



Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld

Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia

Volume XXIII #3 Sept 2023

Happenings from June to August 2023

Our Eldest Nonagenarians Our World War II Treasures

Fay Royle

Doris Fay Gosden was born in 1926 in Adelaide.

She enlisted in the Women's Royal Australian Navy Service as a Teleprinter Operator (Group III) and was assigned to HMAS Moreton. She also served at HMAS Magnetic and was 'discharged engagement expired' (D.E.E) from HMAS Torrens in March 1946.

Fay was in the WRANS for a few weeks when Margaret Hall (a Wran serving at HMAS Moreton at the time), passed away. Fay and other Wrans practised marching to be part of the military funeral in the city for her.

In 1949, Fay married William Gordon Woodforth Royle and made their home in Kalinga. He passed away in May 2009.

Fay came from a service family. Her father was a Captain and served in the Army from 1942-1946. Her sister, Joy Gosden (Seeney), served in the WRANS from 1943-1946.

Fay was drafted to HMAS Magnetic, Townsville and was re-united with her sister, Joy. They both thought this was great, but the Navy had other ideas. Joy was posted to HMAS Leeuwin (Perth). Fay was still able to enjoy her time in Townsville, even getting a plane ride (or 'spin' as Fay puts it) over Magnetic Island. Fay and her sister were finally discharged (demobbed) at the same time. Both sisters worked in Melbourne for a time before returning home.

Lillian Coyne

Lillian Murial Davis was born at Tannalo, via Mackay in 1926. She enlisted in the Women's Royal Australian Navy Service on 3 April 1945. She was enlisted as an Assistant Writer (Group III) and was allocated to HMAS Moreton. She was rated Writer (Minor) Group II on 3 July 1945. She was discharged from the WRANS on 28 June 1946 and settled in Bauple.

After her discharge, Lillian married Frederick George Brooks, who served in the Army as a gunner during the war. Fred passed away in 1978. Lillian married Joseph Anthony Coyne in July 1980. Joseph passed away in June 2005.

Lillian was a member of the Brisbane Sub-Section in 1959 and joined the WRANS Sub-Section on 30 July 1964 until 1985. She rejoined the Sub-Section in February 1988 until 2000. She is now a Golden Member of the Sub-Section.

Lillian is also an author of several books that are available at the Bauple Museum, which she helped to establish in her family home.



Postal Address:

**Navy Women Qld
112-114 Cocos Drive
NINGI QLD 4511**

www.nwqld.org.au

Executive Contacts:

NWExecutive@nwqld.org.au

President:

Helen Yench
0402 239 741

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:

Pat Nuss
Liz Grimes
Bernie Franklin
Catherine Leung

Wellbeing Officer:

Margie Gadd
0438 376 963

margie@barini.com.au

Editors:

Liz Grimes
0438 766 493

Lorrae Johnson
Editor@nwqld.org.au

Meetings:

12 noon on the second
Sunday of each month,
except May – third Sunday
due to Mother's Day.

Murielle Ahern

Murielle Agnes McGrath was born at Boonah in 1925. She enlisted in the Women's Royal Australian Navy Service in April 1945 as a Telephone (Group IV) and was allocated to HMAS Moreton and then transferred to HMAS Penguin in April 1945. She returned to HMAS Moreton in August 1946. Murielle was discharged (D.E.E) in September 1946.



In August 1952, Murielle re-enlisted in the WRANS as a Recruit Wran Writer (Probation) and was discharged "Free" in September 1952. >>

Murielle married Maurice James Ahern who passed away in November 1975.

In January 1958, under the Animal Diseases and Control Ordinance, Murielle was appointed as Stock Inspector, dated at Port Moresby the tenth day of January 1958 by Chief Stock Inspector.

Murielle has the Australian Service Medal 1939-1945 and the G BR Georges VI. Murielle joined the Sub-Section in May 1993.

Post War Treasure

Jenny Bell

Mavis Jean Robinson was born at Rose Park in September 1930. Mavis (known as Jenny) enlisted in the Women's Royal Australian Navy Service in September 1952. Prior to joining the WRANS, Jenny was a Typist and enlisted as a Telegraphist. In March 1953, Jenny was rated as A/WRAN TEL at HMAS Harman. In May 1953, Jenny was posted to HMAS Harman, then to HMAS Lonsdale in October 1953. Jenny was discharged on marriage, from HMAS Lonsdale.

Jenny married Kenneth John Bell. Kenneth served in the RAN from July 1952 and was discharged in July 1958.

Jenny joined the Sub-Section in September 1981 and has remained a continuous full member.

Summary

These are the four eldest members of our Sub-Section. We have six Nonagenarians and 22 Octogenarians - we wish them all well and look forward to seeing them at our events.

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

Sunshine Coast Annual Birthday – 1 June

The SCESWA held their annual Birthday luncheon on 1 June 2023 – Egyptian style. This is always a GREAT day, and everyone is always encouraged to make the trip to Maroochy RSL for a fun time.



