

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

Joining Forces



Aug—Oct 2023
Edition 14

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the latest edition of *Joining Forces*.

This edition is a little delayed as your Editor took some time off but its here now. Please ENJOY.

June saw the SCESWA hold its Annual luncheon with the theme of Egyptian. What a wonderful day and such outstanding costumes. The Management Committee is extremely grateful to all attendees. The colourful costumes, makeup and the smiles upon seeing each other were priceless. Thank you to everyone who attended and those who were instrumental in its success. Photos inside.

WRAAC Assn Qld joined the Glasshouse Mountains Women United by Defence Christmas in July luncheon—and again it was a fantastic day.

Additionally, Bundaberg Women Veterans held their annual birthday luncheon in July and the theme was “Famous or Infamous Women”. Brilliant day. Thank you Bundy. Photos inside.

Caloundra RSL Sub Branch has a Veterans Ball in September—please see the flyer on page 5 for info. Wonderful entertainer this year, so check it out.

Our sister Ex-Servicewomen group at Hervey Bay is again hosting a weekend spectacular. Please see the flyer on Page 6.

At the AGM held on 3 August 2023, a new Management Team was voted in to represent the SCESWA for the next year. Let me thank each one for their dedication and the expertise they bring to this association. Their details are on page 14. Thanks also are extended to our members who have put their trust in the Team. It is very much appreciated.

Until the next edition.

With respect.

Lorraine Houlihan

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST—EDITORS NOTE

This edition is all about photos and events both past and future. Special mention of Irene Smith's 100th birthday. Please check them out and contact the relevant persons to ensure you don't miss out.

Lorraine



HONOURING A GREAT WW1 NURSING VETERAN

Alice Elizabeth Barrett KITCHIN

Maternal Great Aunt of Jennie Promnitz (Honorary Member)

Alice Kitchin was born at Amherst/Talbot (near Maryborough), Victoria on 19 February 1873, the daughter of William and Mary Kitchin.

When Alice was about six, and soon after her father died in 1879, the family moved to Melbourne. They lived above her sisters' dressmaking shop at 337 Sydney Rd, Brunswick.

As time went by Mrs. Kitchin became unwell and was looked after primarily by Alice, while she was studying and practicing as a nurse.

Alice studied nursing at Royal Melbourne Hospital and became a registered nurse in 1901 when she was 28. She also gained a qualification in infectious diseases in 1906.

A year later she joined the Australian Army Nursing Service Reserves, which was formed to provide volunteer civilian nurses in the event of a national emergency.

At the age of 41, she enlisted with the 1st Australian General Hospital on 26 September 1914. (The family are aware that Alice lowered her date of birth as at 41 she would have been considered too old to enlist). She and five other nurses sailed with the 8th Battalion (Australia) aboard the *HMAT Benalla* on 19 October 1914, bound for Egypt. They arrived in December 1914. Alice ended up nursing many men from the 8th as they fought at Gallipoli and in France.

Her first role was at the 2nd Australian General Hospital at Mena, 19km from Cairo at the foot of the Pyramids, in February 1915.

Alice transferred to the 1st Australian General Hospital which was set up in the Palace Hotel at Heliopolis. The hospital matron, Jane Bell, was a colleague from Alice's days at Royal Melbourne Hospital.

*Heliopolis Palace occupied by 1st Australian General Hospital (LAGH).
AWM P00037.020. Heliopolis, Egypt. c. 1916*



Tents were erected all around the grounds as space inside the building became scarce.

*The interior of the Auxiliary Hospital which formed part of Australian General Hospital (LAGH), located in the former Hce Hotel. The inmates were from Gallipoli.
AWM H18510. Heliopolis, Egypt. c. 1915*



At the end of April, after the ill-fated Gallipoli offensive at Anzac Cove, wounded soldiers began arriving at Alexandria about 250 km away.

Alice kept a diary while serving in the Army, and wrote of this time;

“By this time, perhaps all the men we looked on as friends have been blotted out of existence. All our leave has been stopped until further notice. Another turmoil of a day. I have charge of 42 officers, some of them good friends. The work is harrowing. If we had been nursing strange troops we may have felt it less, but among our own people the horrors of war are brought home. Almost everyone on the nursing, or medical staff has a relation or friend at the front, so you’d dread the latest news...”

In May 1915, Matron Bell offered Alice and another nurse the opportunity to travel back to Australia with convalescent patients. They both declined the offer and requested instead, a posting to a hospital ship transporting soldiers away from the front.

