

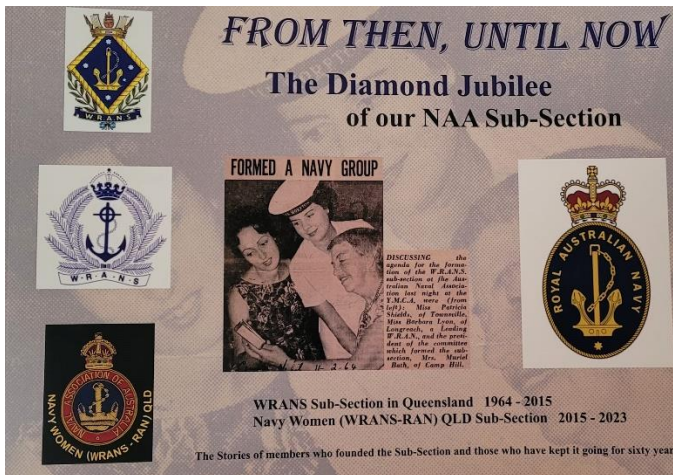
NAVY WATER

Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld

Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia

Volume XXIV #1 **Mar 2024**

Summer Happenings - December 2023 to February 2024



When I left the WRANS in 1984, I had nothing further to do with the Navy. In 2007, my husband attended his first Gollies Reunion on the Gold Coast. At a following Gollies Reunion, I met Judy as her husband had been my husband's boss, on several occasions during their service.

In 2016, FaceBook connected me with Cecilia, who I had enlisted with. Cecilia asked me to accompany her to meetings and in November 2016, I joined the Sub-Section, thanks to Wendy's recruiting.

In late 2017, Wendy asked me to be the Treasurer, and long story short, I am still the Treasurer as no-one else wants the role.

At the end of my first year as Treasurer, I introduced electronic recording in MYOB to the Sub-Section. All the receipts are now produced from MYOB and all payments are by electronic transfer.

The Sub-Section used to meet at Newmarket, then we moved to the Clayfield Toombul RSL premises. All of the Sub-Section's belongings at Newmarket were boxed and stored at various members premises.

COVID forced a change to our thinking, and we changed our meetings to the Geebung RSL premises.

I eventually collected all of the Sub-Section belongings together and sorted them. Anything belonging to 'Service Time' is on display downstairs in the Geebung RSL foyer. This includes two sets of medals which were in our belongings. They have been framed and are in the display case.

Anything of our history, which is on display here, was set aside and stored separately. There is a cupboard to display these items as well, if we had somewhere to display it.

Anything of financial and admin matters were sorted for more action later.



Postal Address:

Navy Women Qld
112-114 Cocos Drive
NINGI QLD 4511

Executive Contacts:

NWExecutive@nwqld.org.au

President:

Barb Jeffreys
0437 002 152
president@nwqld.org.au

Secretary:

Judy Prewett
0419 877 594
secretary@nwqld.org.au

Treasurer:

Lorrae Johnson
0409 638 865
treasurer@nwqld.org.au

Vice Presidents:

Liz Grimes
Bernie Franklin
Pat Nuss
Cathie Leung

Wellbeing Officer:

Catherine Leung
0432 227 181
@ TBA

Editors:

Liz Grimes
0438 766 493
Lorrae Johnson
Editor@nwqld.org.au

Meetings: 2024

12 noon on the second
Sunday of each month,
except May – third Sunday
July – third Sunday.
December – first Sunday

During late 2020, I became interested in our WWII veterans, as I was sorting the accounting and admin papers. I was intrigued by who they were, why two of them left “us” their medals, what they did in the WRANS, what they did in the Sub-Section, and what they did after they left the WRANS.

The two charters are included in our history, and I realised our 60th anniversary was coming up. I offered to write the history of the Sub-Section and the members of the Sub-Section.

I started researching the women who formed the Sub-Section at the initial meeting, 60 years ago, the ones who joined during 1964 and the WWII veterans. Four of the members who joined in 1964 are members at this time.

In 2023, when the Sub-Section agreed to give me access to their membership register for the members names, dates of membership and achievements, I expanded my research to the post war era, 1950-1969s, and included the women from the modern era.

I used information freely available on the Internet to write these chapters.

Margie Gadd offered help with our current members, which I gladly accepted. She did the questionnaire, and I thank those who responded to her. Margie transcribed the responses into stories, which I was able to copy and paste into the appropriate sections. Thanks Margie for all the time you took to help this project.

Liz Grimes mentioned the name for the book, and I liked it. Thanks Liz.

Our Life Members, Judy Hunter, Barbara Snowdon and Wendy Griggs, helped with the WWII Sections, ensuring I did not miss anything of importance to the Sub-Section.

My mate, Barb Jeffreys, who I have known since 1981, gave up several Fridays to spend with me, going through about 15 plastic record boxes, looking through hundreds of folders, in the search for life stories already printed, photos, or other articles of interest to our history. Barb read, and re-read every section, whilst she checked my grammar and spelling. Thank you Barb, sorry you missed our big day. Get better soon.



Judy Prewett – what a great Secretary you are, guiding me, leading me, instructing me, keeping me sane, whilst proofreading and keeping the Sub-Section on an even keel. You were my sounding board when the depth got overwhelming. Thank you for everything.

Thank you Judy, for the days, weeks, hours, you spent learning a new skill to present such an amazing cake, so beautifully decorated to suit the occasion.

To the members of our Sub-Section, who helped in anyway, submitted stories,

photos, etc. Thank you all.

Finally, to all the amazing women who signed on the dotted line, who gave our Government control of our lives to defend this great country. Thank you all for your service.

May I present the book, “From Then, Until Now”, the Story of our Sub-Section and the Women who have made it such a great association.

Thank you all.

FROM THEN, UNTIL NOW THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF OUR NAA SUB-SECTION

WRANS Sub-Section in Queensland 1964 – 2015 Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) QLD Sub-Section 2015 - 2023

The Stories of members who founded the Sub-Section and those who have kept it going for sixty years.

A 350 page book which details the history of the Sub-Section including our Crests and uniforms; the history of the Members of the Sub-Section from the WWII Veterans, Post War Veterans and the Modern Era Veterans, including their service records and their history within the Sub-Section.