Anita, Kaye, Marg, Bernie, Liz, Mary-Anne, Judy, Wendy & Sandy.



Lillian Davis



Lillian Coyne - 2022



Jenny Bell



Jenny Bell

Letter from our President



To begin, I'd like to wish all those who are experiencing illness of any sort, some well wishes. I know we have a few out there at the moment. I thank those who are visiting hospitals and those making phone calls to check up on these women.

Another few months have passed and we have the evidence of what many of our members do during the week and between meetings. Rather being stuck at home, morning teas and lunches are enjoyed to the north at Bribie Island, west at Ipswich area, to the east at Wellington Point and to the south around the Gold Coast. If you are

looking for a few hours to spend with friends, treat yourself.

Liz Grimes and I have been attending quite a few wreath laying services and the occasional church service. These services have us meet up with so many Ex Service Organisations representatives. We are indeed quite well known in these circles.

There are two platforms that I would like to draw your attention to:

The Good Buzz is the first one; this can be found on the Naval Association website <https://navalassoc.org.au>

The next one is Servulink – this is an initiative with the RSL but gives you the opportunity to find services in your area, as well as directions to it. The link is <https://servulink.com.au> or you can use the app on your phone by downloading the link from your browser and adding it to your page.

The other thing I want to mention, is this:

Do you think you may be interested in a position with DVA assessing claims? At the last DVA Forum, it was mentioned that they are looking for people to train to assess some of the 40,000 backlog in claims. If you are interested, please contact me so I can put you in touch with either a person or a link. Ring me on 0402239741 or email me at president@nwqld.org.au

All from me for now. Take care of yourselves and each other.

Once Navy, Always Navy

Helen Yench

The latest edition of *Navy News* is available at:

<https://www.navynewspaper.defence.gov.au/navy-news/june-8-2023/flipbook/0/>

Previous versions can be located in the Menu, under "Issues"

SCESWA continued

A small number of Navy ladies attended the July C&C (cake and coffee) at the Club RSL Caloundra. Following the OGM, many stayed for lunch. The Museum under the building is full of amazing artifices.



Anita, Liz & Lorrae

The August meeting was their AGM followed by lunch.

Birthday Luncheon – Egyptian style



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

Around the Traps with Liz

Commemoration

Jack Memorial Service

The Jack service on 29 June acknowledged the Ships & Exhibits of the Qld Maritime Museum where we heard of the history of the Museum across the road from the service.



Marg & Bernie

On 27 July, the Jack service acknowledged all Coastwatchers, and the special guest was the daughter of J F K who owed his life to the Coastwatcher. Full story over a few pages.



HMAS Moreton Officers & sailors with Amb Kennedy

August 31, we honoured all six Australian Hospital Ships, of which the Centaur is the most famous. Julie Finucane, President of the Centaur Association addressed the service with an amazing history.



Camaraderie

Western Suburbs Lunch

First Saturday each month

June lunch was at Jim's Café at Bundamba.



Liz, Liz, Sandie; Barbara, Barb & Lorrae

Veterans Centre Ipswich houses the head office, an Op Shop and Jim's Café. Proceeds from the Op Shop and Jim's Cafe go towards the crisis support for veterans and their families. <https://www.woundedheroes.org.au/>

Victory in the Pacific

On the morning of 15 August 1945, the Emperor of Japan announced that Japan would accept the Allies ultimatum to surrender.

For Australians, this meant the end of the Second World War. A war that had seen nearly 1 million Australians serve in the armed forces. Of those, over 30,000 Australians were taken prisoner and 39,000 did not return to their loved ones. A legacy which is still felt today.

78 years later, on 15 August 2023 we remembered and respect all those Australians that served during the Second World War; those who gave the ultimate sacrifice; those who returned and were forever scarred; and those who cared for our veterans.

On 12 August 2023, RSL South Eastern District held a Memorial service in the Memorial Forecourt of the Limbless Soldiers' Building in New Farm.

Liz, Helen & Cathie



CESWA Annual Church Service

The Annual Ex-Service Women's Church Service was held on the 29 July at the Anne Street Presbyterian Church. The congregation consisted of Navy, Army, Air Force and Nurses. The Banners were paraded, and the service began. A couple of the Navy Women were involved in the Service and did well. The minister, unfortunately, left her robes and sermon in her car at the railway station but, like all good women, she was still able to give the sermon her best. Lunch was held after the service.

July and August lunch was enjoyed at *Chapters Book Shop, Cafe and Wine Bar* at Karalee. <https://www.chapters.net.au/> It is a favourite eating place and the ladies have been there a number of times. The staff are always welcoming. The owner's son and d-i-l Claire both served in the Navy.