In June, they received orders that they were to join the medical crew on *HS Gasgon*, which ferried wounded soldiers between the Gallipoli Peninsula field hospitals and permanent hospitals.

Alice goes on to describe the horror of the situation in this extract from her diary;

“One wonders when the awful destruction of life will stop. There seems no safe spot for them anywhere on this rough spot, except in the dugouts. They seem to take their lives in their hands whenever they move out for water, food or air, or anything the crack of rifles and occasionally machine guns are plainly audible. Somehow, we never think of any danger to this boat, and everyone believes the Turks play the game fairly”

In April 1916, Alice was transferred to the 2nd Australian General Hospital in Boulogne, France, a large, tented hospital, where most of the patients were battle casualties. Later Alice was moved to Rouen and casualty clearing stations.

Alice was admitted to the hospital in Rouen in December 1916, suffering from influenza /bronchitis. She was then evacuated to England on *HMHS Abordonian* in January 1917.

Once she had recovered, Alice served at Harefield and Dartford with the No1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital. Harefield. This hospital contained over 1000 beds for casualties from France. They were predominantly surgical cases who would be permanently incapacitated by their injuries. Here it was possible for special attention to be given to amputees before their return to Australia.

*Harefield, Middlesex,
England, 1914-18. 1st
Australian Auxiliary Hos-
pital.
AWM P00162.020*



(Alice is the short nurse)



Alice wrote in her diary on 19 October 1917;

“3 years since we left home – sometimes it feels like 3 centuries ago.”

A persistent cough saw her spend further time at St. Alban’s Convalescent Home for Australian Nurses in February 1918.

On the 21st of March 1918, the German army launched their Spring Offensive, designed to drive a wedge between the French and British armies on the Western Front before American troops entered the war.

Another extract from Alice’s diary;

“The Great offensive has started, God grant it may be a victory for us, though the casualties are bound to be awful for both sides... a great anxiety overshadows us night and day and one feels that for the few we know or belong to us in that awful maelstrom it is impossible to entertain much hope”

After the Armistice, on 11 November 1918, Alice successfully applied for education leave to attend a course at the Royal Sanitary Institute in Buckingham Palace Rd, London.

On her return home, Alice joined the nursing staff aboard *HS Kanowna*, on 28 August 1919, arriving back in Melbourne, Australia, on the 23rd of October. She was discharged from service on 5 March 1920.

Alice was awarded the 1914-15 Star medal, the British War medal and the Victory medal. Alice died on 17 June 1950, aged 77, whilst living in Edithvale, Victoria.

She is buried at Melbourne General Cemetery.

Alice’s diaries and photos are kept in the Victorian State Library.

*This picture is of Alice at Ward 19 Harefield
No 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Middlesex, England
(Alice is the short nurse)*



AWAS Irene Smith—Life Member of SCESWA turned 100 YEARS of AGE on 5 August 2023



Enlistment in the AWAS



Irene enjoying her 100th birthday cake



Receiving Life Membership 5 Dec 2013



Family photos of Irene through her life time



Birthday gift from members SCESWA



Irene received letters of congratulations from the Governor General, QLD Governor, Prime Minister, Minister for DVA and HRH King Charles. Plus Irene's loving family.



Jan and Lorraine had the great honour of being asked to attend Irene's 100th birthday celebration. Such a special day.

The Caloundra RSL Sub Branch

President

*cordially invites the Members and Partners of
Sunshine Coast Ex-Service & Service Women's Association
to attend our*

2023

Veterans Spring Ball

To be held at the Caloundra RSL Services Club Function Centre

Saturday 23 September 2023

6:00pm for 6:30pm start

Dress: Formal with miniature medals

Canapes and drinks on arrival

Two course meal and beverages included

VIP Guest entertainer Normie Rowe and band
live on stage from 8:30pm to 11:30pm

Cost \$60.00 per person

Please RSVP to gary.phillips@caloundra.rslqld.net.au and pay by 8 September 2023

Payments by direct bank transfer to

NAB: BSB: 084 484 Account: 243796402 please reference name
or EFTPOS in the Sub Branch Administration Office

(10:00am to 2:00pm Monday and Tuesday or 11:00 to 4:00pm Friday)

Hervey Bay Ex-Servicewomen's Social Club

39th Birthday

Pres: Pam Lock 0409 629 387
Sec: Andrea Lesmond (07) 4124 0614
Treas: Julie Chapple 0407 766 545

P.O Box 3339
Hervey Bay Qld 4655
judulie@gmail.com



Friday 20TH OCTOBER

"Casual"

Friday night get together

RSL in Hervey House

5.30pm for 6.00pm Start

Cost: \$25

(Limited drinks and nibbles included)

Saturday 21st OCTOBER

"Colour Colour Colour"

Saturday Luncheon

RSL in Hervey House

11.30am for 12.00pm Start

Cost: \$40

(Limited drinks included)

Sunday 22nd OCTOBER

Indicate interest

Numbers needed &

will advise of details

at a later date.

