

WRAAF ASSOCIATION QLD INC



Newsletter Issue No. 2

www.airforce-women-qld.org.au

Winter Edition June 2023

From the President's Desk

I have learnt that all my years of working when I longed for the day I could retire and take things easy has been a myth all along! I seemed to be much busier now than ever and I don't think I'm the only one in that boat.

Just a few happenings since the last newsletter. Anzac Day saw some fine weather this year and it was lovely to have the female Aviators from RAAF Base Amberley again join us for the march. With the obstacles of the road works in Adelaide Street and all the 'cats eyes' we luckily all came away unscathed. I (well my husband too) had a lovely couple of days in Coffs Harbour in early May and the weather was really pleasant. So nice to get away for a couple of days and not worry about housework and all the other daily routine things.

I was very disappointed to miss our regular May meeting but thought it was more important to represent the WRAAF's at the Victory in Europe Commemoration service.



Yes this is me snorkelling. I am going to wave goodbye to this cold weather for a 10 day cruise to Papua New Guinea and in particular the Conflict Islands. This is one of the reasons I am

writing my newsletter article early as I am not sure how reliable the internet service will be. Hopefully I will have a couple of underwater photos of pretty fish and interesting coral to add to the next newsletter.

I look forward to our visit to the General MacArthur Museum and lunch on the 29th of June 23.

Stay well and joyful.

Per Adua Ad Astra

Peggy Broomhall

The Spitfire was hugely popular in many Allied countries during and after WWII, and there were eventually 24 marks of the plane and numerous sub-variants in use up until it was retired in 1955 as new jet engines phased out propeller-powered aircraft.

Today, there are 235 Spitfires remaining across the world, and only 52 of them are airworthy.

A company called Avspecs in New Zealand specialises in restoring vintage and wartime aircraft, making each plane as authentic and accurate as possible, so that it will fly and be as good as a brand new plane straight from a factory.

For more information about AVspecs visit—<https://www.warbirdrestoration.co.nz>

St. Augustines Church—Hamilton

IN MY LAST NEWSLETTER, I MENTIONED THAT I HAD ATTENDED THE BANKA ISLAND MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, HAMILTON.

I WAS FASCINATED BY THE CHURCH AND DECIDED TO RESEARCH ITS HISTORY WHICH IS WHY I AM WRITING THIS ARTICLE – I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU.

SOURCE:

<https://anglicanfocus.org.au/2020/02/24/the-mystery-of-the-missing-german-windows-and-a-100-year-anniversary/>

The mystery of the missing German windows and a 100-year anniversary

St Augustine's, Hamilton celebrated its centenary in 2020 and the parish has quite a story to tell with 100 years of history and a quirky mystery.

When The Rev'd Canon Dr Marian Free became the parish priest of St Augustine's Church, Hamilton in 2008 – there was one particular story that some older parishioners felt was a stain on the church, involving a public furore, threats to use hand grenades and missing German-made windows. The first church of St Augustine's was a small timber structure dedicated in 1896. By the end of the Great War it was deemed to be inadequate for the growing congregation. The foundation stone for a new church was laid in December 1919, with the first service held less than a year later.

St Augustine's, Hamilton circa 1920s, with the old church, dedicated in 1896, beside the new church, which held its first service in 1920



Continued

Soon, plans were put in action to order five magnificent large stained-glass windows from overseas. However, The Rev'd Canon Dr Marian Free said that the windows in question then became the centre of debate, controversy, protest and even death threats for one simple fact: they were made in Germany. "Emotions ran really, really high back around 1925 just a few years after the war with emotional and psychological scars still fresh," Canon Marian said. "At least one member of the RSL threatened to throw a hand grenade through the windows of the church if they were put in at Hamilton.

Canon Marian said that is unclear whether the priest at the time, The Rev'd John Brodie Armstrong, was aware the windows were German made, with the windows designed and displayed as a memorial to those who served and died in WWI.

"The architect's idea was that the morning sun would stream through the windows and so five windows were ordered from a manufacturer in Germany," she said. "The RSL discovered they were made in Germany and they didn't think that was appropriate for a war memorial, even though part of the idea was that it would be an act of reconciliation."

