



Australian Women's
Army Service 1941–1947



Women's Royal Australian
Army Corps 1951–1984

AWAS WRAAC JOURNAL

NOV 18

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From the Editor

Dear members,
Welcome to our Christmas Journal and thank you once again for your ongoing support and valued feedback although more of your stories would be greatly appreciated.

If you change your contact details or circumstances, please remember to inform our Membership Officer Diane Sherry at your earliest convenience as it's not a good feeling to have our correspondence returned unopened and stamped 'not known at this address'! We do miss you.

This edition we reflect on the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Coral and Balmoral, Vietnam 1968 against an enemy not afraid to stand and fight at any cost.

We also look at World War 2 propaganda posters and their impact on the population during the war years.

Enjoy your Journal and have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Yours in friendship,
Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM

March 2018 Journal Deadline

*The deadline for all articles to be
included in the next Journal is*

FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2019

**Articles can be
posted or e-mailed to:**

Editor AWAS/WRAAC Journal

Postal Address:

87 Westmelton Drive,
Melton West, VIC. 3337

E-mail:

johnltreoar1@bigpond.com

— 2019 — Calendar of Events



DATE	EVENT
JANUARY 2019	
Sunday 27th	Bunnings Box Hill Sausage Sizzle
APRIL 2019	
Thursday 25th	ANZAC Day
MAY 2019	
Sunday 5th	AWAS/WRAAC Shrine Service
JULY 2019	
Saturday 20th	WRAAC Luncheon at Brighton Savoy Hotel

From the WRAAC President



Hello to one and all.

It's time to make a cuppa and sit and have a good read again.

Now that 2018 is coming to a close, it has been a busy year for WRAAC Association (Vic) Inc.

Firstly, our congratulations go to our Journal Editor Jude Pinkerton-Treloar. For those who don't know, Jude was awarded with an OAM, Order of Australia Medal for services to the Female Veteran Community. Jude not only produces our journal but for many years was a member of the AWAS Association Victoria Committee as Jnr. Vice President and Editor. A job well done and greatly appreciated by all.

Our Annual luncheon this year was held at the Brighton Savoy. It was a great location/venue with views of the bay and a wonderful day was

had by all. Lots of catching up and chatting done by guests.

Some of the activities this year attended on your behalf were: -

- Killara Primary School in Sunbury opened an ANZAC Memorial Garden where a WRAAC plaque was unveiled in time for ANZAC Day where the teachers and children made us so welcome, it was a pleasure to be there.
- ANZAC day services both at Austin Health and the Melbourne march this year led by Margaret Dark. Thank you, Margaret, with about 20 other members. Thank you, ladies.
- Story Writing and Arts Competition at Austin Health.
- AWAS/WRAAC Service held at the Shrine. Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day services also at Austin Health.



- A Bunnings BBQ fundraiser.
- Committee members also attended several funerals for dear departed friends.

• We had some 30 ladies attend the funeral of our dear friend WO2 Cheryle Brown who gave so many years to the WRAAC Association and the AWAS Association it was a sad day to say goodbye to one of our own. RIP Cheryle.

• There were about 20 ladies who said goodbye to Jude Pinkerton – Treloar’s husband John. RIP John.

If you’re in Melbourne when the WRAAC Social group lunch is on please attend, you are sure to have a lovely day. (see events calendar). Many thanks to Liz Maclaine and Lyn Board for organising this event, it is a great time.

To keep this wonderful journal full of great stories we need your input. If you have a story of your service, we would love to hear it. Please put pen to paper or is that fingers to keyboard and send it off to our editor. (address is in this journal).

I would also like to thank Iris Petrass our Patron for your support and help throughout the year.

This is a wonderful committee who just “do it” “Thank you one and all.

On behalf of the committee we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year and please give a thought to our troops at home and overseas serving this wonderful country.

Yours in friendship

Carol (Hamilton) King

Associations

Contacts and Addresses

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Gai Cooke
Robyn Gibson



WRAAC Membership

We would like **YOU** to contact any ladies whom you may know who were in the Army (ARA, CMF/ARes) regarding joining the Association.

Please contact our Membership Officer,
Diane Sherry on **0408 553 412** or email **dishe1946@yahoo.com.au**
and she will post out the appropriate form.

*Annual Membership for 2018 / 2019
membership year are now due.*

If you are an Annual Member and have not paid your fees yet;
please do so as soon as possible.

If you have any membership queries,
or are unsure whether your membership is paid,
please contact our Membership Officer.



WRAAC ASSOCIATION (VIC) INCORPORATED



Certificate of Incorporation No.: A0051572X

PRESIDENT: Carol King

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Diane Sherry

UNIT 73 / 2 GREMEL ROAD

RESERVOIR. VIC. 3073

Telephone: 408 553 412

Website: www.wraacvic.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I:
(Mrs, Miss, Ms, Rank)

(Surname)

(Given Names)

Maiden Name (If Applicable): Date of Birth:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone (Home): (Mobile): (Work):

Email Address:

Apply to become a Member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association
(Victoria) Incorporated. In the event of my admission as a Member, I agree to be bound
by the Rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Cost of Membership: Annual Membership (\$8.00 per year) Life Membership (\$80.00)

(Circle Type of Membership required) Payment Enclosed: Cheque. Cash. Other.

(Please Circle) - Branch of Service. ARA. CMF. ARES. AWAS. OTHER:

Regt No. WRAAC or Unit/s Served/Serving with Approx. Dates

.....
.....
.....
.....

Nominated By.

Name: Membership No:

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO

Miss Diane Sherry,
73/2 Gremel Road, Reservoir. Vic. 3073
Telephone: 0408 553 412
Email Address: dishe1946@yahoo.com.au





CONSENT FORM

I consent to the following details relating to myself and my service history being published in the Association Newsletter/Journal and Association website www.wraacvic.com

I understand that this information is for the purpose of advising other members of my joining the Association and with a view to renewing old friendships.