Cost: TBC

This year we want you to wear your
FAVOURITE COLOUR!

Partners are most welcome. We can't wait to see you there.

The Courtesy Bus is available for transport to the RSL Club
for the Friday night function and Saturday Luncheon.

Phone: 1300 775 287 to book.

Breakfast on Sunday 22nd of Oct 23.—Numbers and payment via SCESWA Please. RSVP 30 Sept 2023

It will be at Mijo's cafe Unit 9/6/8 Liuzzi St Pialba, they are opening exclusively for us for 8 o'clock We will be charging \$10 each on arrival at the venue.

ON OFFER

SAVOURY MINCE - Mince in a rich sauce with vegetables, served with turkish bread.

SMASHED AVO - Fresh avocado served on Turkish bread with feta crumble, dressed with rocket & balsamic glaze.

BREAKFAST STACK - Turkish bread stacked with smoked bacon, fried egg, hash brown, spinach finished with homemade hollandaise.

YUMMY EGGS YOUR WAY - 2 Eggs (fried or poached) served on Turkish bread with tomato relish.

BACON & EGG ROLL - Smoked bacon rashers with fried egg with choice of sauce.

FRUIT TOAST - 2 slices Fruit toast served with butter & dusted with icing sugar.

PLUS--Cappuccino/Flat White/Hot Chocolate/Pot of Tea/Orange Juice/Apple Juice,

Pre ordering, would be appreciated, so let us know - it will help the cook.

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assn Annual Luncheon



Full Group shot of costumes—excellent



Guest speaker Zelda Gunn



Twins Judi Taylor and Jennie Promnitz



Judy Friend



Navy women looking fabulous

Right:
Jan, Judi &
Lorraine



Below left:
Libby Penny
and Judy
Friend



Eight Tables of fun





Fran and Suzan, womanning the front desk



Liz Grimes—biggest smile at the luncheon



Suzan Malligan



Marion Collins and Judy Friend



Anita Cooper



Fran Sinclair



Maggie Winduss



Group shot of costumes

Bundaberg District Women Veterans—Birthday Luncheon



SCESWA C n C—Caloundra RSL Sub Branch



Round Up of Events Attended by SCESWA Members

Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence Monthly luncheon.

Held on 2nd Wednesday each month at 11.30am. Next date is 9th August 2023.
Contact Fran Sinclair 0416013987 for further info. All welcome.

Bribie Island Ex-Service Women's Monthly Luncheon

Below is Luncheon for the Bribie Island Ex-Service Women. It is held the 4th Monday of the month at the Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bribie Island.
Contact Anita Cooper 0402 246 408 or any further info. All welcome.



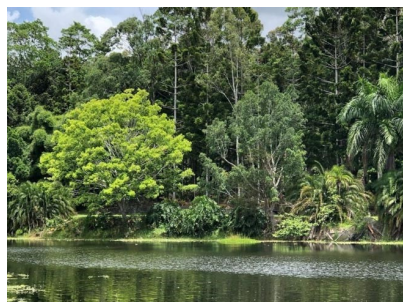
SCESWA Important Dates for 2023



18 May 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting 17 August 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting



5 September 2023-SCESWA Spring Coffee and Catch up, Stoney Bridge Gardens, Palmwoods. (Pay your own way)



13 September 2023—Council of Ex Service Women's Assn Qld, Women's Memorial Service, Pine Rivers RSL



21 September 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting



5 October 2023—SCESWA Ordinary General Meeting, Maroochydore RSL Sub Branch



19 October 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting



20,21 & 22 October 2023—Hervey Bay Ex Service Women's Social Group, Weekend



2 November 2023—SCESWA Coffee and Catch up. TBA



16 November 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting



7 December 2023—SCESWA Ordinary General Meeting & Christmas Luncheon, Kawana



BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST: IRENE SMITH (100), LORRAINE BANKS, LYNNE ZILLMAN JONES, MARGARET JONES, GWEN LADNER, JOYCE COLCLOUGH