Email us your details of payment

Diamond Jubilee Book -	#.....	@ \$50.00	\$.....
P&H	#.....	@ \$15	\$.....
Donation			\$.....
TOTAL paid			\$.....

Amount paid:

Date paid:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Please advise if you have changed your next of kin or address

**RSVP: secretary@nwqld.org.au
with payment**

Bank of Queensland
Name Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld
BSB: 124-002
Acc: 22446885
Reference : Surname - Jubilee Book

Letter from our President

The 2023 year began as any other with an elected committee determined to do the very best for Navy Women Qld in general. Before anything else is said, I extend my thanks to the 2023 Executive and Committee for managing the Sub Section so ably. As I am stepping down after three years as President, I also wish to extend my congratulations to the incoming Executive and Committee members for the 2024 year.

Under our 5 Pillars, Navy Women have moved the bar.

Consistently, new members are presented to our meetings and these ladies come from other members who, by word of mouth, encourage them to join us in the camaraderie that we enjoy, not only at our monthly meetings, but at the weekly brunches, lunches and gatherings that are held all over south east Queensland.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the number of events that involved our sister services. So many of our Navy Women are involved on the Committees of those Associations. They assist in the organisation of events like the Tri-Service Luncheon. Thank you for all that you do with both our Executive and those further afield. We all benefit from the experiences you bring.

Our Care pillar sees the Wellbeing ladies Margie and Cath looking out for and after many of our members who are undergoing surgery, have hospital stays or are unwell and appreciate the visits and phone calls to check on them. A number of our members are currently on the Care list and we wish them well.

Because of the Containers for Change initiative, Cadet units have benefited from the generous donations of Navy Women. In return, Cadet units in South-East Queensland have invited representatives to attend Parades, Inspections, Dinners and Presentation Nights. To be able to fly the flag for Navy Women at these events has given us wider recognition among these young people. They often show interest in our Navy experiences.

Commemorations and Community Engagement is covered by attendance at wreath laying services that occur throughout the year. Victory in the Pacific, Victory in Europe, Vietnam Veterans Day, Anzac Day, Remembrance Day have all been attended either by myself and/or Liz Grimes and others. ANZAC Day saw a large number of women marching behind the banner, assisted by the Cadets from NTS Gayundah and Brisbane. Each monthly service at Southbank has representatives who also enjoy the camaraderie at the Ship Inn on its completion. This year, I would encourage more of you to attend on the last Thursday of the month. This month, Navy Week will be celebrated at 1100 on Thursday 29th and then the following day, 1st March, HMAS Perth commemoration will occur at 12 noon.

So as we bring the 2023 year to an end and begin 2024 with new enthusiasm, I will take this opportunity to thank each of you who have given me your support these last three years and ask you to give the incoming Executive and Committee your support.

It has been an honour to be President.

Helen Yench
AGM 2024



LIFE Members



Judy Hunter

2001



Barbara Snowdon

2006



Pat McKay

2007



Billie Lake

2014



Jennie Rathbone

2016



Pat Nuss

2016



Wendy Griggs

2022

Diploma of Merit

Cecelia Ashe 2001
Joy Moynahan 2012

Certificate of Merit



Liz Grimes
2021

Honorary Member for Life



Joan Gilbert
2014

Celebrating our Diamond Jubilee

The Organisers-



Judy, Lorrae, Margie



Robyn & Barb



Sue & Annette



The Panel – Barbara, Judy, Ann



Mary & Wendy



Judy, Sandy, Bernie & Yvonne



Margaret & Wendy

On Monday a large parcel arrived and in it I found the most glorious quilt (my goodness, what a beautiful piece of work and all hand done too) as well as the most amazing book on the history of the QLD sub section.

Well done and thank you to Lorrae and to her helpers/assistants for the composition, and for putting the book together. I join the throngs of people in awe of the work involved and the wonderful presentation of the stories in it. Well done a thousand times over.

Please thank the lady who made that beautiful quilt (that is draped over my lounge (for the time being) so that all the blocks are presented – but to LOOK only and don't sit on it) – while I appreciate how lucky I am to have won such a piece of art. I LOVE IT!!

Best wishes and many thanks for sending them to me.



Lorrae & Anita



Ann



Sandy & Denise



Cathie



Robert & Meave

I just wanted to say thank you to all who made yesterday's lunch and launch such an enjoyable occasion.

Congratulations to Lorrae (and her helpers) on producing such an incredible memoir for the group.

A lot of hard work and planning went into making it such a success. It is appreciated.

Thank you, Judy, for the beautiful and delicious cake. It was almost a pity to cut it.

I am sure Helen and others contributed to the enterprise and it is a tribute to the great friendships that are on display at Navy Women's meeting and other activities.

The saying 'Once Navy, Always Navy' is certainly alive and well in our group.



Bernie, Yvonne & Hannah



Rae & Betty



Thea & Lee



Jan & Diana



Sandie, Robert & Beverley



Chris & Sammie

What an amazing amount of work has gone into the production and getting this book out there. Congratulations to Lorrae, Judy and Barbara. Absolutely brilliant.



Anne & Jackie

Photo with Lorrelle Payne is in wrong position in the book.



Sandy & Marie



Lauren & Lorrae



Barbara & Jennie



Soraya, Chris & Sammie



Maxine & Liz



Coral & Pat



Judy & Andrea



Liz & Sammie



Ann & Anita



Wendy, Cecelia, Judy with Maureen



Glenda & Jan



Tania, Glenys & Wendy



Jayne & Soraya



Jan & Sandy



Barbara cutting the cake



Jen, Judy & Jan



Anthea, & Pat



Fruit Cake made by Judy



Liz & Rose



Robert, Fiona & Beverley



Barbara cutting the cake



Lauren & Rose

Fabulous job!

>>
Jackie & Sylvia



Our Beautiful Raffle Items

Please support these businesses and say thanks to our wonderful doners.