Marie, Bernie, Pat, Liz, Mary, Robyn, Barbara, Lorrae



Bernie, Liz, Lorrae, Robyn, Letty, Pat, Barb & Mary

Introduction to Executives

Judy Prewett (Secretary)

I grew up in a small farming community in Mumbil a small town in Central Western New South Wales.

Horse riding, basketball, cricket, tennis and netball were my interests.

On completing High School at Wellington High in 1969 work was very scarce so in late 1970 I moved to Gosford NSW on the Central Coast and started working in a local Pharmacy. Whilst in Gosford, I boarded with an amazing family and continued with my sport playing tennis and hockey. I joined ROTARACT as a founding member and friendships from that time continue today.

In July 1972 I decided to follow my dream and applied to join the Navy. I was accepted and boarded a train from Central Station in Sydney for HMAS Cerberus arriving on Melbourne Cup Day November 1972. I was greeted by none other than the great Lennie Maiden, making it known she was missing the Melbourne Cup because of our arrival.

After recruit training I was accepted to train as an ROM/ROS so in February 1973 I boarded a train again this time to Canberra to join HMAS Harman. After completing my training in August 1973, I was posted to Darwin so this time I boarded a TAA plane and posted into HMAS Coonawarra.

Life was pretty good in the Top End, and I continued with my tennis and basketball whilst creating memories of great times with friends I am still in contact with 50 + years later. Cyclone Tracy wreaked havoc on us Xmas 1974 and wiped out the receiving station. I was one of the first crews to work at Shoal Bay Receiving station which was being built at the time. With no walls and equipment not yet fitted we started work under hazardous conditions sharing with many forms of wildlife, the main being the snake population.

Along this journey, I married my Sailor boy in 1974, survived Cyclone Tracey and had 2 beautiful children. I went on maternity leave in January 1976 pending the arrival of our beautiful daughter Taira (dec) and 3½ years later in 1979 our amazing son Trent arrived. I discharged in June 1976 due to lack of postings and no childcare.

In 1983 I re-joined the workforce returning to Pharmacy. Nowra, Canberra and Alice Springs were the towns I called home. In 1996, my husband Max had the opportunity to join Pine Gap in Alice Springs so once again the family packed up and continued our adventure. I was lucky enough to win a manager position at one of the local Pharmacies where I stayed until retirement in January 2016.

The family relocated to Ningi in February 2016 where we continue to enjoy the laid-back lifestyle.

I reconnected with Navy Women late 2016 and became a member. I was Assistant Secretary for a number of years, and I am now Secretary of NWQld and Treasurer of Council of Ex Servicewomen (CESWA), as well as Stores Officer.

Along the way I had the privilege of Co-ordinating Navy Women's National Reunion in Brisbane in October 2022. An amazing journey that continues.



Bernie Franklin (Vice President)

I was born in Longreach in 1953. After I completed my education at Year 10, at the age of 15 years, I found my first job in a ball-bearing company in Geebung. A year later I joined the Queensland Public Service as a typist/administrative assistant with the Department of Education, Australian Music Examinations Board.

Being the second eldest of nine children, I couldn't wait to leave home and join the Navy. I wanted to do more with my life than just bathe, feed, clothe etc the younger siblings.

Having determined to join the Navy at the age of 13 after watching a television movie about the American WAVES, I joined the WRANS in Brisbane on 7 January 1971. While my preferred category choices were either Writer or Communicator, I elected for the option of Sick Berth Attendant (SBA) because I was able to be recruited within three months. I later tried to change category to Writer, but it was not approved.

As an SBA, I served in HMAS Cerberus for a year; HMAS Penguin for a further year; and then HMAS Coonawarra from 1973 until 1975. I discharged (D.E.E) in Coonawarra as a LWRSBA on 6 January 1975.

I married a sailor in April 1974 and as both of our terms of enlistment expired in January 1975, we both decided to leave the Navy and remain in Darwin. Unfortunately, Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin while we were on leave awaiting discharge.

With the emergency situation in Darwin, I was able to walk into a Commonwealth Public Service position in the Department of the Northern Territory. I remained in the same Department for 23 years before moving to Rockhampton where I worked with Central Queensland University for seven years before retirement.

We had two children – a daughter Rebecca born one year and three days post Cyclone Tracy and a son Michael born six years later in 1981. The gap of six years was caused by the difficulty in having our home built, along with the rest of Darwin, at that time.

I look back on my career in the WRANS as being a time which taught me the importance of discipline in all aspects of my life. I learnt how to be responsible for my decisions and mistakes.

I value my continuing connection with the NAA because I can be myself with like-minded women and importantly, continue the long-term friendships and camaraderie.

I transferred from the Capricornia Sub-Section on 8 May 2016, which I joined on 22 August 2004. I was the Treasurer of Capricornia in 2009. I received my 15 years Long Service Certificate on 22 August 2019.

I have been our Vice President since 2022.



