

Women's Royal Australian Army Corps

QLD REVIEW



Issue 173 May 2024



CHARITY DONATION

Subject: Orange Sky Presentation

Hi Kay

Thank you so much for having Melissa at your event on the weekend. I trust that you all enjoyed hearing a little more about what we do at Orange Sky.

Thanks also for your incredible fundraising efforts!

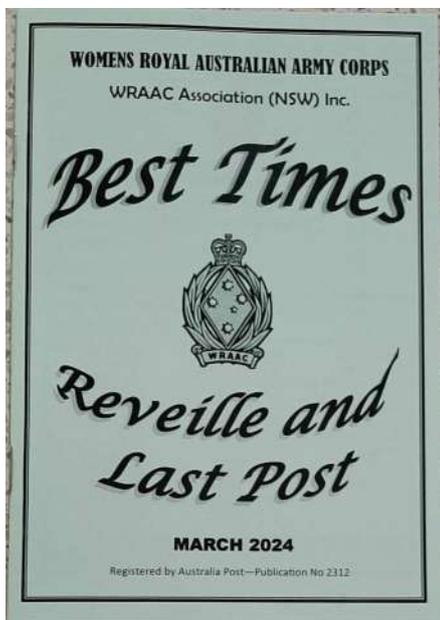
We're so grateful for your support of our work and helping us support more people doing it tough.

Please do reach out if you had any follow up queries. Thanks again.

Kindest,

Kristanna Sutton

Events & Community Fundraising Specialist



This is the final issue (cover page) of "Best Times" as we have known it.

You would have noticed Muriel Buckland, Editor, changed the title page to show they are completing one stage and starting another.

They are transitioning to WRAAC NSW Social Club.

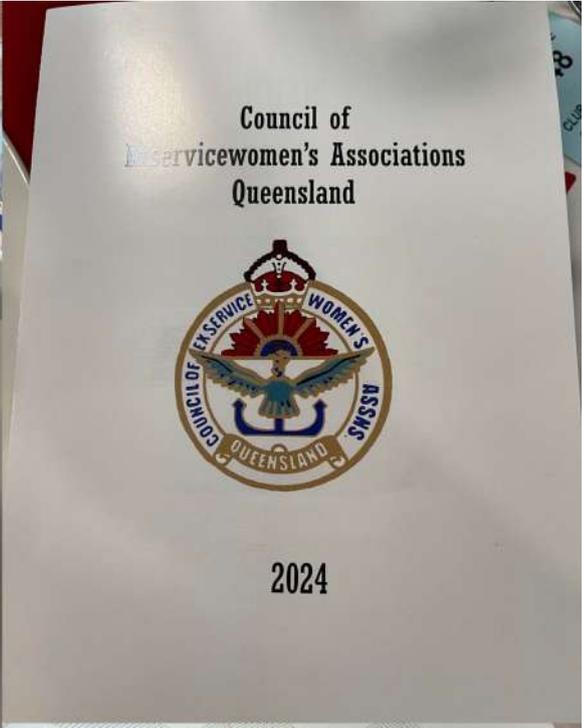
If you would like to read the final issue please contact our secretary.



The President's Email has changed.

Please update your
contacts address list
to the following:

presidentwraac@gmail.com



TRI-SERVICES LUNCHEON

Once again 2024 was no different to the Tri Service lunch in 2023. We were a rowdy bunch of female veterans chatting and laughing until Maggie, the MC, bought us back in time for the formalities of the day.

The Navy girls outnumbered the Army and Air Force girls but that didn't stop us catching up with each other. We come together as sisters-in-arms.

The Geebung RSL Catering Team's service was again above and beyond. After the yummy meal, it was time for the singing competition.

Thank you to Fran Sinclair who organised us WRAAC girls during the previous week with songs and music. Fran increased our choir numbers by convincing the other WRAAC girls who attended on the day. Only this little WRAAC girl, learnt the wrong music. We did our best and had a good laugh at ourselves. I know I did especially when I was out of tune for the chorus.

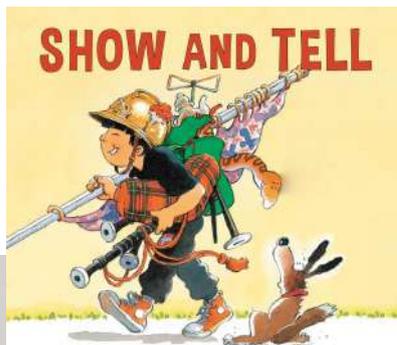
The Air Force girls sang their best and flew paper planes; however, they were beaten by a strong contingent of Navy girls who took back the trophy this year.