DETAILS TO BE PUBLISHED

Service Number:

Given Names:

Surname:

Maiden Name (If Applicable):

Units Served with Approximate Years Served (Dates)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signed: Date:

ONLY THOSE DETAILS FILLED IN BY THE APPLICANT WILL BE PUBLISHED

DO NOT COMPLETE THE ABOVE FORM if you do not wish to have your details published. Your decision to publish or not will be respected without question

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY: Application Accepted. Yes / No. (Please Circle)

Meeting Date: Receipt No: Dated:

Annual Membership Card No: Date:

Life Membership Card Issued No: Date:

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE 2018

*Friday 17th August
at Austin Health Commemorating*

52nd Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan

50th Anniversary Fire Support Bases Coral & Balmoral

48th Anniversary Binh Ba

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of a 26-day long battle of Coral -Balmoral that resulted in some of the heaviest Australian losses of the Vietnam war.

The battle was a series of engagements of a combined force of Australians and New Zealanders numbering between 2500 to 3000 from May 12th to June 6th, 1968.

The fighting was some of the bloodiest that Australians had been involved in since the end of World War II.

We have included an article from the Vietnam Veterans' Newsletter dated July 2018 and we thank them sincerely for their kind permission.



Battle of Coral and Balmoral

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Many of those who fought in the Battle of Coral and Balmoral have felt forgotten. They feel the spotlight has been only on the Battle of Long Tan.

They argue that theirs was Australia's most protracted and costly battle of the Vietnam War. We think they deserve sharing that spotlight. Here's the story of that long and ferocious battle.

IN an attempt to influence the Paris Peace Talks, the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong launched the now famous Tet Offensive in May 1968. This time all efforts seemed centered around Saigon and it took a savage pounding as the South Vietnamese and Americans fought pitched battles to force the enemy to withdraw.

To obstruct the withdrawal of the 141 Regiment, North Vietnamese Army (NV A), 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) deployed two Battalions into Binh Duong Province near Lai Khe, establishing a Fire Support Base named Coral, (FSB Coral}. However, the base was only partially completed when it came

under heavy bombardment in the early hours of the 13th May.

Exploiting pre-dawn gloom and disorganised defences, the 141 Regiment NV A attacking in battalion strength, temporarily capturing a forward gun position during savage close quarter fighting. Later that same morning, however, the assaults were repulsed, and the Australians reclaimed their gun position.

1 RAR was mainly out on patrol during this first attack, so it was the troops from 702 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, with their machine gunners, and a Mortar Platoon from 1RAR, who took the



brunt of the first assault of about 250 to 300 enemy. A New Zealand battery, 161 Battery Royal New Zealand Artillery, also joined in from a kilometer away, and helicopter gunships arrived to add critical firepower to the defence.

The following day, 1 RAR was deployed to defend FSB Coral, while 3RAR established another Fire support Base - FSB Coogee - to the west of Coral in order to ambush along intelligence reported enemy infiltration routes. On 16th May FSB Coral weathered another heavy bombardment followed by another battalion sized assault by the North Vietnamese troops.



Again, the defensive perimeter was momentarily penetrated, but after a six-hour battle, by Artillery and 1 RAR troops, 141 Regiment NV A troops were forced to withdraw after suffering heavy losses.

Expecting further attacks 1ATF reinforced the base with Centurion Tanks and additional artillery.

On 22 May 1968 FSB Coral was again attacked with a short but accurate mortar barrage, terminated by Australian artillery and mortar counter-bombardment.

On 25th May the Australians at Coral assaulted a number of bunkers, that had been established



near the base, with Centurion Tanks supported by infantry, destroying the bunkers and their occupants without loss.

3RAR was then redeployed to establish another Fire Support Base - FSB Ba/moral - on 24th May, to disrupt the North Vietnamese forces along route 16 about 3 miles, (4 km), north of FSB Coral

Supported by tanks which had just arrived from FSB Coral, 3RAR and Artillery troops were confronted with a two-battalion assault by the 165 Regiment, NVA on 26 May. Just as before, the base was bombarded with heavy mortar and rocket fire. D Company 3RAR took the main brunt of the assault. Heavy fire from the Centurion Tanks and the Infantry soldiers, repelled the NVA.

The North Vietnamese attacked FSB Balmoral on 28th May, again in regimental strength. The enemy called off the attack after only 30 minutes, being soundly defeated by the supporting fire of the tanks, artillery and mortars.

The Australians then took the fight to the enemy with aggressive patrolling and ambushing, in the following days, until relieved by American and South Vietnamese forces on 6 June, when the Australians returned to Nui Dat.

The battles at FSBs Coral and Ba/moral was the first time the Australians had clashed with regular NV A units operating in regimental strength in conventional warfare. During 26 days of fighting the NV A troops sustained heavy losses and were forced to postpone a further attack on Saigon.

The Battle of Fire Support Bases Coral and Ba/moral was Australia's most protracted and costly battle of the Vietnam War.

Over the course of the 26 days, Australian losses were 25 Killed-in-Action and 99 Wounded-in-Action. The NVA and Viet Cong losses, although difficult to estimate because they took as many as they could of their dead and wounded with them as they withdrew from the battlefield, have been estimated at 267 dead and 7 wounded.

Unit Citation for Gallantry

On May 13 this year, the Minister for Defence Personnel, Hon Darren Chester MP, announced the award of the Unit Citation for Gallantry.

In a speech commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the battle, the Australian War Memorial Director, Dr Brendan Nelson, said the sacrifice of Australian soldiers at Coral-Balmoral would be remembered alongside Gallipoli, Kokoda and other important military events.

In an emotional speech, Dr Nelson relayed the personal experiences of soldiers who fought in the battle including the story of the initial assault on Fire Support Base Coral.

