

# NAVY WATER

# Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld

Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia

Volume XXIII #4 Dec 2023

Happenings from September to November 2023



*To all our friends who are a part of the  
military service community.  
Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year  
From all at Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) QLD*



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**Meetings:**

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

**WR 2853 / WR 4301 Murielle Agnes McGRATH**  
was born on 22 January 1925 in Boonah to Alice Murielle (MUSGRAVE) and William McGRATH.

On 4 April 1945 in Brisbane, Murielle enlisted as a new entry and was allocated to HMAS Moreton. Murielle transferred to HMAS Penguin on 23 April 1945 as a Telephonist (Group IV) and returned to Moreton on 30 August 1946. Murielle was discharged (D.E.E) on 16 September 1946 as the war had ended.

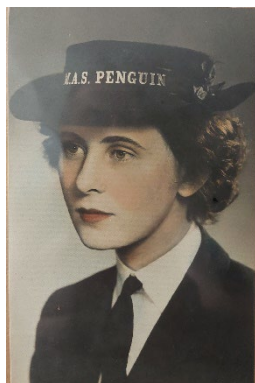
A country girl of Irish and English parents, I was inducted into the Navy by family friend, Commander Gaven. The Navy was unforgettable for me, and I served my country with pride. With many fond memories I also made life-long friends. After initial training at HMAS Moreton, Brisbane, I was transferred to HMAS Penguin in Sydney.

As a new entry at Penguin, I was positioned on the Telephone Exchange. Our quarters were 'in the bush' and I was stationed at the Watchkeepers Hut. One morning Captain Harry Howden, on loan from the British Navy and one of Penguin's 'top guns' called and said, "Look here get me Mr Smith". We did not have a phone book and with dozens of 'Smiths' in Sydney I was unable to think. I saw the Bosun across the entrance and called him urgently! Thank goodness! He knew everything and found the sheet of numbers the Captain called. Mr Smith turned out to be Sir Joshua Smith of the Archibald Prize.

I remember being on drill in the Quonset Hut, an enormous building designed and built by the United States Navy and used by the Australian Navy. We new entries were at least 12 abreast when the Drill Master said, in a very loud voice: "Left Wheel." Being on the end, I turned right. The Drill Master kept calling "Left Right, Left Right" while I marched resolutely and alone down the length of Quonset until reaching the wall. The Drill Master continued calling "Left Right, Left Right". I knew something was wrong just as he said, "What are you doing down there WRAN McGrath?" to which I replied, "I turned right". The Drill Master replied "Left Wheel, Left Wheel" until I joined my fellow WRANS.

Every second Friday was pay day! It was also "fall in" on the drill ground! A grand total of 37 shillings was the WRAN pay and we spent most of it at Cahill's Restaurants in the city. One day, Lieutenant Lowry, the Dive Master, decided the WRANS needed to know how to use the fire hose. I was with the first six to hold the hose and when it was turned on, this writhing beast threw us to the ground. Perplexed, Lieutenant Lowry left. He knew this wasn't our 'calling'.

Captain Howden insisted a dance be held in the Wranery every Friday night. To everyone's delight he would ask me to dance, every week, even though neither of us could dance! One Friday, the Captain announced that a Greek Prince would be attending.



We expected a handsome, black-haired, olive-skinned Prince. Not so, instead a gorgeous tall man in the British Navy walked through the door. I managed to get him in the *Pride of Erin*. It wasn't until a few weeks later that his engagement to Princess Elizabeth was announced. I have always let people know I danced with Prince Phillip!

We would often dress in our "civvies" before going to bed at night and pretend to be asleep. As soon as the officers finished checking the Hut we would jump out of bed, sneak out through the bush, get under the wire fence, and hightail it up the road to where our boys were waiting. It was then off to a nightclub and back again through the bush, to safety, having had a wonderful night.

I was in the last two big marches in Sydney at war's end. On discharge in 1946, I entered rehabilitation services in Sydney where I studied commercial subjects. Due to a family illness, I transferred back to Brisbane where I completed my studies and lived with my two brothers.

After this, I worked for the Australian Workers Union in Queensland, headed up by Joseph John (Joe) Bukowski. Joe was a wonderful man and loved sending his staff into the field. On one trip I went to the Tangalooma Whaling Station where I nearly fainted with horror, was unable to watch the men work or eat anything that day.

On 29 August 1952 I re-enlisted as a Recruit Wran Writer (Probation) HMAS Cerberus in Melbourne and was discharged "Free" on 19 September 1952, deciding that post-WWII there were new civilian opportunities I wanted to pursue because society was changing, and I knew I wanted different experiences and adventures. Subsequently employed by Shell Oil, I had a wonderful time in Melbourne, participating in the theatre and building new friendships.

At this time, the Australian Government was calling for young people to join the Career Service of Papua New Guinea (PNG). I accepted after passing the Public Service Exam. All personnel were required to go to the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) in Sydney, so we could learn about working in PNG and what was expected of us in living in this culture. Every month, a plane load of us would fly to Port Moresby in a DC Aircraft. I was inducted into the Department of Agriculture Stock & Fisheries and took up the position of Secretary to the Veterinary Head of Animal Industry. Too much to relate, such a life-changing experience!

With so many young people in PNG, it turned out to be a marriage bureau. I was captured by a fine Irish gentleman, Maurice James Ahern or 'Maurie', from Dublin. We were married at 6pm in the old stone Catholic Church at Ela Beach, Port Moresby. The Priest married us on the Alter in the church aglow with candlelight. We said our vows to the sounds of the water lapping on the beach and in front of our friends.



After our wedding breakfast, we were off to WAU for our honeymoon at our version of the British Raj Hill Retreat – seven pokey little houses!

We soon became parents of our daughters, Josephine and Siobhan. Maurie only worked with District Commissioners in PNG, and we had transfers to Samarai Island, and then Rabaul. There were many earthquakes in Rabaul and after an 8.3 and 8.4 on the Richter Scale, Maurie and I agreed it was time to return to Port Moresby. I got a job as Secretary to two Professors – Professor Ali - a Pathologist and Scottish and Professor Henderson who only dealt with 'bugs'. His office was a 'no go' area.



Just on 20 years of service, my dear husband was diagnosed with cancer forcing our immediate return to Brisbane where a large operation was performed. Maurie did very well for nearly two years but sadly the cancer returned, and our darling passed away. Our love for him is there every waking hour! With constant care I ensured the girls finished their education. Both travelled extensively, returning to Australia to obtain undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and to pursue the new opportunities opening up for women.

### Annual Reunion Luncheon – 4 November 2023

What a great day. From the singing of Happy Birthday to two members, to Certificate presentations, to our guest speaker, Jenna Shiel, Toasts, to our lovely Murielle Ahern's experience during her time in the WRANS during World War II. Murielle read her story (above) and it brought many gales of laughter as each one recalled the same happening to/with them many years later.

Lots of photos were taken by the professional photographer and other ladies as reminder of the day, lots of reminiscing of past days in the Navy, and, of course, the Raffle. Many went away with a prize and some missed out. Maybe next year.

The CO of HMAS Moreton CMDR Fiona Southward attended as well as the XO, LCDR Amy Braun.