Goondiwindi Cotton



Hamper from Cr Danita Parry, BCC



<https://www.3elementsoffee.com/>



Raffle Table



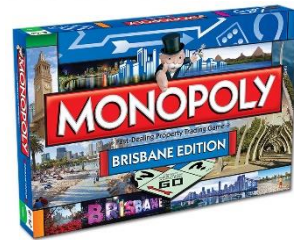
Hamper from BCC Marchant Ward

Gift Vouchers

Donations of money

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and DONATIONS

- STATE MEMBER for IPSWICH-Jennifer Howa
- BCC FOREST LAKE WARD
- BCC CALMVALE WARD OFFICE
- BCC MARCHANT WARD
- RSL GEEBUNG Sub Branch
- RSL IPSWICH RAILWAY Sub Branch
- RSL MACKAY Sub Branch
- RSL KEDRON-WAVEL Sub Branch
- RSL SOUTH EASTERN DISTRICT
- WOUNDED HEROES AUSTRALIA OF SHOP
- TEAM NAVY
- 2/14 COFFEE BEAN, CHERMSIDE
- 3ELEMENTS COFFEE - Eleanor McNally
- GOONDIWINDI COTTON
- STEFAN HAIR
- NEBULA PRINT
- ANITA COOPER—ANTHEA TWIGG
- MAX BULGER
- Judy Prewett — Kaye Morgan — Mary Bennet
- Barbara Conn — Wendy Dennis — Janet English
- Terri Lane — Patricia Collins — Fayloine Webber
- Theodora Eastwood — Glenys Fraser — Coral Donnelley



BCC Calamvale Ward



Around the Traps with Liz

Comaraderie

Book Launch And 60th Anniversary Lunch

A small idea turned into a very large book. Our Treasurer, Lorrae Johnson, had a wonderful idea that grew and grew. Consequently, a book, "From Then, Till Now" became with stories from a lot of Ex-Wrans, Ex-Navy Ladies and some Permanent Navy Ladies.

The book was launched at a luncheon held at the Geebung RSL Club on Saturday 3 February 2024. It was a great day with a lot of memorabilia being shown for the ladies to see. Liz Grimes bought a few items which no longer are used in today's navy. BZ Lorrae.

The cake was made and decorated by our Secretary, Judy Prewett. What a beautiful (and yummy) cake. BZ Judy.

On the same day as the Book Launch, Navy Women Qld celebrated 60 years as a Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia Queensland Section. Geebung RSL delivered a great lunch and desserts which, I'm sure, everyone enjoyed.

Annual General Meeting

In February, Navy Women Qld held their Annual General Meeting. Our previous President, Helen Yench, stepped down from the presidency after three years. Navy Women Qld wish Helen all the best.

The President's role was challenged by two of our members. Liz Grimes and Barb Jeffreys both were nominated for President and Vice President. They left the room whilst 31 Full members participated in a paper vote. Barb won by 21 to 10, and Liz is our VP.

Margie Gadd stepped down from the position of Wellbeing Officer. Thank you, Margie for all the activities you organised and for the information you passed on to the ladies. Cath Leung was elected to the position of Welfare Officer. Nominees for all other positions were confirmed with Rose van Dijk being elected to the committee.



2024 Executives – Sitting – Lorrae (Treasurer); Barb (President) & Judy (Secretary)

Standing – Vice Presidents – Liz, Cathie, Pat & Bernie.



2024 Committee – Sitting Lorrae, Barb, Judy, Rosemary; Standing – Kaye, Jenny, Liz, Cathie, Pat, Marg & Bernie.

Community

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service & Serving Women's Association (SCESWA)

The SCESWA hold numerous C&C mornings at various sites, and many of our members attend.

We wear our shirts so we are easily identified amongst our sisters, and many reconnections have been made.



Sunshine Coast Ex Service Women's C&C

Caloundra RSL Sub-Branch	7 Mar
Cooroy RSL Club @ 1130	2 May
Bus Trip to Bribie Island	4 Jul
Bower Tree, 10 Courage St, Sippy Downs	5 Sep
Maroochy RSL Gardens Annual Wreath Laying	7 Nov

Sharing Christmas with Our Ex-Service and Serving Women - 7 December 2023 – Kawana Surf Club

A number of Ex-Service and Serving Women enjoyed each other's company at Kawana Surf Club including a number of Navy Women. The room for the lunch had a view overlooking the northern part of Moreton Bay. Lunch was served and enjoyed by all.



Lorrae & her favourite Pancakes @ Moselles

Commemoration

Jack Memorial Service

All Navy Women Qld members attending are requested to wear their black shirts (not T-Shirts) or white shirt (T- Shirt) with black jacket and their white skirt/trousers. Medals and name badges should also be worn.

HMAS Voyager Memorial Service

On 8 February, the NAA(Q) held the Memorial Service for the men and their families of HMAS Voyager of 10 February 1964. Afterwards, members of the NAA gathered at the Ship Inn in support.



NAA Q) members – Ray, and wife, Rudi & Kaye

After the ceremony, a group of our Navy Women were invited to the Lord Mayors Reception.

Thursday 29 February – Memorial Service – Rose, the new CO of HMAS Moreton, delivered her maiden speech at the Jack Memorial.



Lauren (DVA), Judy, Kaye, Rudi, Lorrae, Jim, Margie, Liz



Comaraderie

Council of Ex Service Women’s Association (CESWA)

After our final meeting for 2023, the Delegates of the CESWA trained it to the Café at the Roma Street Parklands for their Christmas Lunch.



Judy standing; Wendy, Pam, Pamela, Liz, Bev, Desley, Lorrae, Kaye & Eve.

Navy Week with HMAS Moreton

Friday 23 February Beat to Quarters & Ceremonial Sunset

At the start of Navy Week in Brisbane, HMAS Moreton performed Beat to Quarters and Ceremonial Sunset. The event was held in front of the Brisbane City Hall. Thankfully, this year, it did not rain. Beat to Quarters and Ceremonial Sunset are traditions the Navy perform on ceremonial occasions.

Beat to Quarters, way back in the day, occurred when ships went to battle stations in the days of sail. A particular type of drum roll would summon sailors to their posts where some sailors would man the cannons and the marines would ascend the rigging as sharpshooters.

The Sunset Ceremony is another tradition Australia has continued to perform from the Royal Navy (dating back to the 17th century). Each evening, the Colours are lowered at sunset on all shore establishments and ships alongside.