Veterans of eligible units for the Unit Citation for Gallantry are encouraged to apply directly to the Department of Defence, through the Defence Medals Online Application form available at: www.defence.gov.au/medals

Eligible units are:

- 1st Australian Task Force

(Forward)

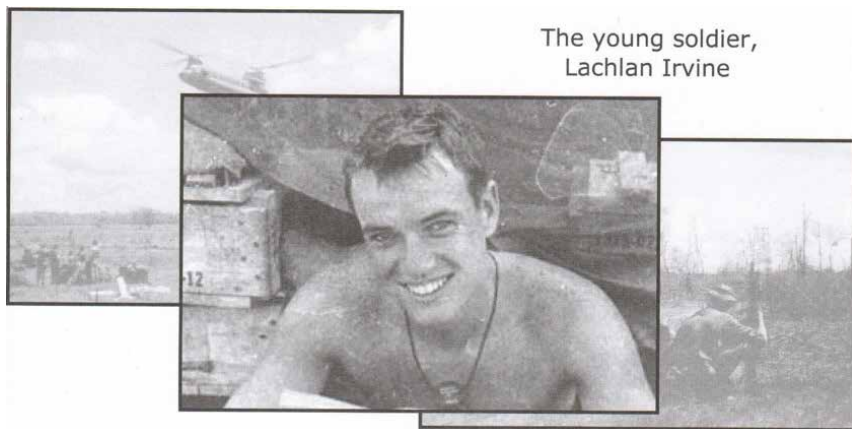
- 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
- 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment
- A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment
- C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment
- 12th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery
- 1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers.

Members of the below units who flew missions in direct support of the battles, or who were forward deployed to the Fire Support Bases, are also entitled to wear the Citation insignia:

- No 9 Squadron RAAP
- 161 Reconnaissance Flight

Family members of deceased veterans are also encouraged to apply for the insignia





The young soldier,
Lachlan Irvine

Lachlan Irvine's Story

AT FSB Balmoral, I operated a radio in the 3RAR command post, two hours on, four hours off, day and night. On the night of the first attack, after a shift on the radio I discovered my pit had been invaded by ants, so I was forced to sleep on top of my overhead cover.

When the first explosions woke me, I jumped into my pit. Then there was a blinding white flash, and it felt like I was being kicked in the head from every direction at once. Then everything went black and silent. I couldn't see, hear or feel. I realised I had, been hit by an explosion and I must be dying. It

was so peaceful, I felt like I was just floating away. I thought "this is not so bad, it's completely painless." Then it occurred to me that if I was still thinking then I must be alive, so I started biting my tongue until I could feel it, and gradually my senses came back. Remarkably the only damage was a small cut on top of my forehead, and I was able to get to the Command Post for my next shift.

Two nights later, when the second attack started, I was asleep in my pit. The explosions shook the ground and showered me with dirt. If one explosion seemed closer than the one before, I knew that I had to wait ... and wait ... and

wait ... for the next one. If that one landed on the other side of me, then I could breathe again until the next volley.

Because of my experience in the first attack, the possibility of my own death was now a reality to be faced, rather than some abstract notion that I didn't need to think about. I could die here, tonight, in this hole in the ground, thousands of miles from anything I had ever called home. I was an innocent country boy. I had barely lived. How could this possibly be happening? I could not identify with this reality, it was too absurd. The very notion that I could die here, on this night, in this place, in this war, was just mad. I remembered the title of a movie, "Stop the

World, I Want to Get Off." That was exactly how, I felt. I wanted this absurdity to end. If sanity made no sense, then I must be mad. Two nights earlier I had a glimpse of what it might be like to die. Now I found myself on the brink of madness.

In the end, what brought me back to sanity was the knowledge that I was not alone. Everybody else at Balmoral must have been feeling the same terror I was feeling, and we all depended on each other to deal with it one way or another and get on with our jobs. Whatever happened, I could not let the team down. If others could handle it, then so could I.

Suggested reading; The Battle of Coral Vietnam Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, May 1968.

Author; Lex Mc Aulay.



You May Have Missed This



Well done and congratulations to Nancy Ormsby on receiving the RSL Meritorious Service Medal, Victoria.

Our Land Army girls are so very special to us.

Women of War Recognised

Senator John Faulkner press release

20 August 2012

The Australian Government today recognised the remarkable women of the Australian Women's Land Army, commemorating the 70th anniversary of its foundation.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Senator Jan McLucas presented around 90 former members of the Australian Women's Land Army with a specially designed commemorative brooch in a ceremony in Australian Parliament House, Canberra.

"More than 6,000 women served in the Australian Women's Land Army and contributed to the war effort by working on the land," Senator McLucas said.

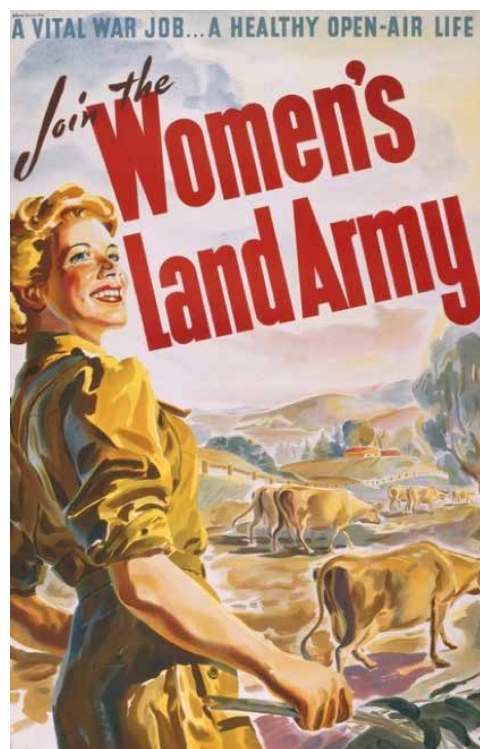
"Today the efforts of these women are being formally recognised and we are ensuring their service to our country will never be forgotten."

The Australian Women's Land Army was formed on 27 July 1942 to fill labour shortages in rural areas during the Second World War.

Women undertook a variety of agricultural tasks such as vegetable and fruit growing, pig and poultry raising, and sheep and wool work.

In the years following the war, members of the Land Army campaigned long and hard for specific recognition of their efforts. Their campaign was recognised in the 1980s with the opportunity to





march on Anzac Day, in 1991 with the opportunity to join the RSL, and in 1994 with eligibility for the Civilian Service Medal 1939-1945.

Senator McLucas praised the women who “shrugged off the stereotypes of the era”.

“You answered the call, put on a uniform and got to work in supporting your country when it

needed you,” Senator McLucas said.

Senator McLucas expressed thanks to all the former members of the Australian Women’s Land Army for their wartime service, and for the unique role they played in the broader history of women in Australia.

To help celebrate this important anniversary and the significant work these women accomplished during the war, former members of the Australian Women’s Land Army, joined by their family and friends, were presented with certificates of appreciation signed by the Governor-General and commemorative brooch to mark the occasion.