All in all it was a lovely day, until next year.
(photos page 2)

Narelle Gourlay

Di Elsworth and Lyn Potter with a photo from their service days.

Thanks for sharing Di!



Female Relative Badge

The Female Relatives' Badge was established in 1940 for issue to the nearest female relative of a serving member of the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Military Forces or Royal Australian Air Force. This badge was not issued to the relatives of members of the Merchant Navy.

This badge is no longer issued.

The badge is a round white metal badge that is edged with laurel leaves and surmounted by a crown. In the centre is a map of Australia and the words, 'TO THE WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA'. Underneath is a bar bearing brass stars to represent each child on active service abroad.

Thanks for sharing Kay H!





Nancy Wake

Who was Nancy Wake?

Born in New Zealand born and raised in Australia, Nancy Wake became one of the Gestapo's most wanted French Resistance operatives as a result of her courageous opposition to the German occupation. Dubbed the 'White Mouse' by the Germans, she famously cycled about 400 kilometres in 72 hours to organise replacement secret radio codes to maintain contact with the Special Operations Executive in London to allow vital resistance missions to continue. Nancy was one of the most highly decorated women of the Second World War. (Find out more on DVA's [Anzac Portal](#).)

The Fanny Fridays on their bikes for



Health and Heroine



Inspired by Second World War Australian resistance heroine Nancy Wake AC GM, female veterans from the Limestone Coast are getting on their bikes to raise the profile of female veterans and support each other post ADF service.

On recent bike rides, the small group of riders, who call themselves "The Fanny Fridays" have pedalled up to 150kms to train for a 500km ride in France next year.

Organiser Liz Wheeler, a Veteran Wellbeing Advocate at the Limestone Coast Veterans' Hub, says the activity was a great way to engage with different parts of the broader veterans' family and to build comradery among participants, most whom come from relatively small regional communities.

'Along the road we've had fantastic support from the Military Brotherhood Motor Cycle Club who helped us with safety as protective outriders, complete with cautionary signage on their bikes,' says Liz.

'We are also working closely with the Military Emergency Services Health Australia research project, which is exploring issues of women post ADF service, particularly in regional areas, resilience and the benefits of this challenge on older women's health and wellbeing.'

Liz says the women have used their DVA White Cards to engage the support of an exercise physiologist, which had been very beneficial. The group has also benefited from a modest DVA Veteran Wellbeing Grant of \$2,000 for safety and support equipment.

The group carries with them "Nancy", a crocheted white mouse mascot which goes on their training rides and which will also go to France on the Nancy Wake Memorial ride in 2025.

The ride will take the group from Saint-Santin to Montluçon before reaching Châteauroux and returning to Montluçon, a distance of about 500kms. Along the way the riders will visit local schools to tell the Nancy Wake story.

Liz says The Fanny Fridays were absolutely awed by the bravery and skill of their heroine. 'Nancy was an incredible Australian who is an inspiration to us all,' says Liz. 'Celebrating her story is having a profoundly positive effect on our physical and mental health.'

For Fanny Fridays' membership enquiries, contact Liz at the Limestone Coast Veterans' Hub. Sponsors are also sought: nancywakememorial-ride@gmail.com.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the WRAAC Association (Qld) Inc. will be conducted at
Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung

on Saturday **25th May 2024**.

The **General Meeting** will commence at **10.30am**

and the **Annual General Meeting** will follow after a short interval.

*Why not stay on after the meetings for lunch and catch up with friends.
Geebung RSL are supporting the Association and it is nice to return the favour.*

The following nominations, all valid, have been received for the AGM.

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
President	Kay Halford	Judith Davies	Barbara Moses
Vice President	Carmel Tunstall	Janice Thorne	Narelle Gourlay
Secretary	Marjorie McShane	Cheryle Phillips	Barbara Dawson
Asst. Secretary			
Treasurer	Carolyn Paul	Janice Thorne	Narelle Gourlay
Asst. Treasurer	Cindie Manzie	Trudy Thomas	Sharon Freebody
COMMITTEE			
Member	Narelle Gourlay	Alison Rolff	Judith Davies
Member	Gwenda Smith	Judith Kenefick	Mariann Matthias
Member	Christine Clancy	Lorraine Houlihan	Janice Thorne



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

JUST ONE CLICK AWAY

- ★ HISTORY ★ OUR ASSOCIATION ORIGIN ★ PICTURE GALLERY
- ★ ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION ★ UP COMING EVENTS
- ★ AND MUCH MORE

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; we can provide this service for you, if desired.