Liz, Lorrae, Barb, Judy, Bernie

This was the first official task of the new President who was still on two crutches following her knee replacements.



Liz with CMDR Rowena Gaffney and RADM Bob Plath

PROJECT – “WRANS – Where They Rest”

In April 1941, the first women started working for the Navy as members of the *Women's Emergency Signalling Corps*. On 1 October 1942, they were enlisted into the WRANS with a seniority of the day they started working for the Navy. By the end of WWII, there were over 3,140 members who joined. A handful are still alive.

Where do they rest? Some are in Arlington National Cemetery, more in the USA, Greece, Canada, UK and New Zealand, many are here in Australia.

A group of Navy Women are researching and recording what we can find for all Australian Navy Women, anywhere in the world. Joan, Carol, Tania and Lorrae need your help to record the resting palces of our sisters who paved the way for us younger ones. This project includes ALL Australian Navy Women from 1941 until now.

NWQ-Treasurer@bigpond.com



Camaraderie

All Navy Women are welcome to meet at the below venues for a few good laughs and lunch. We usually wear our black shirts so we are easy to find.

Western Suburbs Lunch

2 December 2023 - Club Parkview, Goodna



Barb, Lorrae, Liz, Mary, Robyn & Bernie

10 February 2024 - Moselles Café + Restaurant



Mary, Liz, Lorrae, Robyn, Barb, Letty,

Western Suburbs – first Saturday of the Month – 11am

- Chapters Book Shop, Cafe & Wine Bar Apr / Aug
- Club Parkview, Goodna May / Oct
- Jim’s Café, Bundamba Jun
- Moselles Café + Restaurant Jul
- Forty West Café Ripley Sep
- CSI, Ipswich 9 Nov
- Thirty-Seven Café Dec

Contact Lorrae Johnson

Gold Coast – Third Tuesday of the month – 10am

- La Vintage Mar / Sep
- Cafe Michigan Apr / Oct
- Southport Yacht Club May
- Cafe 360 Jun
- Globe Trotters Christmas in July
- Cruiz Espresso Aug
- Southport Sharks Nov
- Tallai Golf Club Dec

Contact Sylvia Manners

YouTube Webinar recording from the Older Women’s Network that was done for International Women’s Day as a way of opening up the conversation about ageism “Cougars, Grannies and Old Bags: Calling Out the Portrayal of Older Women in Popular Culture”

How many descriptions of older women vs older men are there in popular culture? What does it say about how we view older women? How does it drive gender inequality?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1DdC9-AAeQ>

Gold Coast Brunch

12 December 2023 - Tallai Golf Club



2 January 2024 - improputu



16 January 2024 - Cafe 360



The Navy Ladies met at Cafe 360 for an excellent get-together and lunch. Some were absent on holidays. February saw the group meet at Cruiz Espresso.

20 February 2024 - Cruiz Espresso



I copied this from the SA Newsletter – very effective

Community

Bribie Island Ex-Service Women Luncheon

Bribie Island Ex-Service Women Luncheon—
Fourth Monday of the month at the Bribie Island RSL
Contact Anita Cooper

26 February 2024



The Bribie Island group saw a wonderful turnout for lunch. Even though it was hot, it was great to meet friends for the first time in 2024. Some of the ladies stayed a little longer in the cool of the cafe area inside the RSL Club.

The Four Amigos



At the Bribie Island Lunch there were four Navy Ladies who joined the WRANS in the same intake - Class 119. Paula, Cathie, Sandy and Wendy chatted together during the lunch.

Morayfield / Caboolture

Christmas At Morayfield Tavern



The ladies from Morafield, Caboolture and further afield enjoyed each other's company for the last time in 2023. These ladies have a secret santa with a difference. Instead of buying presents for each other, a gift - a toy - was purchased and donated to the Coles/Woolworths Christmas Tree for kids. A most satisfying gesture.



8 January – Caboolture Sports Club

Beerwah

A number of ladies attend *The Local* at Beerwah for lunch each month. *The Local* is owned by a Navy lady.



December Christmas Party



January 2024



February 2024

In February, a special guest was a lovely dog called Chewy. He sat on his mother's lap and, with a bib tucked into his collar, had something to eat.



Chewy



Big Jack & Alice

It is hoped that you all enjoyed your summer and that autumn will be a lot cooler. Keep safe and remember to keep cool and drink lots of fluid as these heatwaves move through our area.

If it is FLOODED, forget it!!.

Cadets *with Pat Nuss*

I was appointed NAA/ANC Liaison by NAA Qld State office in July 2022 as part of upholding the 4th Pillar of the NAA Constitution – Cadets. I do this by visiting each unit once a year where possible and keeping in contact via email. The main aim is to assess which ANC units are supported by NAA Sub-Sections, RSLs or ESOs, and identify those units with little or no local support and linking them with NAA Sub-Sections with financial capacity to provide funding to a cadet unit in need.

I have been warmly welcomed by all cadet units I have visited and they are very proud of their cadets.

In 2023, NWQld Sub-Sections donated \$250.00 each to TS' Onslow, Tyalgum, Walrus, Kookaburra, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Vampire and NTS Vengeance.

In 2023, our Sub-Section raised \$1,000 in funding for cadets in 2024 and I have already had discussions with four cadet units about their funding needs. This funding comes from our Cash for Containers drive and is donated to support their Anzac Day activities.

Many cadet units are struggling for staff, especially ex RAN members, to support them either as part of occasional specialist training (eg knots) or joining a cadet unit as a permanent ANC staff member. Another option is to become a Defence Authorised Helper (DAH) at a cadet unit. They especially need female DAHs as they can't allow female cadets to parade if there is no female staff member/DAH in attendance on that day.

Please contact me if you would like more information.

Pat Nuss
NAA(Q) Vice President (Cadets)
Mobile: 0439 674 199
Email: patrician@netspace.net.au

<https://www.navycadets.gov.au/>
Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Excellence

Containers For Change (C4C)

We are raising funds for the Cadets through *Containers for Change*. We have a separate account, and the funds raised each year are distributed in April and May the following year as a donation for their ANZAC Services.

Our account number is **C10236300** and all donations gratefully appreciated.