Under great pressure from the wider community, it was decided that new windows would instead be ordered and made by a local manufacturer. However, the German windows, costing 275 pounds (approximately \$23,000 today), were already en route to Brisbane.

"But when the boat arrived, the wharfies wouldn't even unload them – it was a big controversy in Brisbane and then the windows seemed to disappear from view," Canon Marian said.

An Unexpected Invitation from an Ally Abroad

Almost 90 years had passed and across the Tasman Sea, the story of the German windows was all but forgotten, except by The Rev'd Roger Barker, who wondered how such large and intricate windows came to grace the walls of his quaint church, St Barnabas Church in New Zealand's South Island.

"When you walk into the church, you think 'why on earth would a little country church like this have such magnificent windows – why aren't they in the cathedral?' They do seem out of place given the size of the church," the now retired priest said.



The small wooden church overlooks the ocean atop the picturesque coastal town of Warrington, home to around 450 people just north of Dunedin.

With questions and intrigue surrounding the local legend about the windows, The Rev'd Barker said that he embarked on a mission to find out more.

"I think the first big 'ah-ha' moment is when I heard of the rumour about St Augustine's in Brisbane," he said.

"I thought, 'Okay St Augustine's...that would explain why we have St Augustine of Canterbury depicted in one of our windows – we could be onto something.'

"I got the contact details for St Augustine's and passed our story on to Marian who said she knew of stained-glass windows which went missing back in the 1920s."

Continued

An article published in a local New Zealand newspaper in 1934 confirmed their suspicions describing, "five Bavarian stained-glass windows of exceptional workmanship and admirable design stored on behalf of a disappointed Australian importer in the dusty recesses of the Fraser Art Glass Works in Dunedin."

Four of the five windows began being installed in St Barnabas Church in 1935 after being held in storage by a local arts dealer for over a decade.

With contact established between Warrington and Hamilton, and a common desire to 'crack the mystery', Marian decided the story required some first-hand investigation.

Fortunately, she was due to travel to New Zealand on other business and decided to make the long trek to see the church. Once she saw the windows, she was almost certain that they were the missing windows.



The Rev'd Barker said that fifth window is still missing, and its location is the final piece of the puzzle, remaining unsolved today. "I haven't put a lot of energy into finding the fifth window; however, I contacted some of the local churches where I have seen similar windows, but none that I could be sure are the same," he said.

"While we haven't combed every inch of every church in New Zealand, we haven't tracked it down and it could've gone anywhere really, even assuming that it's survived all these years." The Rev'd Barker and current priest, The Rev'd Dr Jeremy Nicoll, said that they value the connection the windows have given them with Canon Marian and St Augustine's Church in Brisbane.

And although Canon Marian is more than happy with the current windows at St Augustine's Church, the parish at St Barnabas is adamant that the controversial windows are there to stay.

"They're our windows and we're very proud of them - they're part of the atmosphere and it really is a beautiful little church," The Rev'd Barker said.



Did you hear the one about a mother who travelled across the country to watch her only son get married and graduate from the air force on the same day?

"Thank you for coming," the son said. "It means so much." "Of course I'd be here," the mother replied. "It's not every day a mom watches her son get his wings and have them clipped all in one day."

Flying female GP remembered as outback pioneer

By Nathalie Fernbach with Chrissy Arthur

Medical practitioner and pilot Doctor Dorothy Herbert, who devoted decades of her life to delivering medical services to remote communities, has been remembered by a colleague as one tough lady.

Dr Herbert, who was awarded the Order of Australia medal for her contribution to rural medicine, passed away in September 2014, aged 91.

Dr Herbert joined the Royal Flying Doctor Service as a locum in 1961 before spending the next 20 years providing care to rural and remote communities as an independent GP based in Charleville.

"Dottie was a very tough, very capable lady," said former colleague Dr Chester Wilson.

"She would eat young doctors for breakfast. She would look over your shoulder and she would make certain of absolutely everything that you were doing."

Dr Wilson says he was lucky to escape Dorothy's scrutiny somewhat - he was assigned to live with her during her recovery from an accident and the pair forged a friendship watching Doctor Who episodes. "It was a very odd pairing," he said. At a time when there were few women doctors and fewer women pilots, Dorothy made quite an impression flying to remote communities with her three corgis in tow, recalls Dr Wilson.

