

Personnel doing art for art's sake

Pte Nicholas Marquis

ANYONE who says 'nothing can surprise them' should ask a colleague if they have hidden talents. They may be one of 26 Defence personnel showcasing skills including singing, sculpting and dance at this year 's Adelaide Fringe Festival.

An ADF Creative Arts Association (ADFCAA) exhibition at the Fringe will host a field of talent, including visual artworks by Maj Cassandra Brooker.

Some of her art is displayed at Edinburgh Castle via an arrangement with the British Army Arts Association. But the Fringe exhibit allows Maj Brooker to display her works closer to home.

"The ADFCĂA was really a breath of fresh air; military people doing art for art's sake. It wasn't all about the 'black dog', which seems to be the predominant narrative these days," Maj Brooker said.

"While creating is a form of art therapy for some, that's not the intent of the ADFCAA.

"It's part of their identity for people in Defence who just happen to be artists or musicians in their spare time. Maj Brooker has been an artist for most of her life, and in high school wanted to be an architect.

She has used her creative outlet to relax and meditate during deployments; and said to receive mentoring from any contemporary war artists would be the ultimate dream.

They thought they'd have to hide this away and separate it from their military life, but military lives are very creative anyway.

ADFCAA exhibition director Maj Cate Carter

ADFCAA exhibition director Maj Cate Carter, who plays the viola, founded the association to encourage creativity.

"People kind of came into the open and said, 'I'm secretly a dancer or I'm secretly a sculptor', Maj Carter said.

"They thought they'd have to hide this away and separate it from their military life, but military lives are very creative anyway."

Maj Carter said the association gave artists a way of communicating military experience with the arts community.

"This is just one way that we can meet in the middle with a common language," Maj Carter said.

"It's a way of seeing the professional military that you might not get access to in any other way."

The ADFCAA exhibition *Defending the Arts* was on display from March 1-10 2023 at the Adelaide Fringe.

Source: Army News March 2023



ABOUT US

Beamafilm is the leading Australian-owned streaming service for movie lovers to enjoy the best in ad-free on-demand cinema for free. Featuring the best in international cinema and a curated catalogue of almost 30% award-winning Australasian stories, Beamafilm supports acclaimed, independent film within a unique business model.

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THANKS GIRLS AND GOODBYE (1988) - SYNOPSIS

Thanks Girls and Goodbye is the story of the Australian Women's Land Army which was set up during the Second World War to keep Australian farms producing food for the war effort. The film uncovers the amazing story of the women who volunteered to fill the boots of men who had left the farm to fight abroad. This little-known story is told through the memories of the women who volunteered as well as the historical stills, news footage, home movies, letters and songs of their time on the land.

Extracts from the Curator's notes, Susan Lambert

Thanks Girls and Goodbye is a gentle documentary about an extraordinary time in Australian history – the Second World War. Most importantly it documents Australian women's wartime experience. By 1942 the Allied forces were desperate for food. They looked to Australia but men going off to war had depleted the workforce on the land. The answer lay in women taking their place so volunteers were recruited into the Women's Land Army. These recruits were given a uniform but were not part of the official armed forces. For most of these women, their involvement was the experience of a lifetime, changing them forever. As Gloria Gear, ex-Australian Land Army, says in the film, 'I often think of it as the best part of our lives and yet so many people were dying. A bit of a paradox isn't it?'.

When the war ended the men returned to their jobs and the Land Army women had to return home. But their expectations of themselves had changed. For many of the recruits the adjustment of moving from their jobs to the potentially more limited roles of wife and mother proved difficult. This was made all the more poignant when the RSL refused to recognise the Women's Land Army along with the three official women's armed services. Their contribution was ignored officially until 40 years later when they were finally allowed to march under their banner on Anzac day.

Thanks Girls and Goodbye is not just a 'feel good' nostalgia film. It explores the reality of how the Women's Land Army was exploited. Not only was the



women's contribution to the war effort not recognised until 1985 but the pay and conditions were second rate. One of the interviewees is Aboriginal activist Faith Bandler who, along with her sister Kath, served in the Australian Women's Land Army working on fruit farms. Bandler describes how all the women were in the same boat in terms of poor pay and conditions but points out that Indigenous workers received even less pay than white workers.