Judy Prewett did a great job in organising the day. **BZ Judy** and her team of helpers for setting up as well as the ladies on the table handing out name tags before everyone rushed in. Margie did a great job as MC. Thank you Margie. There were the Raffle Queens, Pat and Jennie and their raffle gift runners. What a day and, of course, a great meal. Many went home tired but happy. Bring on next year's luncheon



Murielle & her daughters



Pamela & Helen



Kathy & Jennie



Liz & Helen



Kym, Smmie, Glenda, Christine, Christine, Marlene - RPs



Pat & Kathy



Helen & Cecelia



Margie & Fiona



Susan & Pat





*Michelle, Mary & Barbara*



*Barbara & Lynette*



*Ann & Pat*



*Barb & Lorrae*



*Maxine, Georgia & Jo Ahern*



*Jo, Murielle & Siobhan Ahern*



*Jan & June with Cath*



*& Jenny*



*Di, Sylvia & Jackie*



*Letty & Susan*



*Margie, Fiona & Helen*

**See pages 13, 16 & 21  
or more photos.**



*Rae, Jill, Irene & Helen*



*Anita & Robyn*



*Tania & Wendy*



*Rose &*



*Amy, Jenna & Denise*



*Sharon, Sandie & Liz - NAA I&WM*



*Sandy*



*Trish*



*Margie*



*Helen*



# Letter from our President



As I write this, my last newsletter item as President, I am reflecting on the last three years I have represented Navy Women.

The number of events attended has given me a great sense of pride to be able to stand as a representative of all women who have served and joined our Sub-Section.

Navy Women are well received and so respected by others throughout Brisbane in particular. Conversations

usually reflect service and the differences between past years and the current Service conditions. To be able to have had these conversations has only occurred because of my position.

Next year will certainly be one where fewer of these events will be attended, but there are still many that I will be able to go to as simply a member. I look forward to this.

I have attended quite a few Cadet parades and end of year graduation dinners recently, and I can say with confidence that the Navy is in great hands when the 16% of all ANC graduates join the permanent force.

I would like to make mention that Pat Nuss (VP), Cath Leung (VP) and Jenny Rathbone have been wonderful representatives over the past 12 months at these events. Claire Hewson, a LEUT at TS Paluma is also a beacon for her work with youth.

The camaraderie I see occurring on a monthly basis at different venues in all compass points, shows a healthy future for the membership of Navy Women. Again, kudos to those accidental leaders who take the time to organize each event so ladies can gather and chat.

I thank the current Executive Committee for their input and hard work during the past three years, but in particular, the past 12 months. The success of the Reunion is testament to the work and time they put in to ensure each event is nothing short of wonderful. Our Annual lunch attendees always go home with smiles on their faces and memories to relive at any future date.

To each of you who has had a part in organizing the many events during the year, thank you. There are too many to name here, but we know who you are.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. It has been a pleasure to serve.

Once Navy, Always Navy

Helen Yenich

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"

**From Then until Now** – the stories of the members of the Sub-Section in the last 60 years – available for sale.

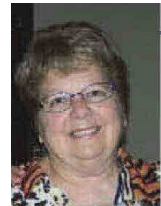
Details at <https://nwqld.org.au/news.html>

## LIFE Members



Judy Hunter

2001



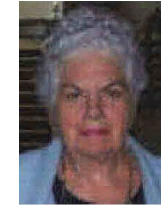
Barbara Snowdon

2006



Pat McKay

2007



Billie Lake

2014



Jennie Rathbone

2016



Pat Nuss

2016



Wendy Griggs

2022

## Diploma of Merit

Cecelia ASHE 2001

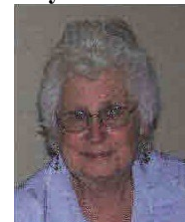
Joy MOYNAHAN 2012

## Certificate of Merit



Liz Grimes  
2021

## Honorary Member for Life



Joan Gilbert  
2014

## DVA CONTACTS

### Provider enquiry numbers

- Provider invoicing & billing enquiries: [1300 550 017](tel:1300550017)
- Provider enquiries: [1800 550 457](tel:1800550457)
- Transport bookings: [1800 550 455](tel:1800550455)
- [Veterans' Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre \(VAPAC\)](http://www.vapac.gov.au): [1800 552 580](tel:1800552580)

### Hearing or speech impairment assistance

- If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the [National Relay Service \(NRS\)](http://www.nrs.gov.au):
- Talk To You (TTY) users phone [1800 555 677](tel:1800555677) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Speak and Listen users phone [1800 555 727](tel:1800555727) then ask for 1800 838 372
- Internet relay users connect to the [NRS](http://www.nrs.gov.au)

### Claim processing times

#### Where things are at

In the month of June 2023 we:

- made 6,724 decisions on claims
- received claims from 5,146 veterans
- As at 30 June 2023 we:
- were working on 42,888 claims
- had 32,153 active claims not yet allocated to a decision-maker (known as the claims backlog), lodged by 21,164 veterans

#### During Financial Year 2022-2023

Claims lodged	68,306
Claims determined	67,817
Acceptance rate for initial liability conditions	74.0%

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

#### PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:  
[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800VETERAN)

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

#### POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

#### DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation:  
[health.approval@dva.gov.au](mailto:health.approval@dva.gov.au)

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/servicesrequiring-prior-approval>

#### CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit:  
[www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim](http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim)

Claim Enquiries: 1300 550 017  
(Option 2 Allied Health)

Claims will take a variety of times to complete based on whether or not the claim is prioritised for allocation to a decision maker and the complexity of the claim itself. For example, if the service of the individual crosses two or more Acts or contains a lot of health conditions and injuries or both. This results in some claims being decided faster than the average time, while some claims take longer.

For any condition, to make the claiming process smoother, follow these 3 steps:

- **Step 1:** Get your medical practitioner to confirm your diagnosis.
- **Step 2:** Supply the documents you need to;
- **Step 3:** Check if you are already eligible for free health care and treatment.

**OPEN**  
Veterans & Families  
Counselling  
**ARMS**  
1800 011 046



**SAFE ZONE  
SUPPORT**  
FREE ANONYMOUS  
COUNSELLING LINE  
CALL 1800 142 072

Defence  
Family  
Helpline



1800 624 608

Defence  
All-hours  
Support Line



1800 628 036



## *Around the Traps with Liz*

### *Commemoration*

#### *Jack Memorial Service*

The Jack service in September acknowledged the Tobruk Ferries including HMAS Parramatta.

In October, the Jack service acknowledged the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

November was the last with the sinking of HMAS Sydney (II) on 19 November 1941. HMAS Moreton's Mark Edwards spoke on history of all the HMAS Sydneys'.

NWQ attendees were Judy Prewett, Bernie Franklin, and the NWQ representing NAA(Q) were Helen Yench, Margie Dean, Kaye Morgan.



#### *Annual Memorial and Wreath Laying for the Service Women of Australia*

Second Wednesday of September - It was a nice day, a little cool, with ladies from the three services and a number of Official Guests.



The Guest Speaker, PTE Rebecca Ross, enjoyed a successful career in Operations Management, working in industries from Property to Fine Art and always felt the call to join the Defence Force. At the age of 45, Rebecca stepped off a bus at Wagga Wagga and began basic training as a Recruit in the Australian Army. She now serves as a Distribution Operator Driver and is currently posted to the 2nd Health Battalion at Gallipoli Barracks. She volunteered to speak at the service and, as public speaking is not part of her wheelhouse, she stepped up to the challenge.



Margie Gadd was the MC and presented the Roll of Honour of the service women who are no longer with us. Margie Gadd has taken on the roll as MC and did a marvellous job. BZ Margie. Wendy Griggs, President of the Council of Ex-Service Women Association (CESWA) organised the day. Thank you, Wendy, and BZ.

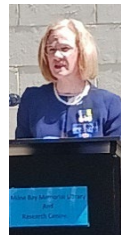
Following the official program, lunch was enjoyed at the Norths Leagues & Services Club.