The women were also presented with “Serving on the Home Front,” a booklet produced by the Australian War Memorial that documents the role and history of the Australian Women’s Land Army.



This May Interest You

Veterans Helping Veterans

The Veterans Network, providing information to Australian Veterans, Ex-Service and Service Personnel. Reaching more than 12,700 readers daily and growing.

All Service and Ex-Service personnel can subscribe to the Veteranweb Network cost free, simply provide your Service number and Unit.

Information is provided via email from various reliable sources.

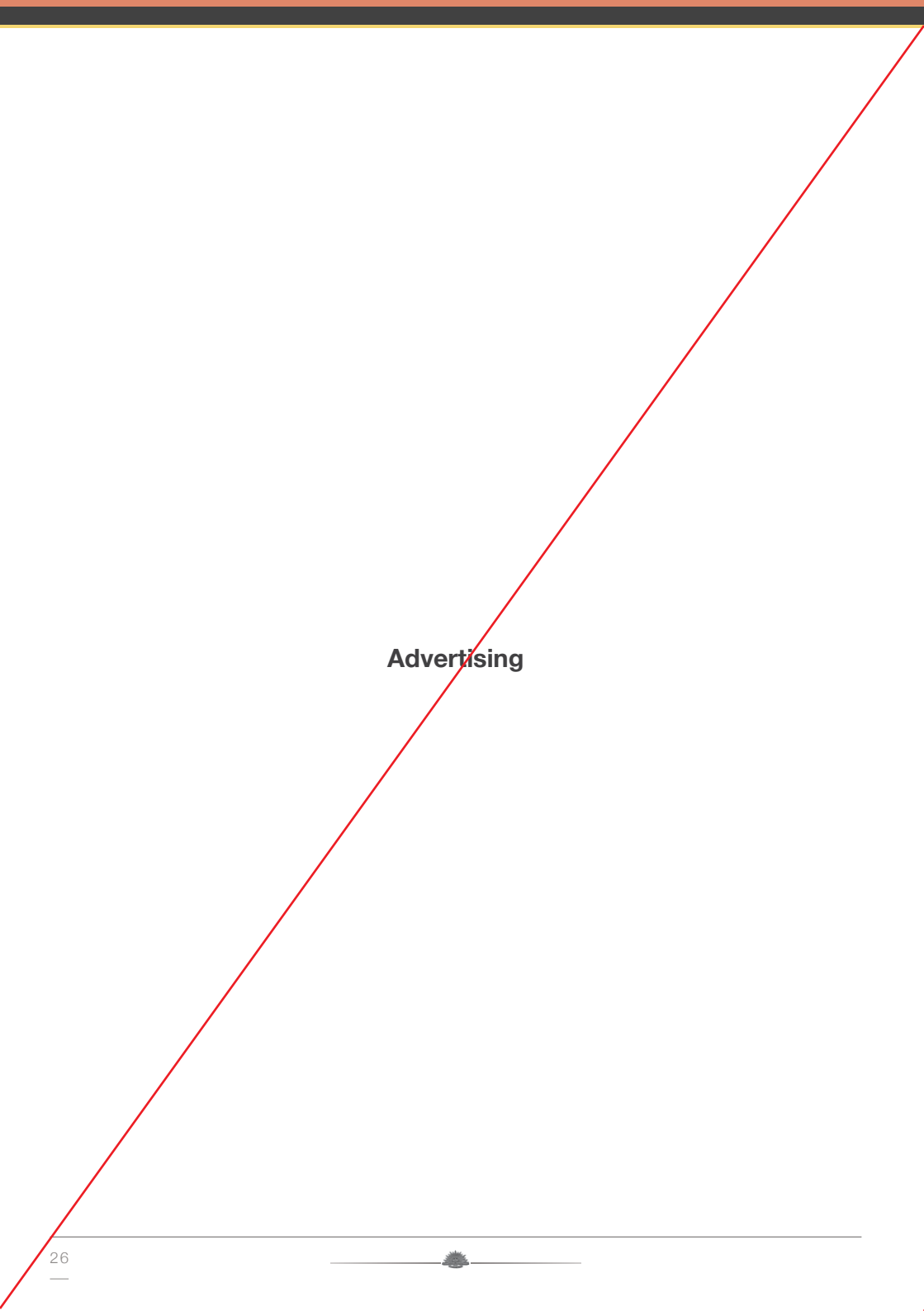
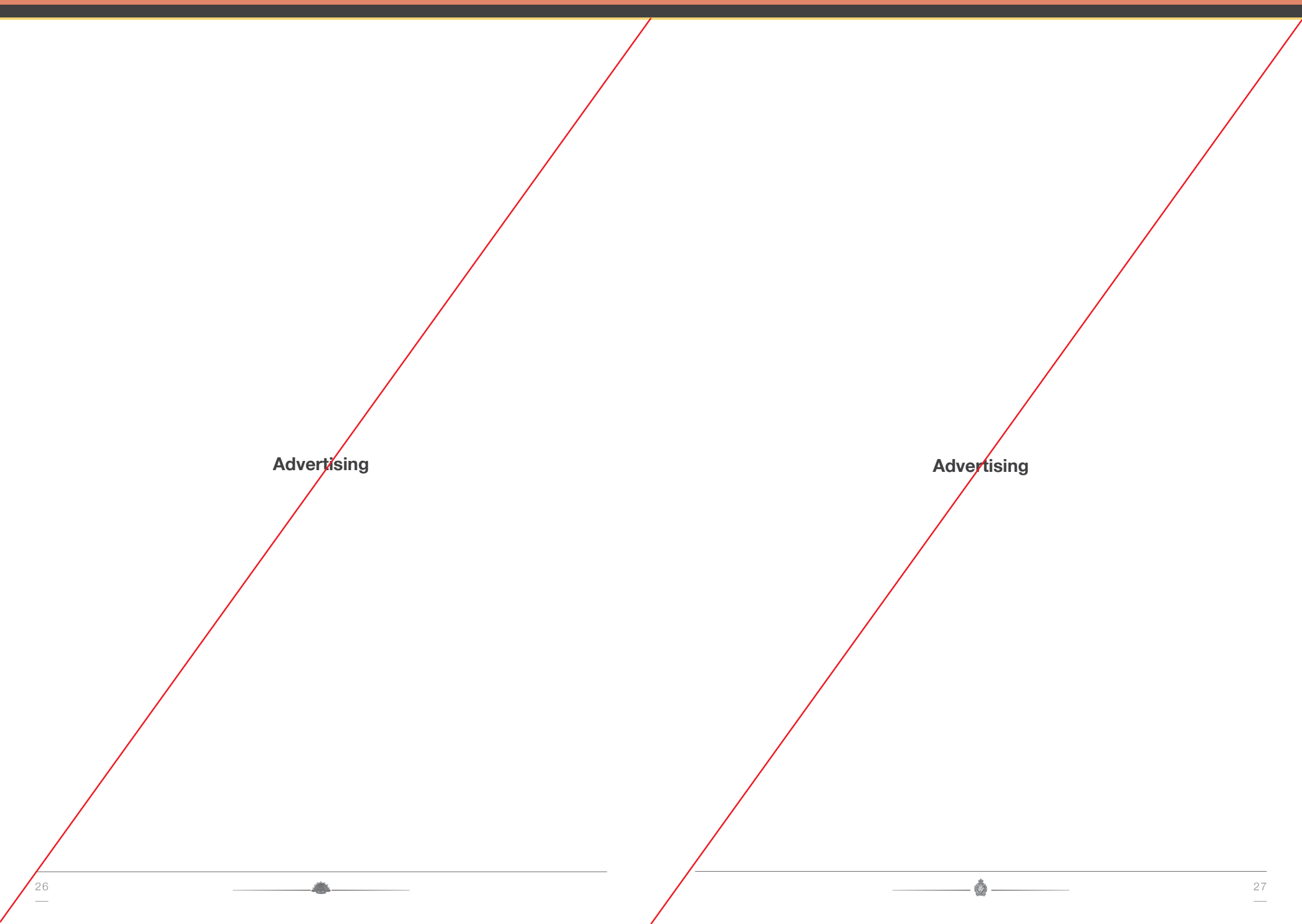
Veteranweb is an information service, while not a forum you are welcome to contribute.