From the President's Pen

Hello all, another financial year done and dusted and the Association has been able to pay all of its debts. If payment of your membership fees has slipped your mind, I am certain our Treasurer Carolyn Paul would love to hear from you.

Our last General Meeting, which was held in the 'Nook' of the Geebung RSL, went well as we saw two new faces Judith Kenefick and Di Elsworth. There were plenty of easter eggs to share around.

Our Guest Speaker, Melissa from *Orange Sky Australia* was very engaging and gave a thorough talk on it's function. Briefly, Orange Sky is a world first free mobile laundry service, which now includes showers, that was started by two young Brisbane men in late 2014 to help the homeless. They are a non-for-profit organisation spread throughout Australia and now have set up in New Zealand. The service has also been contributed to assisting people in crisis during the bush fires and floods.

Our Association donated \$500.00 to their efforts, some of this money being from the Charity Fundraiser Quilt which we held last year.

For the first time, our Management Committee met in April at the Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch. It had been decided that we needed to have a few more meetings in the year and so we're offered this venue for free. It was lovely to feel welcomed and the atmosphere really set the tone of our meeting. Sunnybank is very supportive of our Association and always offers to assist us where they can.

On Saturday 20th April, Carolyn, Marjorie and I joined the Toowoomba ex-servicewomen's group for their monthly luncheon. It was wonderful to meet so many like-minded women and catch up with our members Jennifer Gillan and Jan Mullaney. A wonderful group and very welcoming. The only downside was a wet drive home.

One of our future events we are planning, is a 'Christmas in July' bus trip on Saturday 20th July to O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards. More information will be included in this Newsletter. Should be a great day and I believe you can feed and pat the alpacas. Hope to see you there.

For now, I hope you all keep well and stay safe.

Warm Wishes Kay

care corner

As our Wellbeing Officer Eve Radford has been on holidays overseas, there is no doubt that her well-being will now be in tip top condition.

We have a big cheerio to all members from Dale Reynolds (now living in WA). While Dale keeps in contact with a few members, she sends her best wishes to all.

Our thoughts and good wishes go to the following members: Judith Munday, Carmel Tunstall, Cathy Lymbery and Jennifer Gillan who I recently caught up with in Toowoomba.

Our thanks to Denise Busk for regularly visiting Fay Gray who currently is keeping well.

You are in our thoughts at this time Carmel Liddelow.

Thankyou to members looking out for one another, please let us know if the Association can assist.



Best
Wishes! Kay H.

MAY

2024

Saturday 25th *General Meeting* 10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung
Followed by the *Annual General Meeting*

JUNE

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Association Inc

Thursday 6th Annual Luncheon - Flyer on the Website or in March Newsletter

Saturday 8th *Committee Meeting* 10:30am Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch
19 Gager Street, Sunnybank

JULY

Saturday 6th *Committee Meeting* 10:30am SED RSL New Farm

Saturday 20th *Christmas in July Luncheon*
O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards - Flyer attached

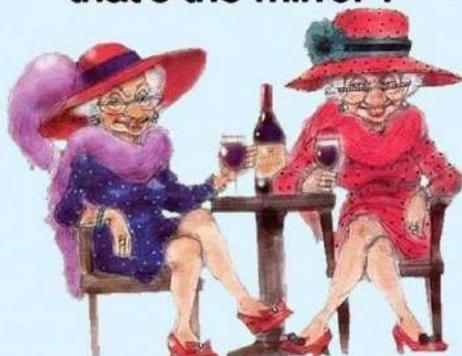


AUGUST

Saturday 3rd *Committee Meeting* 10:30am SED RSL New Farm

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

I was at lunch with an old friend & pointed at two elderly ladies across the room and said, "That will be us in 10 years."
She said, "that's the mirror".



Some say life begins at 40, others say 50...
Nonsense!
Life begins when you decide to quit worrying about what everyone else thinks.