Be A Change Maker



Barcode for **C10236300**

Cadets *end of year functions*



President Helen Yench (representing the NAA State Section) and Liz Grimes (Vice President Navy Women Qld) attended the End of Year Dinner for TS Gayundah's Navy Cadets. The event was conducted as a proper Mess Dinner (without the alcohol). The Loyal Toast was traditionally made with "port" (appropriately coloured cordial).



Both Helen and Liz were asked to present awards to the Cadets.

<< Helen (NAA(Q)) presenting an award.

Volunteer of the Year



The Cairns Regional Council Citizen of the Year Awards on 1 February 2024.

Carol Mills was nominated for Volunteer of the Year Award 2024. There were 11 nominations, shortened to three finalists.

Congratulations to Carol as the winner!

Plaque presented by the Mayor. The CO of HMAS Cairns (Alfonso Santas) was one of the board members which selected the winner.

Carol is ex Wran and my big sister 🤍



From Chris Cameron

Vale

We have received news from interstate, and the notices are included in their Newsletters which are shared via email. We will report the loss of our sisters when we are advised.

Please let us know of the death of any Navy Woman - member or not; from any state and we will mention them in the next newsletter.

Celebrating 2023 Christmas – last meeting of the year

The **FIRST** Saturday of December 2023

In December a good turnout of Navy Women joined together at our last 2023 meeting. A short General Meeting was held and then we moved into Christmas mode. We had a secret Santa followed by raffles and then afternoon tea.

Our lovely Barbara Snowdon acted as Santa in his absence (he was obviously getting ready for his travels around the world). Judy Prewett made the Christmas cake and it was delicious. BZ Judy.



I am sure the ladies were happy with their secret Santas and raffle prizes.



Judy & Lee

Lee & Helen
Merry Christmas to Everyone

Maggie & Kaye



2023 Executives



Kaye & Judy

Your Wellbeing

Please let our Wellbeing Officer know if you are not well, especially if you are going to hospital, or if you are dealing with a problem.

We practice support through friendship and camaraderie. If you just need to talk to someone, call any committee member, or one of our ladies.

Don't bottle it up, we do not have the answers, but we have an ear to listen whilst you think out your options.

Sometimes, a chat over a coffee is more beneficial than you may realise, so please, always feel welcome to join any of our groups.






Secretary's Art

Barbara
And so ended 2023

The Treasurer spent her Christmas in London, with her husband, son and family.

National Navy Women's Reunion
14-16 March 2025
Wrest Point Hotel Casino TAS

All events are **ONLY** available to **PAST AND CURRENT SERVING LADIES**, with the exception of the Richmond bus trip, where partners and carers are also welcome.

Registration

- The registration form will be available mid-February 2024, and will be provided to you by your Secretary, on receipt from Cindy Gallahar. This form will also provide a link to Wrest Point Accommodation, which can be booked from mid-March 2024.
- A **NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE OF \$75** is payable by bank transfer at the time of Registration.
- REGISTRATION CLOSES 31 JULY 2024.** Your completed registration form should be emailed to nwtas25@gmail.com

Planned events include

• 14 March 2025 – Afternoon Tea – 1500-1700	\$45
• 15 March 2025 – Reunion Dinner – 1630-2359	\$90
• 16 March 2025 – Richmond Bus Trip – 0930-1530	\$25 pp (bus only)

Community

with Liz

Commanding Officer Handover

It was a very hot day for the Handover of Command at HMAS Moreton. CMDR Fiona Southwood's tenure as Commanding Officer HMAS Moreton had come to an end. CMDR Southwood, during her tenure as CO of HMAS Moreton, attended a number of Navy Women events and also became a financial member. All the best, Fiona, in your new venture.

The Commanding Officer of HMAS Moreton was officially handed over on 6 December 2023, and Navy Women Qld along with NAA(Q) State officers and other Sub-Sections were there to witness it.

A small number of Navy Women Qld attended the Handover of Command. CMDR Rosemarie Apikotoa took up the reins of Command from CMDR Southwood in December 2023. CMDR Apikotoa was the first Officer of Polynesian descent to gain an Ocean Navigation Certificate and Bridge Warfare Certificate to drive Australian Warships at Sea. Welcome to sunny (sometimes hot) Brisbane. Navy Women Qld wish you all the best in your new Command.

In line with tradition, CMDR Fiona Southward was whisked away on completion of the ceremony on a very large Water Police launch. The Ships Company gave her a rousing traditional farewell.



Barb, Judy, Lorrae, Fiona, Liz, Kaye



Don Hogarth (Team Navy) & Barb



Lin & Pat (Pine Rivers) with Rudi, Helen & Fiona



Fiona & Rose



Liz & LEUT Benham



CMDR Fiona Southward

New Members – Welcome Aboard

JUDITH EDDY nee Baker W111330 Judi joined 20 August 1971 as a WRRRST. Judi serves on HMA Ships Cerberus, Harman, Anzuk in Singapore, Coonawarra, and Kuttabul.

Judi's rank on discharge was CWRRST. Judi is joining as a FULL member.

Sick Bay

Please let us know if you are unwell, or in hospital, and we may be able to organise a visit to cheer you on.

Our prayers and thoughts are with Judy and Joan as they recover.



Kaye Morgan visited our lovely Bronwyn from Hervey Bay

Introduction to Executives

2024 President – Barb Jeffreys

Barb enlisted in 1976 and was discharged in 1988 as a LWRRP (Acting POWRRP). She served at HMA Ships Cerberus, Watson Albatross, and paid off from HMAS Cerberus.

After the Navy Recruiting Team visited my High School during my senior year, my classmates dared me to join. Eventually I was accepted and enlisted. I was awarded the “Most Outstanding Recruit” of class 168.

I competed in Interservice Basketball for several years.

On April Fool’s Day, I posted into HMAS Albatross at AJASS. Those two years were my fun years. I could not believe I was being paid to have fun. I managed to get many flights in choppers, and I even got to fly one. I also went to HMNZS Philomel for two weeks of lectures.

In 1981, I posted back to HMAS Watson to RANTACS and promoted to LWRRP. Now that posting turned out to be my favorite work posting and I received “Commanding Officers Commendation” for what I did.