Ray Payne. OAM Veteranweb Network

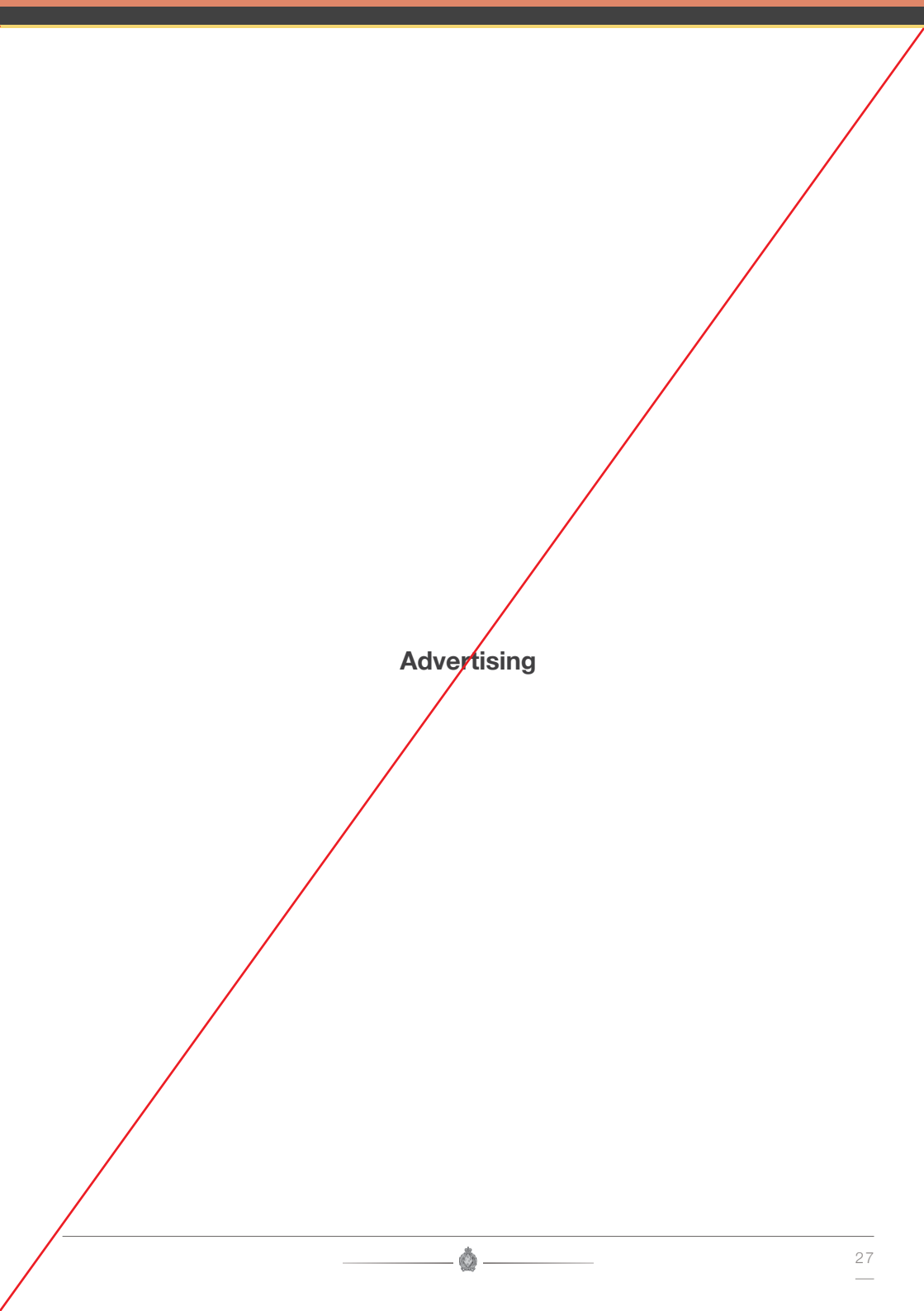
raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

Advertising





Advertising



Advertising



Advertising

Judith Ann Pinkerton-Treloar OAM



Jude (right) pictured with Margaret Jager (left) following the Investiture on the 5th September 2018 at Government House Melbourne



Jude (left) with her Aunt Betty Cunningham and sister Marilyn Bartlett (right) enjoying the day at Government House.