"In many medical situations a dog would be thrown out on its ear; Dorothy's dogs were welcome everywhere," he said. "They were very well trained... no problems with them ever making any messes in those planes."

Dorothy forged strong friendships with other women pilots including Nancy Bird Walton and Beryl Young, who was Joh Bjelke-Peterson's pilot.

"Women pilots were still a fairly special thing and she spent many happy years with the women pilot's association because so many of them were her close friends," said Dr Wilson.

Following her accident in 1981 where a glider was thrown on top of her, Dorothy moved to the Sunshine Coast and continued to practice medicine until 1996.

A memorial service for Dr Dorothy Herbert was held this week in Brisbane. (2014)

Dorothy Herbert was determined to become a doctor and pilot by age 13. Colleague Dr Chester Wilson recalls Dorothy made quite an impression arriving by plane with three corgis in tow. (supplied to Sunshine Coast Daily - Australasian Society of Aerospace Medicine)





Improving design reaps reward

Article by CPL Luke Bellman—Air Force News

When SGT Georgia Hannah was confronted with complex bandwidth and network architecture complications for the VIP communications system aboard RAAF's new KC-30, she took matters into her own hands.

RAAF SGT Georgia Hannah, in Canberra.

Photo: CPL Luke Bellman

In 2019, the newly arrived network technician identified solutions to vastly improve the passenger communication system aboard the KC-30A.

"I learnt the system quickly and when I exhausted all of my SME knowledge I reached out to who would know how to rectify the deficiencies."

"There was an issue with the antenna to satellite connection. It turned out to be the design," she said.

She organised for stakeholders to go through the network with a finetooth comb to identify improvements.

She documented the technical improvements so they were incorporated into service documents and established a training system to ensure others could benefit from her innovation.

New technicians now qualify in a specific area, move onto further training, then rinse and repeat until confident in their position.

"I am proud that I was able to train the new operators. I have trust in them that they have the knowledge when the issues arise," SGT Hannah said.

"IT has always got room for improvement."

For her work, SGT Hannah received the Conspicuous Service Cross as part of this year's King's birthday awards. The medal is due to be presented later this year.

"It's really good to get recognition, but it's better to see it all work after having all those issues rectified, it's good that people are noticing gaps in the system," SGT Hannah said.



An Assessor from the Department of Defence was conducting an All Services briefing and posed the following question.

What would you do if you found a scorpion in your tent?

A sailor said "I'd step on it".

A soldier said, "I'd squash it with my boot".

An airman said, " I'd call room service and find out why there's a tent in my room".



Legacy Centenary Torch Relay Bearer Nicholas Paske (Centre) with Air Force personnel (L-R) LACW Sarah Negrin, WO Scott Biddell, FLTLT Brett Smith and FSGT Shawn Spry in front of a C-27J Spartan at RAAF Base Amberley, QLD. Photo: LACW Taylor Anderson

SUPPORTING 100 YEARS OF LEGACY

Article by FLTLT Greg Hinks

When the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay began in Pozières, France in April, LACW Sarah Negrin was humbled to know she would be continuing the torch's run over 16,000km away in Ipswich, Queensland.

LACW Negrin from 33SQN, RAAF Base Amberley, didn't hesitate to volunteer to take part in the relay after downloading the tracking app on hearing about the event at this year's Anzac Day service.

"I jumped at the chance to take part because, whilst viewing the relay would have been amazing in itself, actually having an opportunity to participate in uniform is pretty special and historical," LACW Negrin said.

"Helping, mateship and teamwork is so ingrained in the Australian Defence Force and providing assistance to the families shows recognition and appreciation of what they have also had to endure."

Escorting the Legacy Centenary torch will be an emotional experience for FLTLT Brett Smith from 82Wing, RAAF Base Amberley, having seen the work of Legacy Australia firsthand.

"I became aware of Legacy early in my service and over the years, some of my friends, who've lost loved ones, now receive Legacy support to varying degrees," FLTLT Smith said.

"There are plenty of organisations that work with veterans, but Legacy exists to take care of the ones we love the most after we're gone.

"I would hope, were the worst to happen to me, that my family can rely on Legacy's support."