Courtesy of Australian Screen National Film Sound Archive website

annual general meeting

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

on Saturday 27th May 2023.

The General Meeting will commence at 10.30am

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

A voucher will be given to attendees for a cuppa and cake, subsidised by the Association.

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

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

Appointments of Webmaster, Editor, Librarian, Archivist, Wellbeing Support Officers,

will be taken from the floor at the AGM.

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINATED BY	SECONDED BY
President			
Vice President			
Secretary	Marjorie McShane	Paulette Randall	Kay Halford
Asst. Secretary			
Treasurer			
Asst. Treasurer			
COMMITTEE			
Member	Narelle Gourlay	Janice Thorne	Margaret Watson
Member	Eve Radford (WSO)	Desley Lingard	Mardi Seery
Member	Gwenda Smith (Editor)	Trudy Thomas	Cindie Manzie
Member			



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Have you changed any of your personal details? Please advise the Secretary so we can update our records. Change of address, phone number, email address or contact name and phone number in case of an emergency. If we lose contact with you, we may rely on ringing *your* contact person.

In the spotlight this Review

Narelle Gourlay - Committee Member WRAAC Association QLD



I am honoured and humbled to be asked to provide an outline of my WRAAC and Army career.

I enlisted the Australian Army on 29 Jan 1981. I thought I had applied for Direct Entry Officer as the Army were advertising for Maths and Physics Teachers. I was one, although I was supply teaching in Early Childhood Special Needs.

A 24-year-old naive girl, ended up at WRAAC School engaging in the full year of training – 1/81 Officer Cadet School. The year was full of highs and lows – more highs and a lot of fun times. My high was the Commanding Officer finding out that I had not completed my gold level Duke of Edinburgh award and only had

to complete the bush walking/camping category. Therefore, all my bush work counted towards the award. The final expedition was our survival exercise.

I graduated with another 18 officer cadets and 2 Philipino officer cadets on 10 Dec 1981. We continue to stay in touch through Facebook land and 7 of us live in the SE QLD area and catch up a few times a year. I graduated as a full LT in the WRAAC Corps allocated to AAAvn. I already had a pilot's licence prior to enlisting volunteering as a sea-air spotter along the coastline of NSW from Newcastle to Wollongong in 1980. There was one other female who was an Air traffic controller, and I was the first female in the admin/ operations stream.

1982-83: I was posted to the School of AAAvn at Oakey as the Operations Staff Officer (managing admin, pay, and school operations which included the aircraft and the air-craft handlers) and I also taught on the Pilot training course (admin and maths /physics /navigation). I held positions of secretary and/or treasurer of the Officer's Mess, Army Aviation Open Days, and the Army representative on the Carnival of Flowers Committee in Toowoomba. I was heavily involved in the community through other organisations and sport. I always remember the RSL told me they could not serve me at the bar as I was under 18 – a lovely compliment but I reminded them that I managed and coached the local netball teams they sponsored, and I was a member.

I was lucky enough to have the Army fly me to Kelvin Grove Barracks so I could meet my Mum and Dad to attend the Duke of Edinburgh Award ceremony – the Duke of Edinburgh was in Brisbane for the Commonwealth games.

<u>1984:</u> Aviation posting to Hobart DSU – Admin Officer. Tasmania was an Army Reserve state only at that time, with 127 regular Defence (Navy, Army, and Air Force) on the island. I travelled a lot around the state to Devonport and Launceston.

<u>1985 – 1986:</u> I was promoted to Captain and in 1985 when the WRAAC disbanded, I was kept in AAAvn. I was posted to HQ 6MD as SO3 Pers and the Army Community Services Officer. This included a variety of extra tasks: Staff Officer of Ares Units (MPs, Chaplains, Medical, Sigs). I held positions of secretary/treasurer of the Officers Mess, Secretary of the Army Open day, keeper of the CO's allowances, organised 8 military funerals for soldiers that came from Tasmania.