CADETS with Pat Nuss

Annual Inspection Parades

Jennie Rathbone and I visited TS Toowoomba and TS Kookaburra (Stanthorpe) on 15-16 July to attend their Annual Inspection Parades and to present each with a donation 'cheque' from our subsection. We were warmly welcomed as VIPs at each unit and enjoyed watching the cadets parade, showing their marching skills. These cadet units are a credit to the ANC officers and the support committees that ensure the cadets enjoy all the skills and experiences offered by the Navy Cadet organisation. This completes the NW donation presentations this year.

Cadets at TS Toowoomba we were fortunate to have a very large park in which to show their marching skills and had a large number of family members supporting their girls and boys. We met a couple who were former cadets and who both joined the Defence Force early this year. As they were both on leave, they attended the parade in their uniforms. He joined the Navy and was training at HMAS Cerberus and she joined the RAAF. Both came up to speak to Jennie and me and were a credit to TS Toowoomba and the Defence Force generally.



We enjoyed a sausage sizzle after the parade and chatted to members of the unit support committee who told us TS Toowoomba is about to relocate to an Army Barracks nearby.

Thankfully, the parade at TS Kookaburra didn't start until 1000 and it was a warm day for July in Stanthorpe! TS Kookaburra is situated in a small area but with room to store their range of boats and a large building with good facilities. The cadets showed their skills at parading in a confined area. The parade was supported by a number of local dignitaries, and it was great to catch up with Coral Donnelly, who attended the parade as she is President of the Stanthorpe subsection of the NAA.



We also met VADM Michael Noonan, AO (Ret'd) supporting his local cadet unit and interested in the Naval Association. We enjoyed morning tea after the parade before heading back to Brisbane.

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 have been 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.

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

Be A Change Maker



Barcode for **C10236300**



Pat and Jennie visited Fran on their visit to Cairns. Aunty Fran Visini, a former sailor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent was welcomed back on board with appointment as #AusNavy's first Indigenous Elder. Her new role is providing support and culturally mentoring recruits.

*The President and Committee of the
Naval Association of Australia
Bayside Sub-Section Inc.*

*Have much pleasure in inviting
Bayside Sub-Section members and their partners
to join us at the*

*Bayside Sub-Section Inc.
Annual Ladies Dine In Night*

*to be held in
The Gallipoli Room, Redlands RSL
on Saturday 14th October 2023
at 1830 for 1900 (7:00pm) start*

*A three-course dinner, wine and port available at the table.
Entertainment, trivia competition with prizes are included
and a Monster Raffle will be conducted.*

Costs: \$75 p.p.

Our Guest Speakers: Family members in Defence Service

*Dress: Gentlemen: Mess Dress, Suit or Jacket & Tie (medals - optional)
Ladies: Mess Dress, Appropriate Cocktail or Evening Attire (medals - optional)*

Payment by EFT (preferred) or cash *Advise of any dietary requirements when booking*
BSB 124012 Acc 10122839 Replies: sec.bayside.naa@hotmail.com or 0492 896 044
RSVP and payment by: Friday 29th September 2023

ONCE NAVY - ALWAYS NAVY

Veteran’s Health Week 2023

This year the veteran community under the sponsorship of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) will participate in Veteran’s Health Week (VHW) from **8-15 October** with the theme “Mental Wellness Matters”.

VHW is an important event on the Navy Women (Qld) calendar of events because it enables us to participate in a program that shines the light on maintaining a healthy lifestyle as we age.

VHW commenced in 2021 under the theme “Get Moving”. That year, Navy Women (Qld) sponsored two events: one on Bribie Island and one on the Gold Coast. The Bribie Island event included a walk along the Pumicestone Passage and a paint by numbers luncheon. The Gold Coast event was a lunch with a guest speaker.

The next year in 2022 under the theme “Eat Well”, we banded together to produce a Healthy Eating Recipe Book including recipes supplied by our members. We produced 60 copies which we distributed to members at no cost.

This year we will hold an event in the **Roma Street Parklands on Wednesday 18th October**. It will commence at 9.30am when we will meet for coffee. At 1030am our Guides will join us as we do a Walk and Talk in the Parklands for 1.5 hours. This will be followed by a healthy lunch in the Parklands Café. The event is no cost to members.

I hope as many members as possible can attend this event in the lovely Spring air noting that it will be an easy stroll through the gardens, followed by lunch while you chat with mates.

Navy Women will promote this event through our normal electronic channels and at our General Meetings.

If you require further information please contact the Wellbeing Officer: **Margie Gadd on 0438 376 963**.



Pictured above ^^ is Lorimer House and pictured right the Opening of Greenwich House

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Remembering Greenwich House

I know that there are many former WRANS in Navy Women (Qld) who served at HMAS Lonsdale over the years and who would have many fond memories of Greenwich House, that stately mansion at 77 Irving Road, Toorak, Victoria. It was those memories that prompted Lynn Baker to research its background through the Victorian Heritage Data Base Register and share some of her findings with me. I hope you find them interesting.