#### *Battle for Australia*

Battle for Australia Commemoration Service is held to honour and commemorate the courage, sacrifice and service of members of the Australian Armed Services who resisted and ultimately repulsed the enemy attacks on Australia and civilians (including Coast Watchers) who risked their lives and died to protect Australia. The Battle of Milne Bay was the first time the enemy suffered defeat on land.



The service was attended by the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Dr Jeanette Young, AC PSM. Current members of the Australian Defence Forces were represented by the three services, students from Aspley State High School, Wavell Heights State High School and Craigslea State High School. This service is held annually on the first Wednesday in September.



#### *Annual Seafarers Service*

Sunday afternoon 3 September, the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Seafarers Service was held at the Saint John's Cathedral in Brisbane. This service is dedicated to remembering all seamen (approximately 50,000 Merchant Seamen) who perished in both World Wars. Navy Cadets from TS Gayundah proudly paraded the Ensigns and Company House Flags at the beginning of the service and, at the end of the service, were marched out by the flag bearers. BZ flag bearers.

President Helen Yench (President NAA(Q)) and Liz Grimes (VP NWQ) laid wreaths.





*Camaraderie*

*Western Suburbs Lunch*



*Barb, Lorrae, Barbarra, Liz & Jan*

In September, the group met at *Moselle on the Lake Springfield*, a great open air venue overlooking the Lake.



*Jan, Barb, Liz, Letty, Lorrae, Barbara & Marie*

October seen us at the *Lions Soccer Club*, in the cool air conditioning premises.



*Liz, Sandie, Barb, Liz & Lorrae*



*Lorrae, Barb, Liz, RAAF Minister, Bernadette, Sandie & Liz*

Due to the Annual Reunion Lunch being on the first Saturday of November, we opted to meet on the second Saturday – 11 November. We attended the RSL Ipswich Workshop Sub-Branch service first for their Remembrance Day Service then adjointed to CSI Ipswich for lunch. Jim Madden, MP for Ipswich, was present. ^^



Next year, it is hoped that more of the local NAA Members will support this RSL Sub-Branch on this day.

*Gold Coast Brunch*



*Sylvia, Liz, Lorrae, Tania, Anne, Gayle, Rhonda & Jan*  
September meeting was held at the **Whistlestop Café at Pimpama**. A unique little family restaurant with some great meals and amazing drinks.



*Vicki, Lorraine, Glenda, Jackie, Di, Jan, Sylvia, Wendy, Michele, Barb, Lorrae, June*

**Le Vintage Boutique Café, Worongary** was the venue of our October Brunch, where the scenery is just as much fun as selecting our food. How many Ken's, poodles, and other items can you find in their amazing garden. It changes every time we have visited here.



*Lorrae & Liz with The Shark*

November was to be Café Michigan, however, the rain made that impossible, so the venue was changed to the *Southport Sharks*. The venue was protected from the weather and parking was close.



*Diane, Anne, Lorrae, Liz, Sylvia, Jackie, Glenda, Rhonda, Jan, ?Pat & Jan*



### ***Combined Services Bribie Island Lunch***

Anita Cooper advised: On the fourth Monday of the month at 11.30am, the Combined Services lunch is held in the Social Café outside at the Bribie Island RSL Club.

A great group of ladies who come from near and far. This year we have started collecting money for charity at each lunch – not compulsory – any spare dollars in your purse. At the end of the year it will go to Bribie Island homeless veterans. It was a very good idea of the local Army ladies at the end of last year and I think gives our very enjoyable lunches a sense of purpose and wellbeing.



*September – Mavy Women – Liz, Judy, Paula, Cath, Sandy, Christine & Bernie*



*October – including Mrs Bev Owens (Lorrae's mum), and Navy Women Lorrae, Liz, Judy & Barbara*



*November – their Christmas Gathering*



*Navy Women were well represented.*

### ***Care***

#### **Veterans' Health Week 18/10/23 by Cath Leung**

This year's activity was a walk in the Roma Street Gardens with friends. The focus of this year's VHW was Mental Wellness Matters and there is nothing quite so refreshing as walking through a garden that someone else maintained. The best therapy we have is talking to friends and sharing our joys and stories. Put into two groups each band of walkers/talkers certainly had plenty of stories to tell.

Navy Women can share a good laugh when they get together and this day was no exception. Our day began with a coffee at The Garden Room. Margie Gadd had arranged a guided tour of the Gardens. The guides who talked us through the history and development of the Gardens were two of the many volunteers who maintain the Gardens for our enjoyment. This is a unique place for it is not a botanical collection of plants rather it is a display of the variety of plants found in Queensland.



While the extensive knowledge of the Gardens was imparted, Navy Women participated in a photo scavenger hunt. Taking photos based on themes, the results were viewed at the November Xmas Party with Renee's Rebels winning the prize for the best team submission. The morning ended with lunch at the Garden's Café. Some were disappointed in their meals which they felt were overcooked whilst others thoroughly enjoyed the pre-ordered meals. Overall, everyone really enjoyed the activities planned for the day.

Everyone agreed the day out was well worth the experience.

### ***Community***

#### ***National Breast Cancer***

It has traditionally been Breast Cancer month for our October meetings, and this year was no different. We wore PINK in support.

All money raised by the Raffle (and Donated) was matched by the Sub-Section and donated to the National Breast Cancer Research.

This year, \$215.10 was raised and \$430.20 was donated.



*Pretty in Pink*



**Annual Reunion Luncheon cont.**



*Denise, Amy, Judy, Jenna & Bernie*



*Shirley, Judy & Maureen*



*Carmel & Christine*

**Golden Rivet – NAA Ipswich & West Moreton**

“Mayor Teresa Harding, Ipswich City Council, attended the annual Golden Rivet competition run by the Ipswich and West Moreton Naval Association at CSI - Club Services Ipswich.

For 48 years, the Naval Association of Australia (NAA) have held a Golden Rivet competition. This year the competition was run by Ipswich and West Moreton Naval Association.

The Golden Rivet competition is an annual darts and indoor bowls competition between NAA Sub-Sections. Teams compete against each other for the honour of taking home the Golden Rivet.

Congratulations to the Redcliffe Sub Section on winning this year!

A Golden Rivet refers to the claim in naval folklore that every ship is built containing a single, commemorative "Golden Rivet", an idea seemingly derived from the commemorative golden spike that was temporarily driven at the completion of the U.S. transcontinental railroad in 1869.

Thank you to Club Services Ipswich for the hospitality and support provided on the day.”



*Joan, Jennie, Liz, Barb, Teresa, Helen, Pat, Barbara, Ann, Pat*

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



The SCESWA hold numerous C&C mornings at various sites, and many of our members attend.

We wear our shirts so we are easily identified amongst our sisters, and many reconnections have been made.



*Liz, Denise, Judy & Lorrae*



*Standing; Gloria Hollingworth, Lorelle Horan. Liz Grimes, Judi Taylor, Denise Halley Lorraine Houlihan, Maggie Winduss, Judy Prewett, Dot Kunde, Judy Friend, Lorrae Johnson, Jan Thorne.*

*Kneeling; Bev Milner, Jennie Promnitz, Val Machin and Deirdre Elliott*

7 September 2023—SCESWA Spring Coffee and Catch up at Stonebridge Gardens where Lorrae was able to catch up with Denise who enlisted together.

Stonebridge Gardens, Palmwoods - What a beautiful setting. Sixteen ladies met at Stoneridge Gardens, Palmwoods for C & C (Coffee and Cake) on a beautiful September day. The cafe area overlooked a lake and nicely spaced-out gardens. After coffee some of the ladies went for a walk through the gardens while others sat and chatted.