In January 1985, I was posted back to *Cerberus*. Bob had picked up his WO’s and was going back as the Boss. My posting had me going as Quarter Master. I decided I would be the first QM in Court Shoes. The XO was none other than Paul Gilmore-Walsh, Helen’s husband. He offered me a proposition I couldn’t refuse. If I became Secretary of the Welfare Committee, I wouldn’t have to keep any duties. Deal was done.

I ended up working in the Bosuns Store, which entailed doing nothing all day. One day, I decided to deliver the curtains to the XO’s residence myself where I met Helen and spent several hours having many laughs and cups of tea. Two days later I was summoned to the XO’s office and after a very one-sided discussion, I found myself working for him and ended up loving that job.

I was invited / conned into going to Divisions as a guest of a WOQMG who was changing over to SD Officer and it was his last one. As I was on maternity leave, I couldn’t figure out WHY!!!!

CDRE Toss Dadswell, NOIC VIC (he was also CO of NAS Nowra when Bob and I were there and another one of Bob’s drinking mates) turned up. It seemed I was receiving another Commendation. I was trying to figure out what the protocols were when you’re NOT in uniform, instead of just a handshake; I ended up getting a kiss instead.

After returning from maternity leave, I was posted to the recruit school, and was promoted to Provisional POWRRP, where I did all the course programming.

After my second child was born, I took my discharge and we moved to where I still live today. My children are now fully grown and my daughter has two sons of her own, and a career in the Army.

Lorrae found me again and we now meet up regularly with other RP’s, friends I knew “back then”, and friends I’ve met since.

My Navy days were the best days because of the people I met along the way. My best friends today, are the ones I met 45+ years ago in the TTB at HMAS Watson.

2024 Committee Member – Rosemary van Dijk

I joined the Navy from Melbourne at the age of 18 in 1987, as a Writer. I wanted to join earlier but the policy of the day was women had to be 18 years of age upon enlistment, ‘men’ could join up at 16 years of age, which meant a lot of us girls took the younger lads under our wing.

Prior to joining the Navy, I was a public servant at Department of Defence at 350 St Kilda Road and Victoria Barracks which was a lot of fun, especially the long lunches at the Clarendon Pub in South Melbourne, I learnt a lot of admin and clerical skills which helped when I joined the Navy.

I was posted to HMAS Kuttabul and worked in the beautiful Maritime Headquarters in with the fabulous views of the harbour and ships alongside at Garden Island. Then I was selected to work as the Principal Chaplains Secretary at Garden Island and had a great time organising them and being part of their community. Although I stressed out poor Principal Chaplain Dempsey from time to time when I would leave work with brown hair on the Friday and come in on the Monday with either blonde, black or purple hair...I think the purple almost broke him (and the Coxswains but that’s another story).

At lunchtimes I would lead aerobics classes for the sailors at the Woolloomooloo fleet base wharf gym (now luxury apartments). I loved putting the 80s music and leg warmers on and getting a bunch of hairy sailors running around and sweating it out. I was going to change over to PTI however I broke my femur and ended up in HMAS Penguin where I languished for three months. This hospital stay changed everything for me unfortunately. I was sexually abused by a medical officer whilst a patient at the Penguin hospital, I made multiple formal complaints but was dismissed and not believed.

As a result, I eventually left the Navy and married a sailor I met at Garden Island and moved to Nowra. I worked at the Nowra Community Health Centre and at HMAS Albatross as Captains Secretary - Naval Air Systems Programme Office (NASPO). I became a single mum and studied a Bachelor of Arts (Women’s Studies and Sociology) whilst working. I then met and remarried (ex-Raafie) Piet and moved to Canberra. Among many public service roles I undertook, being a policy officer at Defence Equity and Diversity on Women’s, LGBTIQ+ and Indigenous policy was a real highlight, where I felt I could make a difference for serving women.

I went through the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART) and received an apology from the Navy for the former abuse, which was pivotal to my ‘embracing’ my Navy experience as a positive and joining the WRANS’ Association in Canberra. My husband, daughter Lauren and I moved to Brisbane in 2022, where I now work fulltime for the Department of Health and Aged Care.

This Sub-Section has been so welcoming, supportive and friendly and I am so happy to now be a Committee Member where I hope to contribute to the fabulous and amazing Queensland group. Thank you.

Members Update

As the new Wellbeing Officer, I realise I have big shoes to fill. I have been busy researching the role and getting information on how I can make the role useful to the membership.

The central duty of the Wellbeing Officer is to communicate with members who are poorly, be that by email, phone or face-to-face. I am also here to provide guidance, on veteran's entitlements. I stress the term guidance, as I cannot give advice. Like Margie, I can provide general information and direct you toward a person or website that can best answer your queries. That includes connecting you with DVA advocacy services.

In my past life, before completing my teacher training, I spent ten years as a Welfare Officer in the Queensland Government. I understand the need to keep your situations and queries confidential. I will collaborate with you and help you find the support or services you need.

With the Executives approval, I will be applying for funding for the activities we enjoy, especially, Veterans Health Week and the BCC Seniors Week which is used for our Christmas breakup.

Activities

All ideas welcome

At each general meeting, the Wellbeing team conducts a raffle for a \$25 Coles or Woolworths voucher. More prizes can be donated. The money raised will go towards afternoon tea, so we can enjoy ourselves in the new café downstairs, alternating with the Cafe upstairs

Additionally, there are at least three activities held each year. These activities are funded by grants and money from the Welfare Fund.

In the past, we have enjoyed indoor sports, outdoor walks, and movie days.

Members of Navy Women Qld are spread far and wide, members come from Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Cleveland, and the Sunshine Coast. While we all enjoy regular local coffee catchups, the well-being activities are designed to bring all groups together. It is not possible to please everyone, the hope is that these activities will be enjoyed by those who can come.

There are several lovely gardens and walks around Brisbane. Picnics and fish & chips on the beach are all easy to do. However, many travel to activities by train or bus, usually because of parking issues.

Last year we visited the Roma Street Gardens. Everyone who came had a lovely time so the hope is we can build on that this year and plan for a picnic in an area with plenty of parking, nice walks, and scenery and most importantly accessible by public transport.

Send me your ideas either by SMS (0432227181) or email the Secretary secretary@nwqld.org.au

DVA News

DVA Heart Health Program for Returned Veterans and Peacekeepers and those covered by the ADF Firefighters Scheme.