It was a special occasion for the family as Jude's Aunt Betty was celebrating her 90th Birthday on the same day.

WRAAC 67th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

21ST JULY 2018

A slightly chilly Melbourne day did not deter guests and friends attending the welcoming Brighton Savoy hotel situated in bayside Brighton to embrace the camaraderie that is indeed a feature of any WRAAC gathering.

The prospect of a new venue was daunting as we had become very much at home at our previous Brighton location. We could not have been happier, the view from the dining room of our magnificent bay was picture perfect with teasing rays of sunshine bouncing off the waves, leaving us with the prospect of warmer days ahead.

The general consensus is, the new venue ticks all the boxes regarding parking, location, service and catering for 2019.

The luncheon began with our WRAAC Banner and Standard proudly paraded by Margaret (Lister) Brown, Lorraine Onans and Sheryl English.

President, Carol (Hamilton) King welcomed all in attendance with Vice President Liz MacLaine acknowledging apologies.

We missed our dear friends who were unable to be with us on the day and we send our heartfelt love and best wishes to you all.

Our National Anthem was performed by Miss Kelli Brogan who also entertained us with her latest songs she recently recorded in the USA.



The main dining room

Throughout the day, background music was provided by John Stevens whose music always adds to the happy atmosphere of the occasion.

The day is always special when we have our much loved AWAS joining with us.

We welcomed, Dorothy (Edwards) Holmquest (AACS) Margaret (Matthews) Prowse (ESF Liaison AAPC)

Our Chaplain, The Reverend Bill Pugh was unable to join us due to



Our raffle table

the ill health of his wife Mrs. Lesley Pugh who we are happy to report is on the mend.

Grace was said by guest, Judi Bird.

The Association also welcomed More Media Group members; Justin, Ryan & Monita (Publishers of our Journal) to the Luncheon.

As another memorable day came to an end we all agreed to do it all again next year.





From left to right page by page;

*Kelli Brogan
Ruth Ogden & Sandra Magee
Cheryl Mcinnes & Heather Fry
Irene Lakeman & Val Jones;
Maxine Pettingill;
Carol King;
Gai Cooke;
Liz Salmon;
Luise Laudani;
Lorraine Onans*



FINAL RESERVE FORCES DAY PARADE VICTORIA

SUNDAY 1ST JULY 2018



The weather once again played a huge role in this our final Reserve Forces Day March with a large turnout of former Reservists / CMF in attendance. If the sun is shining in Melbourne, we have a crowd!

At 1040 hrs. the assembled marchers stepped off from Government House Drive ready to be on the Shrine forecourt at 1051 hrs. where the RSM W01 Danny Hill Ret'd handed over the parade to the Parade Commander.

The Parade Chaplain, Lt Colonel Rusty Adams lead all in the saying of the Lord's Prayer and paused to remember our Service Personnel so far from our shores and to those we have recently lost.

The Reviewing Officer, Major General Jeffery Rosenfield acknowledged the proud history of the CMF /ARES and thanked all for their service.

Brigadier Neale Bavington RFD ED Ret'd thanked all in attendance



and acknowledged employers and family for their support of CMF/ARES personnel over many years. It was a fitting conclusion to an end of an era.

Former members of the WRAAC CMF (refer pics) looked really smart and marched as if time had stood still.

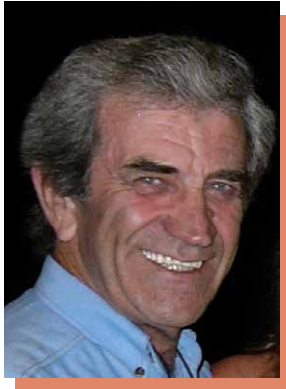
However, this feeling of euphoria did not last long as once the reality of age and physical condition hit home.

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM proudly lead the WRAAC Association in the final Parade with Margaret Jager and Heather Fry working diligently behind the scenes to ensure all was running smoothly.

Following the parade, we all joined together for refreshments and group photos to remember the day.



Hugh's Gift



With the ongoing sadness at the passing of the much-loved Hugh Fry in 2017 there has been a positive and respectful outcome for the Fry family.

On Hugh's passing, his family agreed that he would become an organ donor acknowledging that he certainly would have approved.

The perception that older folk cannot become organ donors is fiction with only last year 36 per cent of Australia's organ donors were aged 55 and over.

Heather, Hugh's widow said that the organ donation had a positive

change in her life as the feedback the Fry family received said four people had been helped in some way by Hugh's donation.

The fact that Hugh Fry was 75 years old and a smoker was perhaps not what you would consider the ideal donor, however, this is not an issue as we now know.

Organ donation is something to think about and discuss with your loved ones.

To register to become an organ donor, visit www.donatelife.gov.au

DNA HELPS IDENTIFY PEARL HARBOR DEAD



On the 7th December 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor resulting in the loss of 2,335 brave souls.

The remains of an estimated 338 unknown US service personnel who died when the USS Oklahoma was sunk during the surprise attack have started to be exhumed in Hawaii in an effort to identify them.

So far, the US Military has identified 100 Sailors and Marines.

Many of the unidentified deceased killed on the day were buried in an extinct volcano on the Island and the skeletal remains of many have been exhumed.

With today's use of modern forensic tools and techniques which involves DNA testing, the US Department of Defence has said all service members who are identified will be returned to their families with full Military Honours.

The Agency hopes to have identified about 80 percent of the Battleships missing crew by 2020.

This is of some comfort to many families that their loved ones have never been forgotten may finally return home.

Lest we Forget.



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S ANNOUNCEMENT

WASHINGTON, Monday.



*Melburnians awoke to this headline on Monday,
December 8, 1941*

President Roosevelt in a statement today announced that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor from the air.

(Pearl Harbor is the big U.S. naval base at Honolulu.)

The Japanese Envoy (Mr. Kurusu) and the Japanese Ambassador (Admiral Nomura) were at the State Department at the time the White House announcement was made.