7 December, they celebrated their Christmas lunch together, and many Navy Women were able to attend.



*Sam, Tracy & Liz*

*With Margaret*



## Introduction to Executives

### Margie Gadd (Wellbeing Officer)

In 1965 Margie left her home in Tocumwal NSW and joined the WRAAC (Women's Royal Australian Army Corps), serving firstly as an Electronic Warfare Operator before completing Indonesian language training in 1970.

She served in land units across Australia and in 1969 she was posted to 121 Sig Sqn Singapore. In 1972, she transferred to the WRANS with the rank of Petty Officer and completed 18 years service serving in HMAS Harman, Coonawarra, Lonsdale, Defence Signals Directorate and Joint Telecommunications School Cabarlah.

In 1996 she was one of the first four Warrant Officers (only WRAN) promoted to Lieutenant Special Duties Limited Duties (Electronic Warfare). In the same year she received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her services to Naval Communications. In 1990 Margie decided to leave the Navy to provide stability for her two children.

After leaving the Navy, Margie worked in the Defence Signals Directorate, the Department of Employment Education and Training as a Departmental Trainer and then managed CES (Commonwealth Employment Service) offices at Moorooka and Ipswich. In 1998 with the closure of the CES, Margie worked in the privatised Employment National as a Regional Manager.

From 2002 until retirement in 2019 she ran her specialist employment services consulting business in Brisbane.

Margie lives with her partner Ron Russell in Banksia Beach Bribie Island. She volunteers as an Indonesian language tutor at U3a, as well as calling Bingo for the RSL Womens Auxiliary.

She has been a member of Navy Women Qld since 2013.

Her honours and Awards include:

- Medal of the Order of Australia
- Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 SE Asia Clasp
- National Medal with Clasp
- Defence Force Service Medal
- Australian Defence Medal
- Chief of Naval Staff Commendation
- Chief of Defence Force Commendation

### Cathie Leung (Vice President)

My time in the WRANS was short - not quite two years. In that time, I failed my Radio Operators Course. I could neither type nor take morse code. At my peak I could type 12 words a minute and 78% accuracy. My Morse code never rose above four words a minute. Technically I was a wash out. Fortune smiled on me, or perhaps pity, and I was put on stewards' duty until the next Radar Plotters Course began at HMAS Watson. I enjoyed being an RP. Lots of stories to tell that will never be told. Later I returned to Cerberus to complete the Regulators Course, which I passed and gained my Hook.

Leading Wran was the pinnacle of my Navy career. I value the time, the skills and experiences, the friendships gathered.

After leaving the Navy I had an eclectic career finally settling on Welfare and then Education. I was fortunate to have met and married David, we are now in our 43<sup>rd</sup> year of marriage. He supported me as I worked and gained the academic qualifications, I needed to teach Adult Literacy and Numeracy. It was a career I really enjoyed, teaching adult learners, migrants, indigenous, apprentices with low levels of math and literacy, young people who had been expelled from high school trying to obtain their Year 10 or tertiary qualifications. I developed programs, conferences, and workshops for the Far North for teachers and tutors providing them with the latest theories and practices in the Adult Learning field.

I was a Queensland Government public servant, working in the Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, Environmental Health (Drugs of Dependency Unit). Changing track, I went on to teaching at TAFE in the Migrant Faculty, the Aboriginal and Islander faculty.

We left Cairns after 26 years and settled in Brisbane where I was again training and developing programs for the Department of Local Government (DLG). Our girls had grown up and settled in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. My husband retired, and I gained a position with the DLG.

I retired in 2012. Until COVID, spent time as a Marriage Celebrant. I have a curious mind and love to study. I have collected several degrees and diplomas, usually based on something I needed for work. I did complete a Master's in Writing, just for the fun of it. I returned to teaching at Inala TAFE for a couple of years, for something to do. Working with migrants and adult learners is a particular joy.

Somewhere in 2010 or so, I had a phone call, a blast from the past. Wendy Griggs rang and invited me to the WRANS annual luncheon. Wendy was trying to get the band back together and she had tracked down most of our class 119. Thanks to Wendy I have enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship of old and new shipmates.

I am currently working as a Defence Approved Helper (DAH) with Navy Cadets (ANC). These young people really come into their own at Cadets, and they have so much fun. In fact, they get more sea time than I ever did. If you are ever at a loose end I highly recommend being involved with Cadets.

### TS Norfolk Tri Service Parade

On Sunday 27 August while everyone was enjoying a High Tea at Geebung RSL, Jennie and I attended a Tri Service Parade at TS Norfolk, Wellington Point. As they are located at Wellington Point High School, they had the use of the sports field for the parade. A large number of cadet families attended as well as representatives from local groups. All three services paraded around 30 cadets each and were supported by a local pipe band. Their marching skills showcased the dedication of cadet officers and the pride each squad had in their uniform and cadet unit. The parade was inspected by LCDR Darren Crossingham ANC, National Registrar ANC and congratulations to the only CDT WO ANC who was parade master for the day.

LCDR Dylon McKay ANC, Moreton Flotilla Commander and his staff, LEUT John Klaebe ANC, LEUT Chloe Hutton ANC and LEUT Chris Blunsden ANC have nearly completed the inspections of the 15 units in the Moreton Flotilla and also attended TS Norfolk Tri Service Parade. LCDR McKay and his staff have been very supportive of the NAA ANC Liaison position and I look forward to invitations to attend up coming activities.

*LEUT Chris Blunsden ANC*



*Pat & Jenny award Toowoomba ANC*

### Maryborough Birthday Weekend

On Wednesday 18 October, Jennie Rathbone and I drove up to Hervey Bay, a journey we really enjoy, stopping for lunch and a cuppa at a park north of Gympie. We stayed at Charlton on the Esplanade, where our apartment had a lovely view across the pool and onto the water. After checking in and unpacking the car, we headed back to Maryborough and visited TS Maryborough where we were welcomed by the CO LEUT Drew Kelly and shown around their unit which they share with the Army cadets. They had their own building and shared the parade ground. The unit has a number of adult staff and good cadet numbers.

On the Thursday we had a lazy day at the apartment, reading and playing Mexican Trains, watching TV in the evening. Friday we drove north to Toogoom to Goody's Restaurant for lunch. Sadly the good tables overlooking the water were taken, but we enjoyed our lunch there, followed by an afternoon rest.

At 1700, we headed to TS Krait, about 10 minutes away and were welcomed by the CO LEUT Stephen Price. They have had several relocations in the past few years and have finally found a new home at the Fraser Coast Anglican College and expect to move there shortly. I am sure this move will increase their numbers, once settled.

We drove straight from TS Krait to the Hervey Bay RSL for the Meet and Greet of the ESW Birthday Weekend. About 50 ladies attended and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Instead of a set meal, we were given a \$25.00 RSL gift voucher to purchase our dinners. Several on our table chose the roast – the biggest plate of food I have seen in a long time! Everyone struggled to eat it all. Sadly, we won no raffles, but the Army girls did well!

Saturday was the Birthday Lunch again at the RSL. Apparently, there was a mix up with the chosen menu, so what did we have? A Roast Lunch! The plate was overflowing with slices of pork and beef, pumpkin, two potatoes and lots of peas, beans and carrots! I must admit - It is lovely to enjoy a roast I hadn't cooked! Both Jennie and I had plum pudding and custard for dessert. Again, few raffle prizes came our way, and a few on our table won one or two.

This was a fun weekend, catching up with our members who live in Hervey Bay and the Army and RAAF girls we see occasionally. Congratulations to the organising committee on a great weekend.



On the way home Jennie and I stopped at Lake Alford, just south of Gympie for lunch and a cuppa and met up with another traveller and her Blue and Gold Macaw called Manko. Manko is a movie star, having been in several Ads and TV shows. He is beautifully trained to talk and wave goodbye and other actions.