Greenwich House (originally Lorimer House) is a large Toorak mansion built in 1869 for the merchant and politician James Lorimer, probably to the design of the architect Leonard Terry. The two-storey house is an Italianate style bay-fronted mansion of eighteen rooms, notable for the central Roman Doric portico and restrained ornamentation.

Greenwich House is of historical significance as one of the oldest surviving Toorak residences. The house was one of the first built on the early close sub-divisions in the Toorak district, at a time when the area was becoming keenly sought after as a site for residences of the wealthy. Its original owner, James Lorimer, moved from the house in 1876 as his growing status demanded a more substantial residence. Subsequent owners made their own alterations, expanding the house with additions such as a ballroom, extended servants' quarters, and more bedrooms.

By the 1920s its years as a family residence were numbered. Like many of Melbourne's mansion houses, Greenwich House underwent many changes of use in the 20th century, reflecting changing social and economic conditions. Much of its original grounds were subdivided and built upon, the house itself was converted to flats and then to hostel accommodation for the Navy, before becoming the Chinese consulate in the 1980s.

Greenwich House has been associated with several important individuals and families, emphasising the desirability of both the house and the area in which it was located. James Lorimer (1831-1889), its first owner, was a prominent contributor to public life from the 1860s to his death in 1889. He was a prosperous merchant and foundation commissioner of the Melbourne Harbour Trust (Lorimer Street in Port Melbourne commemorates his contribution to the development of Melbourne's port) as well as a noted banker and politician in the 1860s.

Other notable owners or lessees of the house included the Austin family, prominent pastoralists, and the theatre director Frank Thring who leased the house to entertain actors and other theatre people. Although Greenwich House has been altered over the years, its basic early 20th century form remains intact as an excellent illustration of the lifestyles of Melbourne's business and political elite.

Merchandise for Sale to Financial Members only

Stores@nwqld.org.au

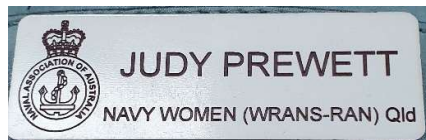
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld has a 'uniform' so that we can present a uniform appearance when gathered as a group.

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 ^^



JB POLO SHIRTS with EMBROIDERY on right side

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.



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.



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



Calendar Of Events – subject to changes

Date	Event	Notes
28 September	Service@ Jack Southbank NAA(Q)	Honouring Tobruk Ferries
8 October	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL Please wear something PINK Raffle money to Breast Cancer	Pink Sunday Breast Cancer Fundraising and Guest Speaker – afternoon tea provided
12 October	CESWA Bi-monthly OGM	Delegates attend
14 October	Bayside Annual Ladies Dine-In Night	See Poster page 6 -
20-23 October	Hervey Bay Birthday weekend	
21 Oct 2023	HB 39 th Birthday Luncheon \$75	
22-24 October	All Navy Reunion Maroochydore	Held in Maroochydore RSL
26 October	Service@Jack Southbank NAA(Q)	Honouring ships in Battle of Leyte Gulf
4 November	Navy Women Annual Reunion Luncheon	Tattersalls Club Brisbane
11 November	Remembrance Day Service	Shrine of Remembrance Brisbane
12 November	Navy Women Qld GM	
30 November	Service@Jack Southbank NAA(Q)	Honouring HMAS Sydney crew
10 December	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Xmas Party
14 December	CESWA GM	Final meeting for 2023 with Secret Santa
3 February 2024	60 th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Navy Women Qld Luncheon and book launch	Geebung RSL
11 Feb 2024	Navy Women AGM & OGM	Geebung RSL

Diamond Jubilee

The Sub-Section began as the *WRANS Sub-Section in Queensland* until 2015, when it was changed to our current name to include women who served in the RAN.

1. **The Diamond Jubilee Luncheon** has been planned for **Saturday 3 February 2024** at the Geebung RSL.
2. **A Book “Then and Now, Our Diamond Jubilee”** will be released at the Luncheon, celebrating the life of our members over the last sixty years. The book is planned to be about 350 pages with colour photos and it is expected that the book may cost about \$75 each. More to come via the Secretary and emails. Please ensure you check your entry and ensure it is correct and accurate with your photo of choice.

Camaraderie with Liz

Beerwah Gathering - Lunch

A group of ladies met at Beerwah for lunch during August, some travelling from the Sunshine Coast, Caboolture and surrounding areas.

Gold Coast Brunch

Tuesday before the third Wednesday each month
In June, the Ladies met at The Grand Apartments, Labrador, with *Sylvia, Jan, Pat & Jan, Lorrae, Barbara, Wendy, Glenys, Ann, June, Liz, Jackie, Glenda, Lorraine.*



In July, a number of ladies from the Gold Coast, Caboolture and Forest Lake celebrated Christmas in July at The Globe Trotters Café, Mudgeeraba. Lunch was pre-ordered so there were no delays. Everyone enjoyed the day and lunch was delicious.>> >>>

Camaraderie with Liz

Morayfield Lunch

Lunch at Morayfield with our sister ex-service ladies was held on the second Monday of each month. The usual ladies attended.