I had the opportunity to keep up my hours on helicopters when the pilots flew down to collect lobsters for dining-in nights at Oakey.

<u>1987:</u> Posted back to Oakey as the SO3 Pers on the HQ AAAvn Centre. I also completed the Staff officers Course at Canungra. I was supposed to be posted the following year to 1 AAAvn Regt but because I had an "F" in front of my number, I could not be posted to Field Force units. Interesting when during World War II, females use to fly the aircraft to the front line for the male pilots to take them from there.

I then applied to transfer corps – Education Corps – RAAEC. I was the only one that had not been a direct entry officer.

<u>1988 -89:</u> Now RAAEC, I was posted to Albury-Wodonga as an Education Officer at the Apprentices School. I taught: Physics on the Electronics Trade; Tech Drawing to the Building Trade; and Literacy/Numeracy, Tech Drawing to the Motor Mechanics Trade. I also tutored the apprentices doing year 12 through the Vic Tafe system. I was involved in the Officers Mess in secretary and treasurer roles; and coaching/managing the female apprentices sports in the community.

I went on maternity leave – was supposed to be 12 months but the RAAEC had other plans – I only had 3 months.

.../5

<u>1990:</u> Posted to Townsville to one of the Education Wings as the 2IC. I also taught Literacy/Numeracy promotion subjects for CPLs and SGTs; and tutored soldiers doing year 12 through the QLD Tafe system who wanted to apply for officer training. Again, secretary of the Officer's mess.

<u>1991:</u> This was why I only had 3 months mat leave, RAAEC wanted me to have experience in an Education Wing before I was promoted to MAJ and became the 2IC of the newly formed Army School of Education which now was the umbrella over all the Education Wings around Australia. I was engaged in admin, travel arrangements, setting the examinations and dispersing them; relief teacher for the Army Year 12 course (physics and maths); secretary of the 1MD Officer's Mess.

28 Jun 1993: I exited the Army after 12.5 years. At the time I got out for the right reasons but 2 years later, things changed, and I should have stayed in, I always said I was going to complete 15 years. I went back to teaching – preschool with special needs children and engaged in various community organisations.

In 1999, I moved to the disability sector, and I currently work in the industry having had various positions.

I always remember the positives from any experiences in the Army. My time taught me many skills some of which I still use today and gave me lifelong friends.

I joined the Association in 2021 and have had a great time meeting all of you.

TRI-SERVICE LUNCHEON

18 March 2023

The camaraderie flowed throughout the day in the function room at Geebung RSL. We may have been Army, Navy, and Air Force, but we are sisters in arms and young @ heart.

We were an over excited bunch of veterans this year, the room full of chatter and laughter catching up with each other. Eve, our MC, tried numerous times to quieten us down to start the proceedings of the day.

Geebung RSL Catering team, again, out did themselves. The service was above and beyond.

After eating our awesome food, it was time for the singing competition. Us WRAAC girls marched to the stage and out sung ourselves to the music of "Soldiers of the Queen".

However, even though we stepped up, the WRAAF girls took out the trophy this year. Well done ladies.

Until next year, Narelle Gourlay.



More photos on the website

From the President's Pen

It is great to finally see the **Victoria Barracks Museum** now up and running with their display on Women in Uniform (Army in Queensland 1899-2023). Together with Carolyn Paul and Marjorie McShane we attended the official opening on the evening of 24th February and enjoyed viewing all the memorabilia on display and networking with senior military women.

We discovered there is another Museum at the Kokoda Barracks in Canungra featuring Women In





Intelligence. I have been in contact with the Officer in Charge, Major Ann Connell with a view of arranging a visit for our members, more to come on this.

Our **March General Meeting** saw our guest speakers Kim Stanley (DVA) who spoke on the white card and Dr Susan Kellett (RSL) who spoke on the special services offered by the RSL.

They both provided a wealth of information and members were very grateful to Kim as she stayed on to speak to individual members.

