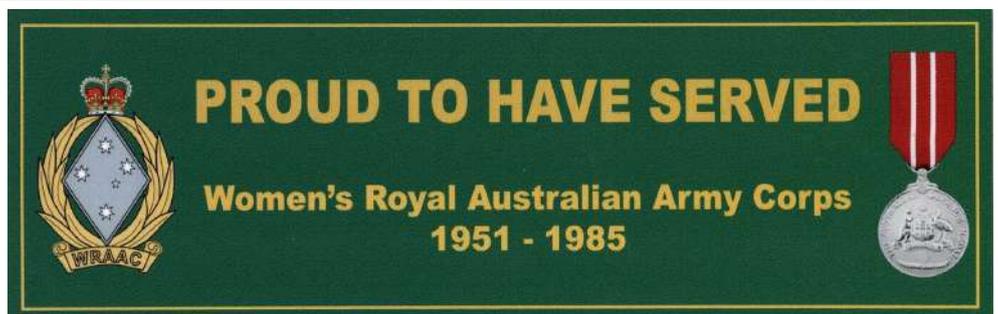
Lapel Pin
\$8



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



Car Sticker
\$3



Merchandise



SHOPPING BAG
\$5

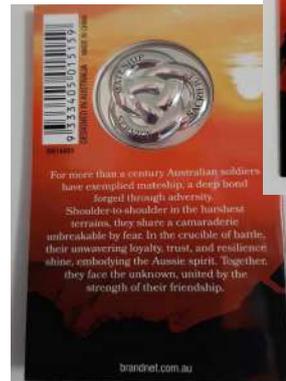
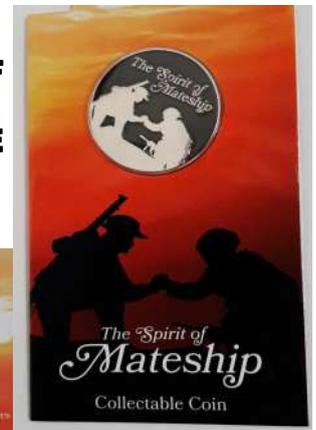


REMEMBER THEIR SERVICE LAPEL PIN
\$5

CERAMIC MUG
\$10



THE SPIRIT OF MATESHIP COLLECTABLE COIN
\$2



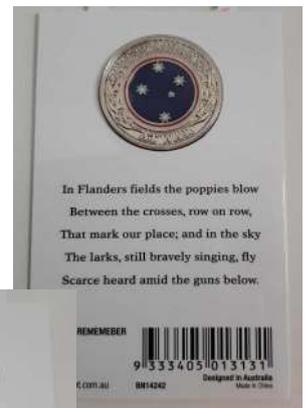
BUNCH OF POPPIES
\$5



TRAVEL MUG
\$5



MAGNETIC MEMO PAD
\$2



POPPY REMEMBER PENNY
\$2