Defence Women at June, July & August



Donna, Tanya, Lorrae, Gayle, Liz, Jackie, Anne, Jan, Glenda, Pat & Jan, Lorraine, Glenys, Wendy

Gold Coast Brunch *continued*

In August, the Gold Coast brunch was held at the Spit Kiosk, another favourite meeting place.

*Glenda, Lorraine, Jan, Gayle, Sylvia,
Jackie, Glenys, Lorrae, Anne*



**NAVY WOMEN
(WRANS-RAN) QLD
ANNUAL REUNION
LUNCHEON
2023**

**All ex-Navy
(and currently serving)
Navy ladies are
invited and welcomed**

**Saturday, 4 November,
2023**

11.30am for 12pm

**Tattersalls Club,
206 Edward Street, Brisbane**

(Entrance also by Tattersalls Arcade at
bottom end of Queen Street Mall.)

**NWQ Full Member \$35
Social & Club Members \$50
Life Members & WWII Vets \$10
Non-Members \$70**

Lots of raffle prizes



Beautiful 2 course lunch

Great company!!

Drinks available at bar



Please advise the Secretary when
booking of any special dietary requirements

**RSVP is required, with payment,
before 20 October to:**

**The Secretary (Judy Prewett)
112 Cocos Dr, NINGI Q 4511
Phone: 0419 877 594
Email: secretary@nwqld.org.au**

Non-members who are first time
attendees please contact Secretary
to give your details for name tags

Bank Transfer
Acc. Name: Navy Women (WRANS-RAN)
Old BSB No.: 124 002
Acc. No.: 22446885
Ref: (Surname) Lunch



**There is no prize,
just the fun of wearing
your beautiful chapeau**

The fees for 2024 are coming due. You are welcome to pay it with your Lunch payment. One payment is all that is required if paying together. **The Membership Fees** for 2024 are shown on the back page of this Newsletter.

Social Membership is available to any Navy Woman who is a FULL member of another NAA Sub-Section.

Club Membership is available to any Navy Woman who wants to be included in our Newsletters, events and are unable to regularly attend meetings. The Club member cannot hold a position on the NAA National; NAA(Q) State Section or NW(Q) Sub-Section nor can they vote. They do not receive National or State recognition.

Golden Members are included in the Life Members & WWII Vets. All carers are the same price as the member.

Community

RSL Geebung High Tea

The highlight for the period since the last Newsletter was the High Tea at Geebung RSL. The High Tea was organised by the Geebung RSL Women's Auxiliary. A

large contingent of Navy Women attended and one table managed to win a number of prizes. Apart from the raffles, a delicious array of eats were distributed to all those who attended. The general consensus was that everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a great day.



The noise from nearly a hundred women was deafening.

The raffle prize !



In the beginning, finding our seats, greeting acquaintances that have been too long between catch ups.

Australian Coastwatcher Memorial Service in Brisbane

Second World War Coastwatchers were commemorated at the monthly Naval Association of Australia ceremony at the Jack Tar statue at South Brisbane Memorial Park (next to the Ship Inn) at 10.30am on Thursday 27 July.

Descendants of legendary decorated Coastwatchers Paul Mason DSC and Bill Bennett MM attended along with representatives from the United States, Solomon Islands, New Guinea and Chinese communities.

Coastwatchers rescued 75 prisoners of war, 321 shot-down Allied airmen, 280 shipwrecked naval personnel, 190 missionaries and other civilians, uncounted Islanders and 260 Asian people who had put their own lives into danger.

Apart from their intelligence-gathering duties, Coastwatchers also rescued stranded Allied sailors and airmen including future U.S. President John F Kennedy after his patrol torpedo boat, PT-109, was sunk by a Japanese destroyer. President Kennedy's daughter Caroline who is now the Ambassador of the United States in Australia participated in the ceremony.

A memorial in Madang in Papua New Guinea that's dedicated to the 36 Australian Coastwatchers killed in the line of duty says: 'They watched and warned and died that we might live'.