Anzac Day, thank goodness, turned out to be fine, depending on where you were at the

time. Most encountered some showers at the Dawn services but while the skies were overcast our part in the Brisbane parade was done and dusted before the light shower passed through.



Thanks to Fran Sinclair, those who have access to facebook would have enjoyed the comedy of errors we had trying to assemble the banner. I did chuckle when I saw it as it was a case of what goes where. We got there in the end and I kept my cool.

The girls from 31 Platoon Delta Co., were a wonderful group of ladies and would be welcome to join us again next year.

Thank you to the members who marched, you did the Association proud.



Vale

Valma Constance Frith Membership No 8

(Val was privately cremated)

Rest in Peace - Soldier of the Queen LEST WE FORGET



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.

Army Museum South Queensland

presents

Women in Uniform

(in Army in Queensland 1899-2023)

24th February 2023 - 06 December 2023

Showcasing the rich history of women serving in Queensland, with snapshots dating from nurses volunteering during the Boer War, through all campaigns where Australians have served. Today, women are integral to Australian Army's capability. This exhibition covers the women who served, their training and military life.

EXHIBITION AND DISPLAYS

The 1864 Officers' Mess Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace, Brisbane

HIGHLIGHTS

Original uniforms, artefacts, photographs and figures Showcasing women serving in Army in Queensland from 1899-2023 Admission is free and includes a guided barracks tour, the exhibition, morning tea, a souvenir booklet and a group photo.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL



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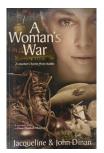
WRAAC Assn. (Qld) Inc. Caracana and the company of the caracana and the ca

"A Woman's War" by DINAN, Jacqueline & John documents an ordinary mother's view on the effect of WWII on both her family and her neighbourhood. It follows her everyday life in Australia; the issuing of ration cards, women taking over men's roles, working for the war effort in factories and her trepidation in fare- welling her twin sons to the European war. A good read, if only, to understand the true grit of the women who were left behind to work, run and "keep the homes fires burning", in a difficult time of Australia's history.

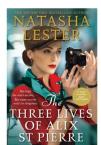
"Tears on my Pillow" by BIEDERMANN, Narelle was an eyeopener into how poorly indoctrinated, and with little notice, our Australian Nurses were sent to perform in South Vietnam in 1ALSG, Vung Tau. A few were trained theatre sisters, but not in multi-system trauma, and, the other registered nurses quickly had to adapt and learn on the job. The heartaches in controlling emotions, assisting in triage, exhaustive hours in incredible heat and conditions, the isolation and loneliness in a totally unprepared and culturally different environment had contributed to long term difficulty for many, in adjustment, on return home.

"The Three Lives of Alix St Pierre" by LESTER, Natasha is set post war, WWII, in mainly Paris. It is a story of survival of a young woman from humble beginnings who with intelligent talent and determination rises through experiences of bitter intrigue, espionage and high fashion to rebuild and create a new persona and a new authentic life.

"Radio Girl" by Dufty, David was an amazing experience, to read how gifted in electrical engineering this girl was; with so much natural ability. How she had to strive and endeavour to get basic recognition and employment. To all signals personnel, we owe her so much in her capacity to create training, jobs, and a future for women during the WWII in delivering training for Morse code. Fortunately, it was the Air Force who first acknowledged her entrepreneurship and later, U.S. personnel who encourage her to pursue both their and her goals.









Submitted by Joie Scheinpflug

Charity Fundraiser

Win this beautiful hand made Quilt by purchasing a \$5.00 Lucky "Number"



Ensure you purchase your number now or you might miss out! Limited to 200 numbers. To purchase a number or two, refer to Internet Banking details on page 10. Please include in the reference your "name/quilt raffle", then email the secretary to receive your number/s.

The Winner will be drawn at our November meeting at Geebung RSL on Saturday 25th November 2023, if not sold out prior. Results will be published on our website and in the WRAAC Review following the draw.