The Legacy Flame will be carried by more than 1500 torchbearers and pass through 55 geographic locations over six months. The trip has already included Brisbane, Ipswich and a special ceremony attended by King Charles III in London, England, the location of the only Legacy Club outside of Australia.

The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay will travel through Australia, concluding in Melbourne in November.

To follow the relay visit: [legacytorchrelay.com.au](https://www.legacytorchrelay.com.au)

ANZAC DAY MARCH

BRISBANE 2023

Unlike 2022, this year's march was dry. Fortunately, the inclement weather held off until our flight had completed the march and we were all securely ensconced in the Riverbar Kitchen, a breezy waterfront restaurant with specular river views. We discovered that this was also the favourite "watering-hole" for a hundred plus RAAF marchers. It was a sea for blue uniforms.

The downside was the time it took for us to be served, even though we had arrived early. No matter what one plans, there is always the unexpected that can spoil a great day.

We were once again honoured to have the airwomen from Amberley march with us. Some of these airwomen have enjoyed marching with us for several years.



Janet Noack in Brisbane for the 2023 ANZAC Day March. Picture: NCA NewsWire / Glenn Campbell



Colleen and grandchildren



Vi and granddaughter Leilani



Preparing to Step Off





Peggy with Flt Lt Caitlin Dacey



Navy Women
President Helen Yench
with
V/President Liz Grimes



RIVERBAR AND KITCHEN



Marjorie with Chris



Lisa with Pam



Rosemary with Barbara



Calendar - 2023

Venue: Salvation Army Church—167 Ann Street, Brisbane



DATE	
<p>JULY</p> <p>Saturday 8th</p> <p>Saturday 15th</p> <p>Monday 17th</p> <p>Monday 24th</p> <p>Saturday 29th</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Ruby</p> <p>WRAAF Toowoomba Annual Reunion Burke & Wills Hotel—Toowoomba 11.00am for 12.00noon—Cost \$55.00pp</p> <p>OGM 9.30am for 10.00am start—Salvation Army Church, 167 Ann St., Brisbane City</p> <p>Bundaberg District Women Veterans' 56th Birthday Luncheon For further information see website: www.airforce-women-qld.org.au</p> <p>Combined Services Bribie Island Group—Luncheon Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree, 11.30am Contact Anita Cooper 0402 246 408</p> <p>CESWA - Annual Memorial Church Service Ann Street Presbyterian Church at 11.30am followed by lunch. Cost \$24.00 For further information see website: www.airforce-women-qld.org.au</p>
<p>AUGUST</p> <p>Wednesday 9th</p> <p>Monday 28th</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Peridot</p> <p>Glasshouse Mountains Ex-Servicewomen's Luncheon 1100am to 1.30pm at the LOCAL Beerwah 18/44 Simpson Street, Beerwah</p> <p>Combined Services Bribie Island Group—Luncheon Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree, 11.30am Contact Anita Cooper 0402 246 408</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Wednesday 13th</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Sapphire</p> <p>CESWA - Annual Memorial & Wreath Laying Service More information to come</p>

YOUR 2022—2023 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Your Management Committee is committed to making decisions from an informed and inclusive environment by meeting prior to each OGM.

Executive

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Chris Lloyd; Leigh Walsh; Pam Hardy-Treloar; Susita Coleclough; Vi Speis; Dorelle Mumford; Judy Evans

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Merchandise Officer: Jill Buckland. Contact details: Phone 0400 928 136 - Email—jillbuckland@bigpond.com

Website Address

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WHERE & WHEN WE MEET:

Salvation Army Church Meeting Room at 167 Ann Street, Brisbane City.

Please arrive By 9.30am for a 10.00am start.

When:

3rd Saturday in January OGM, + Birthday Celebration and July OGM.

2nd Saturday in March OGM + AGM; May OGM and September OGM; November OGM + Christmas Faire

Newsletter:

Each quarter commencing in late March.

BANKING DETAILS

Name of the Account: WRAAF Assn Qld

Institution: Bank of Queensland

BSB: 124185

Account Number: 22836307

Cheque made payable to: WRAAF Assn Qld

Forward to: Secretary,

WRAAF Assn Qld

30 Scrubby Creek Road

BROWNS PLAINS QLD 4118