The QLD Section President Helen Yentch opened her address at the memorial service as follows:

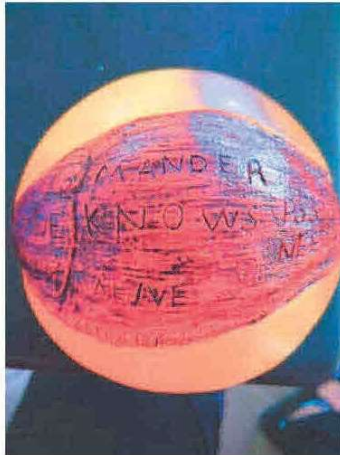
"Today we have three or more women have something in common. Rosemary and Elizabeth Gill whose father served his country as a Coastwatch-

er in the Pacific War; Betty Lee, Susan Peatfield and Alison Early - three relatives of Eric Feldt another Coastwatcher who we honoured last year and last but no means least, Ambassador Caroline Kennedy whose father served his country and was rescue by a Coastwatcher in that war"

Coastwatcher Lieutenant Reg Evans DSC RANR witnessed the aftermath of the collision of PT 109 with a Japanese destroyer from his hideaway on Kolombangara Island and reported the collision. The next day he was informed of the loss of PT109 with a crew of 12 in Blasket Strait, Evan's scouts found no trace of survivors the next day.

After several days Evans found one of his scouts awaiting him with the news that men were on an island between Gizo and Ferguson Passage who turned out to Lieutenant John Kennedy and the survivors of his crew. The scouts showed Kenndy how to carve a message on a coconut. Later Kennedy an the survivors of his were picked up and returned to Rendova.

On election to Presidency of the USA, Kennedy received a congratulatory message from Evans and Evans was invited to the US where he met with Kennedy and the PT109 veterans in the White House. A replica of the "Message on a coconut" was presented to the QLD Section by Ambassador Caroline Kennedy at the end of the Commemoration Service. In return, the Ambassador was presented with a NAA historical book and an NAA 100 year badge which she pinned on her collar before her departure



Above: The NAA Qld Section was presented with a replica of the "Message on a coconut" by Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, at the end of the service

Left: USA Ambassador to Australia Her Excellency Caroline Kennedy at centre with (L-R) Jim O'Connor, Marg Dean, Rosemary Gill, Helen Yentch, Caroline Kennedy, Rudi Bianchi, Pat Nuss in front of the Jack Tar monument

Photos: NAA QLD

A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

It was January 1971 when 3 fresh faced 17 year olds met at HMAS Cerberus, all part of Recruit Class 123. They were Christine Fraser from Victoria, Helen McCarthy from New South Wales and Bernadette Tom from Queensland, all RWRsBA's. Fast forward 52 years to June 2023 and Christine Clifford, Helen Hislop and Bernie Franklin, all now turning 70, decided to celebrate this milestone.

We all flew to Cairns, met up at the airport on 17 June and spent four days there. Christine travelled from Victoria, Helen and Bernie from Queensland. We did the touristy thing on day 1 and drove a loop visiting such places as Edmonton, Gordonvale, Yungaburra, Atherton, Herberton etc. Day 2 we caught the Skyrail to Kuranda and spent the day. We did not realise that Mondays and Tuesdays are regarded as Kuranda's weekend so it was very quiet, which suited us perfectly. We consider ourselves of an age where crowds are not our thing anymore. Day 3 was very quiet and we spent the day discovering Cairns. Personally, I was very surprised at the change in Cairns since I was last there. A lot of development has taken place. Christine and I did catch up with Choppy Visini (Ahmat) who now resides there and is very involved as a mentor to an Indigenous program for entry into the armed forces.

Day 4 was Wednesday, 21 June – Christine's 70th birthday - and we were boarding the Spirit of Queensland at 8.35am for a 25 hour train trip back to Brisbane. But we were doing it in style. We chose to travel in a carriage that had sitters that converted to



sleeping pods, all meals provided, a choice of drink for lunch and dinner, a TV monitor for your choice of movie, TV programs or music and had your "bed" made up and converted back to your sitter the next morning. Very sophisticated and comfortable (somewhat). That night was the night of the second State of Origin but as there was no free to air TV on the train, I had to rely on a gentleman in the pod in front of me watching on his device. He was a very excited Queenslander who was told by his wife to "shut up John" more than once. This win provided a lot of fun throughout the carriage as one of the staff was a New South Welsh man.

We had a reasonably good night's sleep but the train arriving and departing stations along the Coastal route tended to make you stir as did the "swoosh" of the carriage doors opening and closing as passengers visited the amenities. We lost over an hour overnight because of wandering cattle along the train tracks.

Christine and I departed the train at Caboolture but Helen travelled on to the end of the line at Brisbane. We are all so pleased that we chose to do this and we had a fabulous time and would recommend it as a real experience. And mostly, you are only ever going to do it once, so do it in style.



Mel & Peter McGoldrick

MEL TURNS 100 by Glenys Fraser (niece)

Myrtle 'Mel' McGoldrick (nee Mooney), is a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) nursing veteran, and turned 100 on 29 August, 2023. Mel was born on the family farm, 'Mooney Vale' in Taralga, NSW. She was the third child in her family of eight. Very sadly, when Mel was 11, her mother passed away at the young age of 36.

In January 1951, Mel enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS) and became a nurse/flight officer based at Laverton Air Base Victoria and Richmond Air Base NSW. She enjoyed nursing young men, most of whom were not injured by war service.