Before the President's announcement, an Associated Press message also stated that reports from the White House declared that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

Early this morning a broadcast message picked up by monitors of the Information Department in Melbourne stated that in addition to Pearl Harbor, Manila had been, attacked from the air.

KOREAN WAR 1950-1953

Australia is pressing North Korea to repatriate the remains of 43 Australian soldiers missing in action and presumed dead following the Korean conflict in June 1950.

The United States of America has recently repatriated many of their soldiers killed in the conflict and Australia wishes the same for their loved ones.



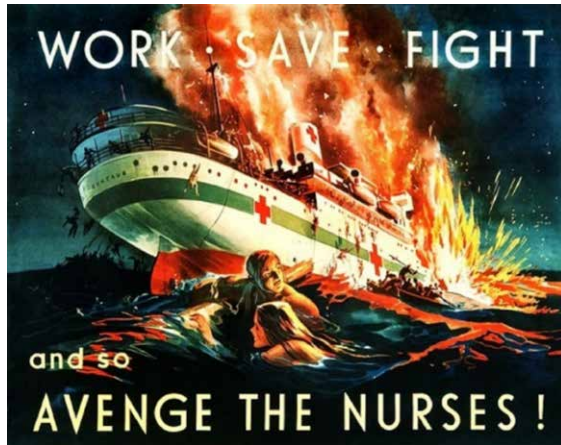
SANDAKAN COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE 2019

The Bendigo District RSL Sub -Branch will conduct its annual Sandakan Commemorative Service on Sunday 10th March 2019 at 11 am.

For further information contact the Bendigo District RSL on
(03) 5443 4013 Email rsldclub.com.au



PROPAGANDA POSTERS



I do find propaganda posters very interesting and rather annoyed at myself for not attending a recent exhibition at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery.

Perhaps it's the difference between a totalitarian and a democratic regime that defines one's interest in such things.

That is, one is free to believe or not believe the message conveyed to the observer without retribution, the other isn't!

Just imagine a Nazi poster in Poland during the German

occupation (1939 -1945) to a gender-neutral stick figure today explaining how to use a public toilet!

It is said that this chilling poster depicting the sinking of the Centaur on the 14th May 1943 sent waves of resentment throughout Australia's population and certainly portrayed the Japanese as killers.

It inflamed the population that innocent Medical personnel had been killed in this way and was a significant moment for Australians at war.



The poster is graphic with the words, 'Avenge the Nurses' makes a compelling case for fighting back.

Propaganda posters were a useful tool in boosting morale, recruiting the public to join the services and being aware of unintentionally giving away information.

'Loose lips sink ships' was an American-English idiom and rather effective during the war years and still relevant today as one should never talk freely about confidential matters.

During WW2 Australian propaganda posters and slogans enabled the population to be informed and to be fully engaged in the effort to repel the enemy.

Propaganda is an effective tool and today we see it in various forms through social media and its constant self opinionated view on every topic.

Oh, for the sheer genius of a Norman Lindsay World War 1 propaganda poster. Editor



FROM THE VAULT

*World War 2 and its impact on Australian women during
and following the conflict*

The Sunday Sun, Sunday, August 27, 1989



A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR WOMEN

By MICHAEL CAVE

PERHAPS more than any event in Australia's history, World War 2 dramatically changed the position of women in society.

Necessity dictated that, for the first time, women were represented in almost every area of the workforce.

As the country geared up towards a total war effort, the door was slammed on the widely accepted belief that a woman's place was in the home. Every woman who could joined the workforce did -- and was congratulated for releasing another man for active duty.

"Suddenly we had women working in munitions factories, as mechanics, driving trucks and in trams . . . in fields they had never worked before," says Mrs. Mary Canty, secretary of the Returned Servicewomen's subbranch of the RSL.

"The war acted as a great leveler in society," Mrs. Canty said. "Equality was not handed to us on a silver platter. We have had to fight for it on all levels."

Mrs. Canty said that women were accepted in their new roles only because it was widely understood

that men had to go to war. "But we quickly proved exactly what we were capable of doing," she said.

It wasn't simply a case of stepping into the men's shoes. There was widespread paranoia that, when the war was over, soldiers would come home to find themselves replaced by cheap female labor.

Prime Minister Curtin did his best to overcome these fears with assurances that men displaced by women would not have their economic standards "eaten into by the incursion of women as a permanent economic feature".

But many were still nervous.

The truth is that things never returned to the way they were before the war.

Women had 'tasted the independence and challenge that employment had to offer and would never be satisfied with anything less again.

War broke the shackles that had held women back for so long,

said Victorian RSL president, Bruce Ruxton, "I think the war was responsible for getting women out of the bedroom and the kitchen," he said.

Mrs. Catie Hewins, secretary of the Returned Nurses Club of Victoria, said: "There was great incentive in employment. At the end of the war women had seen what they could achieve - some of them had been officers. They couldn't bear to go back home and be on their own and be bored to death.

"The war really gave women a chance to prove they could do all these things they had been de-nied before. I guess you could say it is when the girls really came into their own."

By the time Japan entered the war in 1941, there were 2.8 million women working in Australia. They came from all walks of life, and many had never worked before.

Wartime work was not glamorous and required commitment and dedication. Mary Canty's war effort



A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR WOMEN

Continued

began with a few nights work each week at St Vincent's Hospital. She was paid two shillings a year and had to provide her own uniform.

To Mary, it was a small price to pay to share in the honor of helping with the war effort. She talks about being "one of the lucky ones" to be sent to the Middle East to do her bit with the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

Her commitment didn't finish when the war ended. She was recently awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her work with war veterans in the community.

On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the war, the thing that remains foremost in Mary's mind is the brotherhood and sisterhood within the services.

An Interesting analysis of Australian women during WWII.

*We can all learn from the past:
Editor.*



CONDOLENCES



VF 346719 Sgt Ethel (Calvert) St John 2AABP (POSTAL)

5th November 1920 - 3rd June 2018



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Ethel Mary St John on the 3rd June 2018 at Bairnsdale, East Gippsland.

Ethel was a former member of the AWAS and served with the 2AAPBP during WW2. Following the War her detailed articles were able to give us an insight into the much-needed communication between our service men and women and loved ones back home anxiously waiting for a treasured letter or parcel.