SEPTEMBER: DEIRDRE ELLIOTT, KIM KEATS, LORRAE JOHNSON, JENNIE PROMNITZ, DOT KUNDE, JAN MCLAREN, BETTY POWELL, TRACY CASTELEIJN

OCTOBER: MO BARNES, MARION COLLINS, SAM MORGAN



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JOIE SCHEINPFLUG, PAULINE VAN BUREN, BARBARA JEFFREYS



FAREWELLS

PEG HADLOW—LIFE MEMBER (DIED 14 DAYS BEFORE HER 100TH BIRTHDAY)

Facebook — Combined Ex Service and Serving Women Australia

The *Combined Ex Service and Serving Women Australia* is a very informative site on Facebook for ex servicewomen and is independently administered by ex service women. Ex service women from all over Australia have registered and make frequent posts providing interesting information, military photos and fun ditties. To join, simply answer two questions relating to your service, and once the Administrator approves your request you will have unlimited access to other Combined Ex Service Women Australia's members posts, photos and importantly all events that are coming up for numerous Associations throughout Australia. Whilst this Facebook site is not part of our Association, the committee ensures that all events relating to the SCESWA are recorded on this site.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2023-24

Executive

President: Lorraine Houlihan, Phone: 0408 126 710, Email: president.sceswa@gmail.com

Vice President: Deirdre Elliott, Phone: 0408 222 592, Email: deirdre_colin@bigpond.com

Secretary: Jan Thorne, Phone: 0410 448 433, Email: thornejl@hotmail.com

Asst Secretary: Chris Birch, Phone 0403905023, Email: christinebirch52@gmail.com

Treasurer: Judi Taylor, Phone: 0430 597 836, Email: judimtaylor@gmail.com

Committee members

Health & Well-Being: Vacant

Events Co-ordinator: Deirdre Elliott, Phone: 0408 222 592, Email: deirdre_colin@bigpond.com

Membership Officer: Jan Thorne, Phone: 0410 448 433, Email: thornejl@hotmail.com

Grants & Merchandise: Fran Sinclair, Phone: 0416 013 987, Email: fran@kandfspace.com

General Committee Members

Maggie Winduss

Dot Kunde

Newsletter

Editor: Lorraine Houlihan, Phone: 0408 126 710, Email: l.houlihan1@bigpond.com

Postal Address: Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assn Inc., PO Box 654, BUDDINA, Q 4575

Email: thornejl@hotmail.com

Members: Please note the change of email address for our Association.



BANKING DETAILS:

Name of the Account:

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women’s Association Inc.

Institution:

Auswide Bank

BSB: 645 646

Account Number: 102736405

Cheque made payable to:

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women’s Association Inc.

Forward to:

The Treasurer
PO Box 654, BUDDINA Q 4575

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBS: \$15.00 per year

Membership payments Due **31 December** each year

If you wish to pay by Internet Banking,
Remember to include payee reference: Please quote your initial and Surname/Subs:
e.g. JSmith/subs

Payments will be accepted at the Meeting or Coffee n Catchup

POPPY SERVICE



Remember to notify your local RSL Sub Branch if you would like to have a Poppy Service or alternatively ensure you advise your family of your wishes.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS DETAILS

If you have moved address or changed your email or phone number, please notify our Membership Officer, Jan Thorne. This will allow your Association to continue to provide you with updated information throughout the year.

SCESWA BADGES & CAR STICKERS

SCESWA has three different types of Badges available to our members. We have Magnetic or Pin name badges. Please see Jan Thorne to arrange. Cost: Pin \$14.50, Magnetic \$16.00

Cloth Badges for the Grey Shirts are available to be sewn on by HIP Pocket at the members cost and are held at Hip Pocket. However the payment for the cloth badge itself is a separate charge and is to be paid to Treasurer, Judi Taylor. Cost is \$6.50. If any member is wanting a cloth badge separate from the shirt arrangement please contact Jan Thorne to arrange purchase.

We also now have SCESWA Car Stickers, Note Books, Bags and Coffee Mugs for sale. These stickers are available for \$5.00 each. Note Books, Mugs and Bags \$10.00 each. They may be purchased at all meetings and C n C and luncheon events.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 October 2023

Every effort will be made to use all contributions, but it may not be in the next issue.

Please send all articles, clear photos and letters to the Editor at the association address or email Lorraine at l.houlihan1@bigpond.com. We look forward to members’ input.

Disclaimer: All contributions are welcome. All care will be taken with material but no responsibility is assumed or accepted by the publisher or the SCESWA Inc.