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) provides a free 12-month health and fitness program for returned Veterans and peacekeepers with operational service and those covered by the ADF firefighters scheme anywhere in the country. The program is flexible and able to accommodate participants living in metropolitan areas, regional or remote areas, those still working or retired, studying, or with other time constraints.

Our younger members may be eligible if they have

- served overseas on operational service or a peacekeeping mission or
- are covered by the ADF Firefighters Scheme?

Check your eligibility at

<https://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/>

Australian War Memorial Letters Project.

The Australian War Memorial is calling for volunteers to transcribe thousands of love letters contained in its National Collection as part of a new digital platform Transcribe.

If you have a computer and an interest in military history, you might find this an interesting activity.

More information is on our Facebook page. You can sign up at <https://transcribe.awm.gov.au/>

Contact Details

Please feel free to text me a message at 0432227181. Leave your name and number and

I will get back to you. I don't always have my phone on me, as many of my friends can attest to. I will respond once I look at my phone.

Later I will have a Navy Women Qld email address which may help with providing more info.



Merchandise for Sale to Financial Members only

Stores@nwqld.org.au

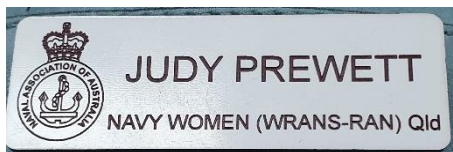
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld has a 'uniform' so that we can present a uniform appearance when gathered as a group.

White Hats are a non specific brand of Panama style – acquired from various department stores – Kmart, Target, etc

POCKET BADGE with magnets for Jacket >



^ **TALLY BAND**



NAME TAG with your name and our brand ^^

Formal Occasions:
(Funerals; ANZAC Day)
White skirt, pants or dress, worn with the white shirt, black jacket with the magnetised pocket badge, and white hat with our Tally Band.

Shoes to suit.

Alternatively, the black blouse can be worn in lieu of white shirt and black jacket.



POLO SHIRTS with EMBROIDERY on right side



AUSSIE PACIFIC POLO SHIRT with EMBROIDERY on right side

Informal Occasions:
(Coffee mornings, bus trips, social gathering)
Black tops with your choice of bottom half.

Wearing of medals:
Large medals are worn for events that commence in the day time;
Miniatures are worn for events that commence at night;
Ribbons are worn during the day for non-Ceremonial events.



BIZ OASIS button front SHIRT with EMBROIDERY on right side

Orders for shirts and name tags take 3 weeks.
Payment must be received before orders are placed.

For details of price, and to place orders, contact:
Judy Prewett on 0419 877 594 or email Stores@nwqld.org.au



THE WOMEN'S ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL SERVICE 1941-47

By Graham Caldwell

*Member, Royal Naval Association, Port
Philip Bay Branch, Victoria*

'What! Women in the Royal Australian Navy', so begins the first chapter of WRANS published by the Naval Historical Society of Australia, which continues: 'if women wanted to dress up and do something to help the war effort, they could work in a canteen or a factory, or stay in a women's proper place: the home, or so thought male officialdom: fortunately many women realised that sooner or later every able-bodied person would be needed if Australia was to keep her place in the sun'. At the outbreak of war, the services realised that they were desperately short of wireless telegraphists: cue 50-year-old Violet Florence McKenzie, affectionately known as Mrs. Mac, who created the *Women's Emergency Signalling Corps (WESC)* in 1939 to train women in telegraphy to free up men for war service.

In 1940 McKenzie wrote to the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Minister, Billy Hughes: 'I would like to offer the services of 120 members of our Signalling Corps as telegraphists, but if not acceptable, then as instructors to men ratings'. Dismissed by the minister, Commander Jack Newman RAN, Director of Signals and Communication, visited WESC to test Mrs. Mac's trainees. Finding they were highly proficient; he recommended the navy admit them. Hughes continued with his prejudiced stance until McKenzie threatened to take her offer to the Royal Australian Air Force instead. The urgent need for trained telegraphists prevailed and, on the 21 April 1941, Hughes finally authorised the entry of the women to work within the RAN on condition that no publicity be accorded to break with its male tradition! However, due to the RAN's reluctance to accept women, the authorities prevaricated, resulting in the women not being officially sworn-in as enlisted personnel until 1 October 1942, which date is regarded as the official formation of the WRANS, when the telephonists discarded their WESC forest green uniforms for WRANS navy blue.

The Cinderella service

The WRANS was the smallest of the three women's services, with 124 officers and 2,338 ratings at its peak in March 1944, but was nevertheless 10% of the RAN. With over 1,000 WRANS on the books by the end of 1942, it's difficult to understand why no consideration was given to provide for WRAN commissioned officers, the organisation's supervision resting with the Director of Naval Reserves and Mobilisation, a male commodore; nor was a patron of influence appointed as honorary commandant, as was the custom with the other two services.

In 1942, King's Regulations provided no guidance on how to deal with females. Most of the recruits were aged between 18 and 23, never having lived away from home before. In the tricky situation during the earliest Wran medical examinations, a male sick berth attendant

questioned: "can you pee into this bottle?" whilst being met with blank stares as he handed out pear-shaped receptacles and turned his back! On another occasion, the obligatory chest expansion measurement, which required girls to breathe in deeply, caused a stir when the standard tape measure ran out on a well-endowed Wran. Finally, on 18 January 1943, the decision was taken to open the first female naval officer's course at HMAS Cerberus in Flinders Victoria, followed by 16 further courses completed by September 1945. On the initial course was civilian barrister Shelia McClemans, who enlisted a month earlier as a Wran rating, but whose brilliance and organising skills were immediately recognised. Enjoying rapid promotion, she was appointed Director WRANS in August 1944 in the rank of First Officer (later Chief Officer) but still one rank lower than her woman counterparts in the army and air force. Her services to the Woman's Royal Australian Naval Service was recognised in 1951 with the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

With so many women wishing to enlist, but so few places, the need to advertise was unnecessary: for example, the WRANS did not publish a recruiting poster, although an image of a Wran was tacked onto the end of a line of six uniformed women in a 1943 poster 'Join Us in a Victory Job'. Janet Allport remembers that she selected the navy in preference to the woman's army or air force out of vanity: 'the navy was the Senior Service; I liked the uniform and the thought working near the sea would provide opportunities to surf when off duty: how wrong I was! We were not allowed to serve afloat or overseas; even employment as small boat crews was forbidden'. By August 1942, a minority of farsighted male officers began to see that the benefit of employing women would be to release men for sea service, for example, the Commodore Superintendent of Training at HMAS Cerberus said that 400 qualified Wrans could usefully be absorbed at the depot.