Letters did so much for the morale and the role of the PO should never be understated. Ethel was an extremely gifted woman with a commanding presence.

She was a teller of stories and would encourage you to push the boundaries and truly believe in yourself.

Ethel's AWAS uniform is now on permanent display at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne, looking proud and strong, just like her.

Ethel was also a local East Gippsland historian and a welcome contributor to our Journal over many years.

Our sincere condolences are extended to her family and friends at this sad time.

Vale Ethel.



CONDOLENCES

*F32165 WO 2 Cheryle (Howes) Brown
22nd July 1948 – 23rd June 2018*



It was with great sadness we report the passing of our dear and loving friend Cheryle who recently passed away.

Cheryle joined 3WRAAC Coy on the 4th May 1969 and served her Country for over 30years Following disbandment of the WRAAC, Cheryle was posted to Sturt Street South Melbourne as an instructor on the driving course, a role she really enjoyed. Following that she had Admin roles with HQ 3TPT Mov GP (ARES) then her final posting to cadets. Cheryle loved her service life and continued to proudly serve on both the WRAAC and AWAS

Committees for many years as a committee member and secretary.

She enjoyed her role with the AWAS as she shared the camaraderie of our treasured second world war veterans. The AWAS meant so much to Cheryle as her late mother proudly served with the AAMWS during WW2. Cheryle was farewelled by family, friends and her fellow service friends at her beloved San Remo.

Jude Pinkerton-Treloar OAM joined with family members paying tribute to a beautiful and caring soul.

Our sincere condolences to Ron, Ella and Rob, William and Jessie and the Brown family at this sad time. We wrap our arms around her fellow service friends as they remember the happiest of times shared over many years.

Rest in peace dear Cheryle.

W02 Cheryle Brown, you were indeed a true and faithful Soldier of the Queen



CONDOLENCES

*VF 388762 Elizabeth (Betty) (Hurtig) Davies
ASWG HWG*



It is with great sadness we report the passing of Betty on the 13th August 2018.

Betty served as a Committee member of the AWAS Association and made a valuable contribution over many years.

As a member of the AWAS (Special Wireless Group) Betty underwent secret training in communications and was one of a special group who could interpret Japanese Morse (Kana) from signals they had captured prior to sending them off for decoding and intel.

The shifts were 4 hours on and 4 hours rest, listening intently for any deviation as information was paramount in the defeat of the Japanese at the Battle of Midway

and enabled the targeted killing of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the combined fleet. The prime architect of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

In 2010 Betty and her fellow sigs were finally recognized with a service medal and citation from the former British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

Betty once mentioned to us that one intake of ASWG was allegedly told "Not only do you not exist, you never will have existed

There will be no awards.

There will be no glory for this unit'

Vale Betty.

LEST WE FORGET

*When someone you love becomes a memory,
Our memory becomes a Treasure*





Sick Parade



To all our members who are not feeling well, our thoughts and prayers are with you. If you wish to have a chat, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member or our Chaplain Rev. William (Bill) Pugh – Editor

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Due to lack of space in the Journal we have not welcomed new members to the WRAAC Association for some time. We will now rectifying this.
Welcome to the following new members.

Life Members:

Robyn Axton
Jennifer Willis
Judith Wright
Shirley Bohun
Joan Walters

Annual Members:

Mary Kelly
Patricia Keech
Maisie Moloney
Cheryl McInnes
Margaret McLennan
Patricia Anderson

Around the WRAAC Pack

Aranka Ullia



Aranka (profiled in Mufti) is one of a few female Sub-Branch Presidents in Victoria where she is the President of the Clayton RSL Sub Branch.

Aranka enlisted in 1977 WRAAC I (ARES). She then served with RAA and RAEME and discharged after 15years of service.

Well done Aranka, we are very proud of you,

Aranka is a member of the WRAAC Association Victoria.

Our thanks to Mufti.

MUFTI VOL.58 NO. 2 JUNE 2018



Around the WRAAC Pack

F31878 - Helen (Haskell) Wilson



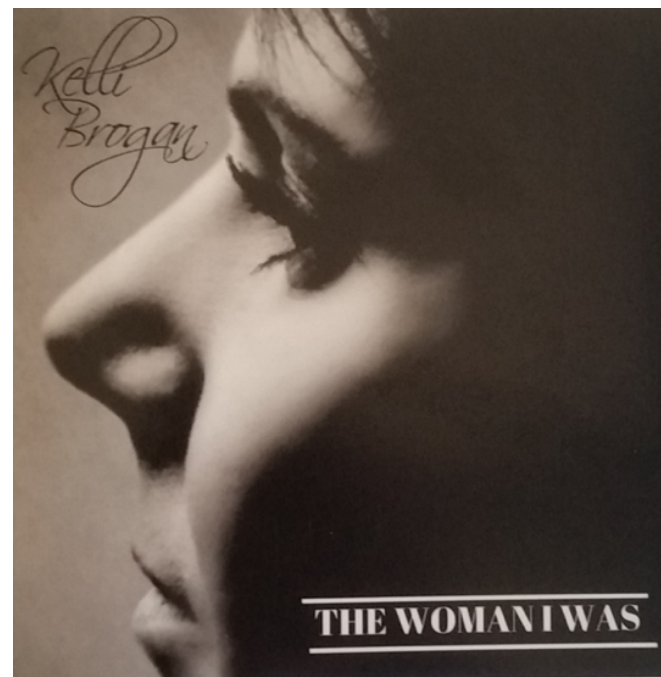
Congratulations and best wishes to our life member and friend Helen (Haskell) Wilson who is now a lawyer following many years of study and hard work.

We are so proud of you.

Helen enlisted into the WRMC CMF(Kew) in 1961 and served until 1966 as a driver with 399 Transport Platoon.

Cpl. (Ruffy) Haskell pictured with her mates Heather (Rankin) Fry and the late Shirley Morris.

Kelli Brogan



Due to the amount of interest shown in Kelli's latest CD we have been able to provide contact details for our members.

If you wish to get more information or purchase the CD go to Kelli's website at;

www.kellibrogan.com.au



100TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE DAY

The photos are of a remembrance wall seen recently at Melbourne Airport in International terminal departures area