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](mailto:patrician@netspace.net.au)



## TS Brisbane

Graduating cadet parade at SED New Farm on Monday 20 November 2023 attended by Helen Yench in her role of President NAA(Q) and Cath Leung (VP NWQ)



Two cadets, one Chief and one Petty Officer, graduated and are joining the RAN in January 2024.



The seated cadet was named cadet of the year.

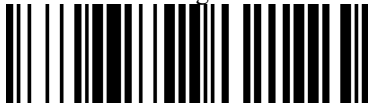
<https://www.navycadets.gov.au/>  
Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Excellence

## Containers For Change (C4C)

We are 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 for their ANZAC Services.

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

Be A Change Maker



Barcode for **C10236300**

## Women Veterans CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Cont page 20



First



Last



Liz, Pat & Jennie enjoying the camaraderie at the Ship Inn



Annual Reunion Luncheon



Sylvia & Sandy

## Useful Links

Discounts/Concessions Offered by Government.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/financial-support/discounts-and-concessions>

Rehabilitation Appliances Program.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/rehabilitation-appliances-program-rap>

Mates4Mates - Ipswich.

<https://mates4mates.org/whom-we-are/our-locations/ipswich>

Veteran & Family Wellbeing Centre

<https://www.rslqld.org/find-help/veteran-family-wellbeing-centre-brisbane>

Support for older people in their homes

<https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-at-home>

## Introduction of My Medicare Registration

Have you heard about registering for *My Medicare*, the new voluntary patient registration model for General Practices across Australia?

Personally, I had not until I happened to be checking out additional benefits available as part of the Australian Government's commitment to improving health and wellbeing outcomes for veterans and their families.

Here's how it works. You can choose to register if you:

- have a valid Medicare Card and/or a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Veteran Card;
- have had two or more face to face appointments with the same GP (at the same practice) in the last 24 months; or one face to face appointment if you live in a remote location; and
- your GP's practice and GP have registered in *MyMedicare*.

At this stage the benefits of registering include additional funding to the General Practice to help them provide the care you need, including longer telehealth consultations with your GP from November 2023 with additional patient benefits coming in August 2024.

If you hold both a DVA Veteran Card and a Medicare card, you can only register with one of the cards, noting that your entitlements remain the same. If you choose your DVA Veteran Card, you will complete a registration form with your usual GP Practice the next time you visit. If you choose to use a Medicare card, you can do this through the Medicare Online Account or Express Plus Medicare Mobile App.

I encourage you to check out the information on *My Medicare* at <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/veteran-card-holders-can-now-register-mymedicare>. You can also talk to your general practice about the benefits of registering.

### *Your Wellbeing*

Please let our Wellbeing Officer know if you are not well, especially if you are going to hospital, or if you are dealing with a problem.

We practice support through friendship and camaraderie. If you just need to talk to someone, call any committee member, or one of our ladies.

Don't bottle it up, we do not have the answers, but we have an ear to listen whilst you think out your options.

Sometimes, a chat over a coffee is more beneficial than you may realise, so please, always feel welcome to join any of our groups.



## What Does Non-Liability Health Care Mean for Mental Health Conditions?

By now many Navy Women members hold a Veterans White Card or a Veterans Gold Card, and they have access to fully funded treatment of all mental health conditions under Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC), meaning members do not need to prove that their ADF service caused these conditions.

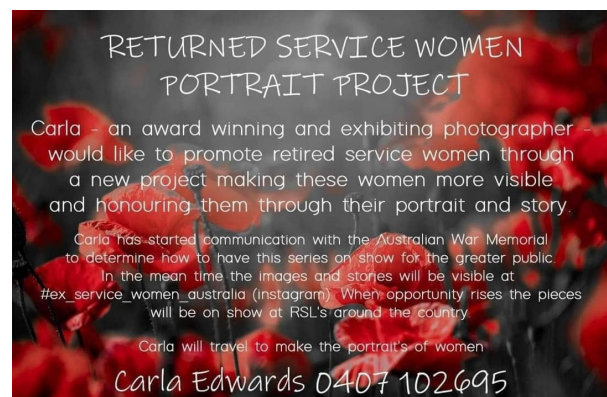
Treatment for mental health conditions funded under NLHC (mental health) may include:

- treatment from a mental health provider such as a general practitioner (GP), psychiatrist, psychologist, mental health social worker, or mental health occupational therapist;
- mental health admissions to a public or private hospital;
- mental health treatment delivered at a day procedure facility;
- prescribed medication for mental health conditions;
- relevant pathology and medical imaging services required to assess and diagnose mental health conditions;
- DVA recognised alcohol and drug treatment programs;
- services provided by Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling; and
- extra services to support treatment from a mental health provider.

Prior to commencing treatment for diagnosed mental health conditions, members must apply through My Service with supporting information from their GP, so that DVA can confirm that costs will be covered as NLHC (Mental Health).

For further information go to <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/health-services/mental-health-care/non-liability-health-care-mental-health-veterans> or call DVA 1800 838 372.

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





## RSL QUEENSLAND VETERAN & FAMILY WELLBEING CENTRE BRISBANE

Marg Dean and Kaye Morgan (NAA(Q) State Office) visited the new Veterans Wellbeing centre at 274 Stafford Road, Stafford. Apart from the site being exceptionally well presented there is a lot of assistance that can be provided.

Mate 4 Mates are on site, with the gymnasium and Open Arms Counselling is also in the building.



RSL Queensland has worked with Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation to develop online modules for practitioners.

- The APP is an e-Learning platform to educate clinical practitioners who support ex-serving personnel about the M-CARM and Go Beyond program, both of which are free to use with their veteran clients, and are informed by six years of extensive research.

The aim of APP is that practitioners who work with veterans and their families feel equipped with relevant training to support veterans when they transition from service to civilian life.

Find out more or sign up today – Health Practitioners (m-carm.org)

- For non-clinical staff we have the RSL Queensland Practitioner Portal (RPP) which provides organisations with tools and resources to support their understanding and increase confidence in recommending RSL Queensland's research-informed services. Please feel welcome to also share with any organisations that may benefit from the “Understating Military culture” modules.

### RSL Be:Well

RSL Queensland recently expanded its online learning portfolio for veterans, launching RSL Be:Well – a free program designed to help veterans improve their health and wellbeing.

RSL Be:Well educates users on common veteran health challenges – including nutrition, finding meaningful civilian work, and managing negative emotions – and provides simple, online self-paced resources to proactively manage each challenge.

Backed by research from Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, the program is specifically developed to address veterans' physical, mental, emotional and social needs.

Try it out today. Visit the RSL Queensland website to learn more.

### RSL QUEENSLAND

- Advocacy (DVA Claims and Appeals)
- Employment services
- Emergency financial support

### MATES4MATES

- Mental health support services
- Physical rehabilitation and wellbeing services
- Skills for recovery programs
- Online social activities
- Social connection activities

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## Do you know why Veterans place their Right Hand over their Heart ANZAC DAY, VETERANS DAY & REMEMBRANCE DAY?

The Salute by Veterans at the Cenotaph or Wreath Laying Ceremony (Remembrance Service). It will be noticed at any Remembrance Service or when passing a Cenotaph Veterans will place their Right Hand over their Left Side .. many believing that they were placing their Hand over their Heart in Respect or Remembrance of their Fallen Comrades;- **this is not so.**

**The Veterans Salute to their Fallen Comrades** originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall at the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the Unknown Soldier halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment. Those present included the senior Soldier, sailor and many Victoria Cross winners.