Not just telegraphists

A breakthrough occurred in July 1942, when the RAN allowed Wrans to be employed as car drivers, writers, supply ratings and 'Gunnery Girls' (rifle-range wardens).

Extract – first three pages, excluding images. To be continued

My name is Graham Caldwell and I'm a member of the RNA, Port Philip Bay Branch, Melbourne.

In my retirement I've become a regular contributor to various UK magazines, as such my branch chairman often asks me to donate an interesting article for our own newsletter, the 'Port Philip Papers'.

In that capacity, I've just completed a 1,750 word article, with colour illustrations, all about the Woman's Australian Naval Service when first formed 1941-47.

I'm writing to offer the same piece to editors Ms. Grimes and Ms. Johnson for publication in 'The Ditty Box', should they find it of interest and providing that it fits with their policy to publish unsolicited articles.

The article is in Word.doc over 5 x A4 pages.

Calendar of Events 2024 – subject to changes

Date	Event	Notes
10 Mar	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	Easter Bonnet with ideas from the old Commonwealth Day
16 Mar	CESWA Tri-Service Luncheon Geebung RSL	Singing Competition
22-24 Mar	NAA State Conference – Pine Rivers S-S	Delegates attend – everyone invited
28 Mar	Service @ Jack Southbank	
29 Mar	Good Friday	Happy Easter
11 Apr	CESWA Bi-Monthly OGM	Delegates attend
14 Apr	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
25 Apr	ANZAC Day 0600 Service at St John's Church Northgate Corvettes Assoc Service Newstead 0930 Parade in Brisbane City	Formal Uniform Ship Inn After March
4 May	The 82nd Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea Wreath-laying Service	the Australian American War Memorial, Newstead Park.
14 May	Victory in Europe Service	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
19 May	Navy Women Qld OGM	3 rd Sunday due to Mother's Day date
30 May	Service @ Jack Southbank	Vietnam Ships Lost Crew
6 Jun	Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assoc Inc Luncheon Maroochydore	Civilian dress with name tags
9 Jun	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
13 Jun	CESWA Bi-Monthly OGM	Delegates attend
27 Jun	Service @ Jack Southbank	Gulf War
7 Jul	Reserve Forces Day Wondai	
21 Jul	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	Bastille Day - third Sunday
25 Jul	Service @ Jack Southbank	Korean War
27 Jul	CESWA Annual Church Service	Formal Uniform
27 Jul	Korean Veterans Day	
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
1 Dec	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Xmas Party First Sunday...
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

REUNIONS

All Navy Reunion - Sunshine Coast
17-19 October 2024

Ops Room Association of Australia Inc - Perth
18-20 October 2024

Naval Health Services Reunion - Gold Coast -
23-24 October 2024 - SBA's, Medics, Nurses, Allied
Health persons, and MTD's who were Ambulance Drivers

NAVAL HEALTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION QLD - AGM SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

at 1100^{ish} at the Caboolture Sports Central Club
(the old RSL Club) on the corner of Hasking Street and
Beerburum Road Caboolture.

Reunion in October 2024

Telephone: 0411 623 325 (M)

<https://www.rslqld.org/find-help/>

Meeting Times

Navy Women Qld meetings are held on the **second Sunday of every month****,

1200 to approx. 1500

Geebung RSL Club

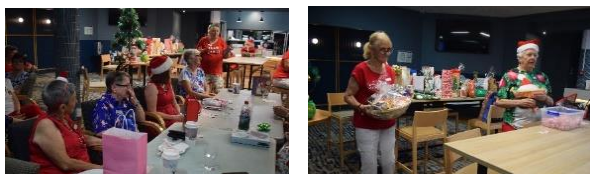
(323 Newman Road, Geebung - near the Geebung Railway Station)

** Except May, when it is the **third Sunday of the month (not Mother's Day)** **

July is 3rd Sunday

December is 1st Sunday

Arrive by 11am for brunch, to socialise with your sisters before the meeting - stay afterwards for a cuppa.



Email us your Updates & details of Payment

Event:

Special Diet:

Subs : Full Membership \$40 pa
Social / Club Membership \$15 pa.
No more than a maximum of 3 years in advance.

Amount paid:

Date paid:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Please advise if your next of kin details change.

Bank Details:

Bank of Queensland
Name: **Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld**
BSB No: **124 002**
Account No: **22446885**
Refence: **Surname reason/event**

June Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for next newsletter is 31 May 2024.

Please send your stories and photos to:

Editor@nwqld.org.au and include

Treasurer@nwqld.org.au

FEEs for 2024 are due

PLEASE NOTE: The NAA National Council has raised the Full membership fee **by \$2 from 2024.**

New Membership Fees:

<https://nwqld.org.au/membership.html>

Membership Type	Initial Fee + Badge	Annual Fee	Total Fee
Full	\$5	\$40	\$45
Social		\$15	\$15
Club	\$5	\$15	\$20

Membership Fees: From 2024

Membership Type	Annual Fee
Full	\$40
Social	\$15
Club	\$15

FACEBOOK

Under the Events tab of our Facebook page, I attempt to add every event that I am aware of that is open for us to attend. Please check them out.

<https://www.facebook.com/wrans.qld/events>

If you are a financial member, there is an events tab in our Members Only page – with other events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/563214483732517>



Poppy Service

If you wish your service to our country to be recognised at your funeral, you need to let your funeral director or your family KNOW. It is your family who ask the Funeral Director to arrange to have the Poppy tribute. We cannot interfere with your service.

Smell Free

In 2022, we voted not to wear strong smelling perfumes to our meetings. Perfumes affect the health of many members, so please be considerate of our sisters when you are preparing to attend any functions.