COMMITTEE FOR 2023-2024

PRESIDENT	Kay Halford	0413 216 643	presidentwraac@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Leanne Gibbs	0424 141 618	
SECRETARY	Marjorie McShane	0400 038 221	secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Kay Halford	0413 216 643	
TREASURER	Carolyn Paul	0402 078 632	treasurerwraac.qld@outlook.com
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Cindie Manzie	0431 376 843	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Clancy	0402 844 648	Eve Radford	0438 320 845
Narelle Gourlay	0417 648 309	Gwenda Smith	0400 818 846

WELL BEING OFFICERS

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Lyn Potter 0412 551 407

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WEBMASTER

Kay Halford 0413 216 643 webmaster.qldwraac@outlook.com

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.

Thank you



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.



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!

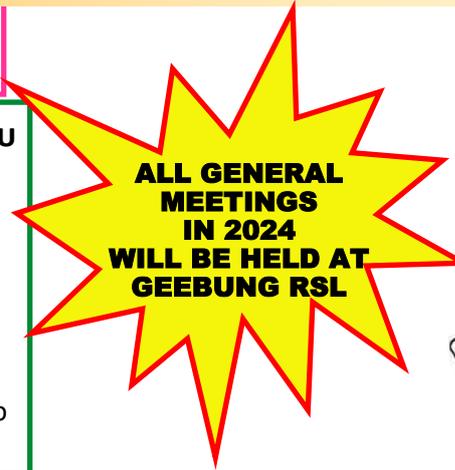
MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 31 MARCH EACH YEAR

FEES ARE **NOW OVERDUE** FOR 2024



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

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



Don't FORGET!

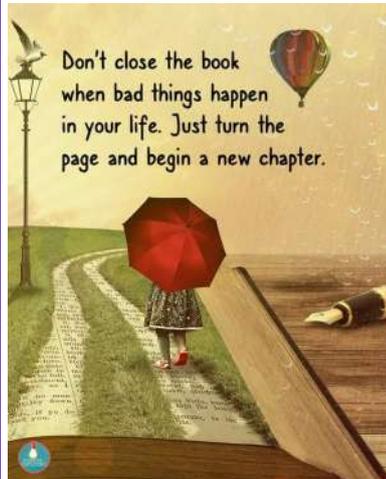


I don't want to party like 1999. I want to shop for groceries like 1999.



Aging Gracefully

Don't close the book when bad things happen in your life. Just turn the page and begin a new chapter.



Lucky Member Draw ...



Meg Chalmers-Grayson

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 **15 July 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.



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
\$2



Car Sticker
\$3



Merchandise



SHOPPING BAG
\$5

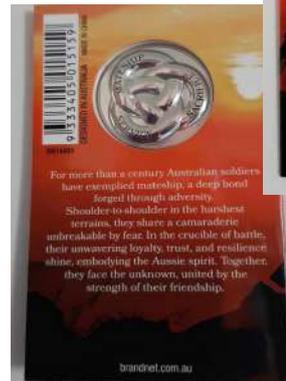
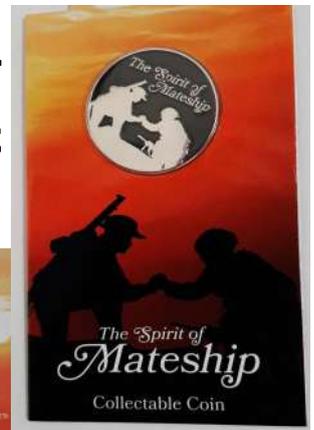


REMEMBER THEIR SERVICE LAPEL PIN
\$5

CERAMIC MUG
\$10



THE SPIRIT OF MATESHIP COLLECTABLE COIN
\$2



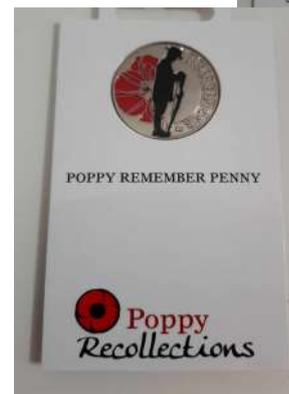
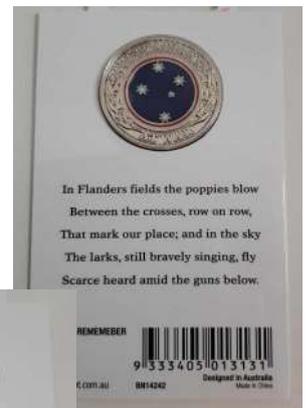
BUNCH OF POPPIES
\$5



TRAVEL MUG
\$5



MAGNETIC MEMO PAD
\$2



POPPY REMEMBER PENNY
\$2