The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that **“No matter what honours we may have been awarded, they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice”.**

### Wearing medals

Only the person awarded or issued medals may claim those medals as his or her own. He or she wears the medals on their left breast. Others (those who did not earn the medals) may honour the service of a relative by wearing medals on the right breast. Some veterans may be seen wearing medals on both breasts—their own on the left, and a relative's on the right. Unit citations are worn according to individual service instructions but are usually worn on the right. An ANZAC Commemorative Medallion and Badge was issued in 1967 to surviving Gallipoli veterans.

[https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/Quick\\_Guides/TraditionsRituals](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/Quick_Guides/TraditionsRituals)

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**COMPANION CARD**... If you have a disability and a lifelong need for 'attendant care support' in order to participate in community activities and attend venues, the Companion Card can help you with the costs of getting out and about with the aid of a companion. Holders receive a second 'companion' ticket at no charge on public transport and some venues. The Companion Card is issued in the name of the person who has the disability and is valid for 5 years. Conditions apply: [www.qld.gov.au/disability/out-and-about/subsidies-concessions-passes/companion-card](http://www.qld.gov.au/disability/out-and-about/subsidies-concessions-passes/companion-card)

# Do you have skin or other cancer?

## FORMER ADF MEMBERS—WHITE CARD HOLDERS

If you are receiving treatment or have been diagnosed with **some type of cancer, or pulmonary tuberculosis** and have served at least one day's Full Time Service (not Reserve Service) you may be able to have the cost of treatment paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

## You must apply:

Form D9215 Application for Health Care for Cancer (Malignant Neoplasm and Tuberculosis) may be obtained from the DVA website: [dva.gov.au](http://dva.gov.au) or ask your wellbeing officer (Leone) to obtain one for you.

1. Complete your personal details on the form
2. Take the form to your doctor or medical specialist who will confirm the diagnosis and sign the form
3. Submit the form to the Department of Veterans Affairs

If approved, you will be notified that your DVA white card now covers you for the treatment of the specific cancer under Non-Liability Health Care.

Cancer treatment under NLHC may cover:

- GP care
- Specialist care from an oncologist
- X-rays, MRI scans and blood tests
- Chemotherapy radiation therapy or surgery

If treatment has already commenced, you may, following approval of your application, seek reimbursement of some costs already expended by completing a form 'Application for Reimbursement of Medical Expenses Privately Incurred'. **YOU WILL NEED YOUR RECEIPTS.**

Your DVA White Card already covers you for the cost of treatment only, for all mental health conditions under Non-Liability Health Care. If you don't have a white card, apply today.

If you are unsure, talk to a qualified practitioner:

## Navy Bereavement Pin

The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) has commissioned a bereavement pin to recognise the valued contribution of all Navy personnel who gave service. This includes the immediate family of all deceased Navy veterans. The Navy Bereavement Pin is a distinctive 20mm gold lapel pin which has the crest of the Royal Australian Navy encompassed by wreath 'supporters'. The Navy Bereavement Pin has been developed to meet an expressed wish by many families, who have lost a close family member who served in the Navy, to have a tangible yet discrete memento of the service of their loved one.

The Navy Bereavement Pin is a symbol that can assist family members to commemorate the life and service of a relative who gave service to the Navy during their lifetime. It is the Chief of Navy's wish that by prominently wearing it or having it as a special keepsake, the Navy Bereavement Pin helps you to remember proudly the family member you have lost and reminds you that you are very much considered a part of the broader Navy family. As a family member, may you look upon the Navy Bereavement Pin in remembrance and wear it with pride.

### Eligibility

In 2018 the Chief of Navy extended the eligibility of those who can receive Navy Bereavement Pins. In the past they were only available for the immediate family of those who died while in RAN service. This eligibility has now been extended to include the immediate family of those former members of the RAN who have died having given naval service. Effectively the bereavement pins are available, on request, to the immediate family of all deceased RAN veterans. Immediate family normally means widows and widowers, parents, siblings, and children of the deceased. Extensions to this eligibility can be made for compassionate and compelling circumstances

If you are related to a person who gave service to the Navy during their lifetime and wish to receive this special pin, please download and complete the form found on the Navy website <https://www.navy.gov.au/webform/navy-bereavement-pin> and email it to [navy\\_bereavement@defence.gov.au](mailto:navy_bereavement@defence.gov.au).



*The group photo – 2023 Annual Reunion Luncheon in November  
Celebrating 81 years since the first WRANS signed up in Brisbane in November 1942*



# Merchandise for Sale to Financial Members only

Stores@nwqld.org.au

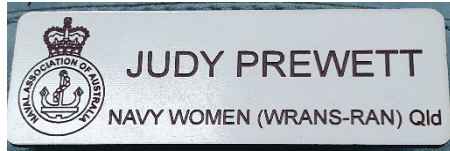
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld has a 'uniform' so that we can present a uniform appearance when gathered as a group.

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 ^^

**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.



**POLO SHIRTS** with EMBROIDERY on right side



**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 2024— subject to changes

Date	Event	Notes
3 Feb	60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Navy Women Qld Luncheon and launch “ <i>Then and Now Diamond Jubilee</i> ”	Geebung RSL
8 Feb	CESWA Bi-Monthly OGM	Delegates attend
8 Feb	Service @ Jack Southbank	Honouring HMAS Voyager (II) Lost Crew
11 Feb	Navy Women Qld AGM & OGM Geebung RSL	Geebung RSL - First meeting for 2024
15 Feb	NAA(Q) State Council meeting	Delegates attend
End Feb	Navy Week	HMAS Moreton
29 Feb	Service @ Jack Southbank	RAN Navy Week Hosted by HMAS Moreton:
1 Mar	Service @ Jack Southbank	HMAS Perth Lost Crew Organised by Perth Assoc
10 Mar	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	Easter Bonnet with ideas from the old Commonwealth Day
16 Mar	CESWA Tri-Service Luncheon Geebung RSL	Singing Competition
22-24 Mar	NAA State Conference – Pine Rivers S-S	Delegates attend – everyone invited
28 Mar	Service @ Jack Southbank	
<b>29 Mar</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Happy Easter</b>
11 Apr	CESWA Bi-Monthly OGM	Delegates attend
14 Apr	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
25 Apr	ANZAC Day 0600 Service at St John’s Church <b>Northgate</b> Corvettes Assoc Service <b>Newstead</b> 0930 Parade in <b>Brisbane City</b>	Formal Uniform  Ship Inn After March
14 May	Victory in Europe Service	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
19 May	Navy Women Qld OGM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday due to Mother’s Day date
30 May	Service @ Jack Southbank	Vietnam Ships Lost Crew
6 Jun	Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women’s Assoc Inc Luncheon Maroochydore	Civilian dress with name tags
9 Jun	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
13 Jun	CESWA Bi-Monthly OGM	Delegates attend
27 Jun	Service @ Jack Southbank	Gulf War
7 Jul	Reserve Forces Day Wondai	
14 Jul	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	Bastille Day
25 Jul	Service @ Jack Southbank	Korean War
27 Jul	CESWA Annual Church Service	Formal Uniform
27 Jul	Korean Veterans Day	
8 Aug	CESWA AGM and GM	Delegates attend
11 Aug	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	
10 Aug	Victory in Pacific Day	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
18 Aug	Vietnam Veterans Day	
29 Aug	Service @ Jack Southbank	Timor
6 Sep	Battle of Australia Commemoration	
8 Sep	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
11 Sep	CESWA Commemoration to Service Women of Australia	Women’s Memorial Pine Rivers Kallangur <b>Formal Uniform</b>
14 Sep	NAA Golden Rivet 2024	CSI Ipswich – Hosted by Redcliffe SS
26 Sep	Service @ Jack Southbank	Sandakan March
10 Oct	CESWA Bi-monthly GM	Delegates attend
13 Oct	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	<b>Breast Cancer Fundraising WEAR PINK</b>
October	Hervey Bay Birthday weekend	
17-19 Oct	All Navy Reunion	Sunshine Coast
31 Oct	Service @ Jack Southbank	Sydney II
2 Nov	Navy Women Annual Reunion Luncheon	Tattersalls Club Brisbane
10 Nov	Navy Women Qld OGM	
11 Nov	Remembrance Day Service	
28 Nov	Service@ Jack Southbank	Cyclone Tracey
8 Dec	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Xmas Party
12 Dec	CESWA Bi-monthly GM	Final meeting for 2024