Mel discharged in November 1952. Mel says she thinks the RAAF is a great career for men and women and would encourage all young people to join.

In October 1952, just before she left the RAAF, Mel married Flying Officer Peter Gordon McGoldrick. During the Second World War, Peter briefly served in the Australian Army (Militia) before enlisting as air crew in the RAAF and served until placed on the Reserve in late 1945. He was called up again for active service and participated in the Korean War during 1950–52.

Mel and Peter spent a few years living in Papua New Guinea where Mel worked in retail and administration. They went on to have two children. Peter sadly passed away in 2003.

Mel lives in Redcliffe with her daughter and son-in-law. Mel used to enjoy gardening and horse riding. These days, she likes to read, watch television and spend time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She credits her long life to hard work and clean living.

Mel celebrated her birthday with family and friends who had travelled from all over Australia.

New Members – Welcome Aboard

BARROW Betty nee Carr - WR85037. Betty enlisted on 10 November 1959 as an WRMTD and discharged on 14 October 1961. Betty served at HMA Ships Cerberus, and Lonsdale.

BAKER Lynnette Alison - W114815. Lyn enlisted on 23 February 1973 and discharged 23 February 1984 as a POWRRSS. Lyn served at HMA ships Cerberus Coonawarra and Lonsdale.

BRAND Robyn (nee Allen) - R84415. Robyn enlisted on 19 March 1954 and discharged 29 February 1956 as a WRAN Tel. Robyn served at HMA Ships Cerberus and Harman. Robyn was a member in 1970-1972.

McNEILL Denise nee Howard W107469. Denise enlisted in April 1970 and served at HMA Ships Cerberus, Harman, Coonawarra and Harman. Denise discharged in April 1974 at the rank of LWRROS and is joining as a FULL Member.

RAFFLE

4 prizes – 2 Quilts and 2 Jewellery Boxes

DRAWN at the Sub-Section's 60th Anniversary Lunch – 3 February 2024



Double Sided Large spread 200cm x 195cm



Smaller knee cover

\$5 each ticket



Wooden Storage Box or Wooden Jewellery Box 1



Wooden Storage Box or Wooden Jewellery Box 2

PAYMENT by Direct Deposit
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld Subsection
BSB: 124 085
Account #: 22446885
Ref: (Surname) Raffle

Lorrae Johnson
Treasurer@NWQld.org.au
NWQld-Treasurer@bigpond.com

To defray the cost of the *Diamond Jubilee* book, we have four amazing items to raffle – all hand made!
A very big thank you to those who made them
First drawn has choice of item, etc.

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.

Eleanor Grace BAILEE (18/1/1924 – Aug2023)
Enlisted 14/1/1943 until 11/3/1946 Writer WR583

Hazel Fordham HEARD nee GOODMAN (3/5/1923
Brisbane - 22/8/2023 Perth) Enlisted 8/2/1943 until
16/9/1946. WTR WR840

Dawn Ellen Mary QUAID nee ANDREASSEN
(22/02/1930 - 01/03/2023 FNQ) Enlisted 1 October
1951 until 30 September 1955 Telegraphist WR4147

Ashleigh McGINN nee Bulmer (20/5/1949- 9/6/2023)
of class 106/68. Enlisted 11/11/1968 ROT - W103726

Gail Annette MANN died on 30 June 2023 in Perth.
Born c1955.

Robina Glades (Robbie) KING nee Granger
(17/7/1928-14/9/2023).
WR 4219, an SBA from 15/3/1952 - 24/10/1954.
Served at Cerberus, Harman and Lonsdale. Born in SA
but a longtime member of the WA Association and a
Lifetime member since 2018.

*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.*

Reunions

RAN Writers Association Reunion 13-15 October
2023 Sydney. Contact: scribes@ranwriters.com
www.ranwriters.com

HB ESW 39th birthday 20-22 October 2023

**ORA 2024 REUNION– FREMANTLE WA
Ops Room Association – RP Reunion** 18-20 October
2024

Navy Women National Reunion 14-16 March 2025
Wrest Point Casino.



*Look forward to seeing more Navy Women at the
monthly NAA(Q) Commemoration Services*

Meeting Times

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

1200 to approx. 1500

Geebung-Zillmere RSL

(323 Newman Road, Geebung - next to Geebung railway station)

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

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

Secretary@NWQld.org.au

Event:

Special Diet:

Subs: Full Membership \$40 pa from 2024
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**

December Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for next newsletter is 30 November 2023.

Please send us your photos and story for inclusion – what have you been doing, who have you caught up with, been on holidays or celebrated something special.

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.**

2023 New Membership: Until 31 October 2023

Membership Type	Initial Fee + Badge	Annual Fee	Total Fee
Full	\$5	\$19.00	\$24.00
Social		\$7.50	\$7.50
Club	\$5	\$7.50	\$12.50

2024 New Membership: From 1 November 2023

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



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.