This Quilt was kindly donated to the Association by Jennifer Gilbert, Carolyn's sister. For those of you who have a passion for sewing you would acknowledge the amount of effort involved in creating such a wonderful quilt. Many hours of labour have been spent to produce such a beautiful result. It will make a lovely wall hanging or a throw rug for your bed or knees during the cooler months.

All funds raised will be donated to charity.

Thank you for your support, it is much appreciated. Good Luck!

COMMITTEE FOR 2022-2023

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30 Scrubby Creek Road, BROWNS PLAINS QLD 4118

WEBSITE: www.qldwraac.org.au

GENERAL MEETINGS

- ◆ 10.30 am
- On the 4th Saturday in March, May, August and November It is hoped that we will be having a Bus Trip in July and also an Event in October to celebrate Veterans Health Week details TBA
- GENERAL MEETING VENUE:

Geebung RSL
 323 Newman Road, Geebung

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- ♦ 10.30 am
- Bi-monthly or as required

COMMITTEE MEETING VENUE:

South East District RSL
 42-50 Oxlade Drive, New Farm

MEMBERSHIP FEES

\$15.00 due on 31st March each year

INTERNET BANKING

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 ◆ BSB: 124074 ACCOUNT NO: 23017767

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- * Borrowing time will be 3 months.
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- If you are not local we will try and make an arrangement to save a postage fee.

A list of available publications is on our website. For those who don't have a computer, ask the secretary, and a copy will be mailed to you.



Events & Functions

MAY

2023

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

Saturday 27th General Meeting 10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung

Attendees will be given a voucher for morning tea during the break

followed by the Annual General Meeting

Why not stay on after the meeting for lunch and catch up with friends. Geebung RSL are

supporting the Association and it is nice to return the favour.

JULY

Saturday 8th Committee Meeting 10:30am SED RSL New Farm

Saturday 29th 33rd Annual Memorial Church Service for Ex-Servicewomen

11.30am at the Ann Street Presbyterian Church. After service lunch will be at a cost of \$24.00. Advice, payment and request for special dietary needs to the Secretary no later than 7th July 2023. Free car parking under the building will be available from 11.00am

AUGUST

Saturday 5th Committee Meeting - 10:30am SED RSL New Farm

Saturday 26th General Meeting 10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung



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

JUST ONE CLICK AWAY

★ HISTORY ★ OUR ASSOCIATION ORIGIN ★ PICTURE GALLERY

🖈 ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION 🛮 🖈 UP COMING EVENTS

* AND MUCH MORE

DEADLINE FOR NEXT REVIEW

Deadline for the next newsletter is **16 July 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, reports and letters to the Editor at the association address or email **editorwraac.qld@outlook.com**

Your input makes an ordinary Review "Extraordinary"

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



If you have celebrated an Anniversary, Birthday or maybe a Lotto Win ...

We hope you enjoyed your special day! Whatever you were celebrating!!



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

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



FEES ARE

NOW

OVERDUE

FOR 2023

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 31 MARCH EACH YEAR







DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS & CONTACT NAME IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Have you changed any of your personal details? Please advise the Secretary so we can update our records. Change of address, phone number, email address or contact name and phone number in case of an emergency. If we lose contact with you, we may rely on ringing *your* contact person.

Care Corner

At the time this Newsletter went to print, no report had been received from Eve Radford, Wellbeing Support Officer.



Lucky Member Draw ...



Judi Taylor



Change of EMAIL addresses

For future emails, could you please **UPDATE** your email addresses and now use:

President: presidentwraac@optusnet.com.au Secretary: secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com treasurer: treasurerwraac.qld@outlook.com Webmaster: webmaster.qldwraac@outlook.com

Editor: editorwraac.qld@outlook.com

Thank you

WRAAC MERCHANDISE





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An "Opener" to help you refresh
A "Tape" to measure
A "Key Ring" to travel with you!

\$4



Lapel Pin \$8



WRAAC ASSN (QLD) INC



Pen
I can write
your messages
& I have a
"Stylus" for
your screens



Car Sticker \$3