First Saturday of each month	Western Suburb Lunch	
Third Tuesday of each month	Gold Coast Brunch	
Fourth Monday of each month	Bribie Island Lunch	Bribie Island RSL Social Cafe
Last Thursday of each month	Jack Memorial	Ship Inn, South Bank



***Camaraderie Social Calendar Of Events 2024***

**Combined Services Lunch Bribie Island –**  
 Fourth Monday of the month at the Bribie Island RSL  
 Contact Anita Cooper

**Gold Coast – Third Tuesday of the month**  
 Cafe 360 Jan / Jun  
 Cruiz Espresso Feb / Aug  
 La Vintage Mar / Sep  
 Cafe Michigan Apr / Oct  
 Southport Yacht Club May  
 Globe Trotters Christmas in July  
 Southport Sharks Nov  
 Tallai Golf club Dec  
 Contact Sylvia Manners

**Western Suburbs – first Saturday of the Month**  
 Moselles Café + Restaurant 10 Feb / Jul  
 Forty West Café Ripley Mar / Sep  
 Chapters Book Shop, Cafe & Wine Bar Apr / Aug  
 Club Parkview, Goodna May / Oct  
 Jim’s Café, Bundamba Jun  
 CSI, Ipswich 9 Nov  
 Thirty-Seven Café Dec  
 Contact Lorrae Johnson

**Sunshine Coast Ex Service Women’s C&C**  
 Maroochy RSL Cafe 11 Jan  
 Caloundra RSL Sub-Branch 7 Mar  
 Kawana Surf Club 2 May  
 Bower Tree, 10 Courage St, Sippy Downs 5 Sep

The Combined Ex Service and Serving Women Australia is a very informative site on Facebook for ex service-women and is independently administered by ex service women. To join the FaceBook group, 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.

**REUNIONS**

- All Navy Reunion - Sunshine Coast  
17-19 October 2024
- Ops Room Association of Australia Inc - Perth  
18-20 October 2024
- Naval Health Services Reunion - Gold Coast -  
23-24 October 2024
- National Navy Women’s Reunion – Tasmania  
14-16 March 2025

*Margie (NAA(Q) VP)  
 Bernie (NWQ VP) &  
 Judy (CESW  
 Treasurer) at the  
 Brisbane Memorial on  
 Remembrance Day  
 2023*



**Community** with Liz



*Morayfield – 11 Sep – Barb & Liz*



*Caboolture Oct 2023*



*Beerwah Oct 2023*



*Beerwah Nov 2023*



*Morayfield Nov 2023*



## A DAY AT THE ZOO Liz

On Wednesday 22 November I went to the Australian Zoo on Veterans Day. It was wet and humid, and I enjoyed seeing our native animals as well as others from around the world. With my trusty walking stick, I managed to do lots of walking, sitting, admiring and taking photos. I took my sister as my guest and we both had an enjoyable day. I saw the Samatran elephants, alligators, dingoes, lots of snakes (thank goodness they were all in sealed enclosures) and wombats to name a few.



After lunch it was time to go to the crocoseum. The show consisted of a number of free flight birds - very well trained to fly around the stadium. Then the feeding of the saltie. The handlers demonstrate the dangers of being in waters where saltwater crocodiles inhabit and how they detect prey (yes, humans are also prey). Also a demonstration of how a saltie can leap straight out of the water, almost three quarters of its body. Time to go home, body is tired, damp from the rain and humidity, and exhausted after lots of walking. There is still lots to see, so maybe next year, there will be more Navy Women to share the day.

## ANNUAL LADIES DINE IN NIGHT

On Saturday 14 October, a few Navy Women attended the NAA Bayside Sub-Section Annual Ladies Dine-In Night. Liz Grimes (VP NWQ), Marg Dean (VP NAA(Q)), SBLT Geogia Ziebarth (representing the CO of HMAS Moreton), with Marie Taylor and Susan Palmer.



A three course dinner was served. There was a trivia competition held during the evening. Two tables tied with the correct answers which led to a tie breaker. The table Liz Grimes was sitting at won the tie breaker and received a bottle of wine each.

The guest speakers were family members from the Defence Service - Mum, brother (Army) and sister (Air Force). All spoke of their experiences serving in the modern ADF and Mum who had two children in the Defence Forces. A good night was had by all.

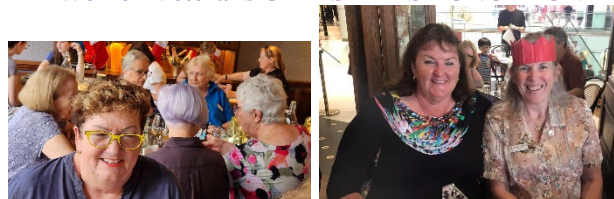


## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ASSOCIATION

The RAN Communications Branch Association had its AGM and lunch at the Ship Inn on 28 October. Numbers were small but attended by Pat Nuss, Jennie Rathbone and Liz Grimes. We all had tickets for the raffle and most of us one a prize. Hoping for a better turn out next year.

<https://www.rancba.org.au/>

## Women Veterans CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Sunday 26 November saw a group of Women Veterans Network Australia ladies join together for a Christmas Luncheon organised by Lisa Adams. Ladies from the three services - Navy, Army and Air Force joined together for a pleasant get-together and enjoyed some scrumptious food. There were bon bons to crack and silly riddles read out. Judy Prewett, Bernie Franklin, Lorrae Jonson, Denise McNeill, Wendy Griggs, Cath Leung and Liz Grimes were the Navy Women's representatives. As usual, the Navy was first to arrive and last to leave! See Page 13



## THE SEVENTY SIXERS

Four Navy Women celebrated their 76<sup>th</sup> birthday at CSI Ipswich (Club Services Ipswich). Pat Reikin (October), Liz Grimes and Pat Nuss (November) and Jenny Rathbone (December) get together each year (although Pat R is now included). Pat R, Pat N and Jennie joined together and Liz came later. As two had meal vouchers the four were able combine their cash and vouchers for an excellent three course meal. With much laughter, all enjoyed a great meal and a great day. What will next year bring?



Pat, Liz, Jennie & Pat



**Fraser Coast CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

On 29 November 2023, five ladies and two cars, ventured to Hervey Bay for Judy Hunter's annual Christmas Luncheon. At 0730 in the morning, Barb, with Lorrae, picked up Liz from her home at Caboolture and met Kaye and Judy at Maccas (off Pumicestone Road near the Bruce Highway) and headed off to Hervey Bay. A rest stop was made at Gympie so the drivers could have a break. Then it was onwards to Hervey Bay. The trip was about three hours and we were ready to celebrate on arriving at the Beach House Hotel. Other Navy Ladies from Bundaberg, and many local ladies gathered for a great time together.



Judy Hunter did a great job in organising her last luncheon. Judy announced she was retiring from organising the event and Sue Meehan would be organising the Navy Ladies luncheons. Judy has done a marvellous job over the years in organising this event. **BZ Judy.**



*The Men's table always have great laughs together*

After lunch the five travellers retired to their accommodation for a relaxing afternoon and evening. Judy, Kaye and Liz were up by 0515 ready to return to Brisbane for Jack Commemoration Service at Southbank Barb and Lorrae decided to stay a little longer at Hervey Bay. Judy and Kaye returned in time for the monthly Jack Service.



*Judy & Lilian (WWII Veteran)*

**Annual Reunion Luncheon cont.**



*Judy & Bernie                      Curls*



*Shirley & Judy*



*Sandy Cathy & Trisha*



*Marie &*



*The Young Ones at the Annual Reunion Luncheon  
– the Leaders of Tomorrow!!  
Liz, Sharon & Ali, Georgia & Fiona (HMAS Moreton)  
and Sandie (NAA I&WM)*



*Liz, Anita Robyn*

**Subs Paid for 2024** As at 13 Dec 2023 - If your name is **NOT** included here, your SUBS may be due.

Surname	First	Year
Abraham	Janet	2024
Adams	Patricia	2024
Ahern	Murielle	2024
Alden	Joan	2024
Allan	Kathrine	2024
Archbold-Thomas	Michelle	2025
Ashe	Cecelia	2024
Baker	Lynette	2025
Barrow	Betty	2024
Baldock	Barbara	2024
Beaumont	Sandra	2024
Belleri	Sandra	2024
Bennet	Mary	2024
Bott	Toni	2024
Bowers	Jan	2024
Brauns	Amy	2025
Brooks	Maureen	2024
Brown	Lorraine	2024
Brown	Paula	2024
Brunton	Christine	2024
Bryan	Susan	2024
Burns	Diana J J	2024
Cameron	Christine	2024
Cameron	Kim	2024
Casey	Lettucia	2024
Casteleijn	Tracy	2024
Castles	Carol	2025
Chapman	Michele	2024
Conn	Barbara	2024
Cooper	Anita	2024
Coyne	Lillian	2024
Curran	Jacquie	2025
De Silva	Noala	2024
Deegan	Rosalie	2024
Duesing	Klawdia	2024
Dennis	Wendy	2024
Dreyer	Maxine	2024
Eastwood	Theadora	2024
English	Janet	2024
Flood	Glenda	2024
Franklin	Bernadette	2024
Fraser	Glenys	2025
Gadd, OAM	Pamela	2024
Gilbert	Joan	2024
Gill	Elizabeth	2024
Gillis	Sandra	2024
Gilmour-Walsh	Helen	2024
Gordon	Elizabeth	2024
Green	Margaret	2024
Griggs	Wendy	2024
Grimes	Elizabeth	2024
Hales	Helena	2024
Hall	Penelope	2024
Hanrahan	Michelle	2024
Henderson-Place	Judy	2024
Hermann	Janelle	2024
Hewston	Clare	2024
Higgins	Winki	2024
Higgison	Irene Mary	2024
Higgison	Jill Ada	2024
Hillis, CSC	Angella	2026
Hislop	Helen	2024
Holloway	Norine	2026
Howard	Tania	2024
Hunter, OAM	Judith	2024
Hyslop	Rae	2024
Jeffrey	Phyllis	2024
Jeffreys	Barbara	2024

Surname	First	Year
Jeisman	Robyn	2024
Jennings	Suzanne	2024
Johnson	Lorraj	2024
Johnston	Susan E	2024
Jones	Margaret	2024
Kelly	Jennifer	2024
Lake	Billie	2024
Lane	Theresa	2024
Lehman	Elaine	2024
Lesley	Julia	2024
Leung	Catherine	2025
Leutton	Margaret	2024
Louis	Marie A	2024
Magann	June	2024
Manners	Sylvia	2024
McGahan	Marie	2024
McKay	Carmel	2024
McKay	Patricia	2024
McNeill	Denise	2024
McSwain	Dianne	2025
Meehan	Susan Lee	2024
Morgan	Kaye	2024
Morgan	Samantha	2024
Morris	Pamela	2024
Moss	Joanne	2024
Nichols	Ann	2024
Nichols	Gail	2024
Nicol	Lynette	2024
Norris	Susan	2024
Nuss	Patricia	2024
O'Brien	Rhonda	2024
Ogilvie	Jean	2024
Onger	Rae	2024
Palmer	Susan	2024
Parke	Neridah	2024
Payne	Lorelle	2024
Prewett	Judith	2024
Quinlan	Patricia	2024
Rathbone	Jennifer	2024
Reghenzani OAM	Christine	2024
Reid	Suzanne	2024
Retallick	Elaine	2024
Rieken	Patricia	2024
Robinson	Christine	2024
Royle	Fay	2024
Shalders	Soraya	2024
Shepherd	Susan	2024
Shevill	Rhonda	2024
Shiel	Jenna	2024
Siebrecht	Wendy	2024
Slatter	Gayle	2024
Smith	Shirley	2024
Snowdon	Barbara	2024
Southorn	Jacqueline	2024
Southwood	Fiona	2024
Sowik	Christine	2024
Standon	Margaret	2024
Strickland	Vikki	2024
Taylor	Marie	2024
Tiernan	Marlene	2024
Turnbull	Susan	2024
Twigg	Anthea	2024
VanDijk	Rosemary	2024
Wailes	Doriel	2024
Walker	Anne	2024
Walsh	Dawn	2024
Walters	Janice	2024
Webber	Faylaine	2024



Surname	First	Year
Whatley	Lynette	2024
Wilkinson	Annette	2024
Yench	Helen	2024

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### *New Members – Welcome Aboard*

**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 joined as a FULL Member.

**SOWIK** Christine (nee Schneider) W117689. Christine joined on 19 September 1974 as an RP and was discharged on 29 September 1978. Christine served at HMA Ships Cerberus, Watson and Kuttabul. Christine rank on discharge was SWRRP and is joining as a FULL member.

**DONNELLY** Coral (nee Rohan) R85512. Coral served from 1962-1965. Coral is joining as a SOCIAL Member.

**NORRIS** Susan (Pfeiffer) W128979 Susan joined 27 October 1980 and discharged 10 February 2003. Rejoining 17 Feb 2003 -1 July 2005. Joined the CFTS 19 Sept 2011 to 19 Nov 2023. On discharge held the rank of CPOWTR. Susan is joining as a FULL Member.

**STRICKLAND** Vikki (Wade) W113893 Vikki joined 25 September 1982 to 1988 then rejoined in 1990 to 1991. Serving on HMA Ships Cerberus Leeuwin and Stirling. On discharge Vikki's rank was LWRSN. Vikki is joining as a CLUB Member.

**HANRAHAN** Michelle (Holland) W146713. Michelle joined the RAN on 18 Sept 1989 and discharged on 13 July 1999. And joined RANR 8090443 on 14 July 1999 to 12 June 2010. On discharge Michelle held the rank of LSSTD. Michelle is joining as a FULL Member.

**WHATLEY** Lynette (Biddle) W111689 Lynette joined in January 1972 and discharged in December 1973. Lynette served on HMA Ships Cerberus and Albatross. On discharge Lynette's rank was A/LWRCK. Lynette is joining as a FULL Member.

Changing from CLUB to FULL Members

**LEHMAN** Elaine (Curls) (nee Woodyatt) W119268 Joined 16 September 1975 until 14 September 1980 and rejoined 1 November 1982 to 27 August 1984. Elaine served at HMA Ships Cerberus. Harman, Coonawarra, Lonsdale and Kuttabul (CFTS) an on rejoining served at HMAS Albatross.

**MANNERS** Sylvia (nee Brannigan) WRRO R85066. Served from 15 January 1960 to 17 February 1962 at HMAS Cerberus and Harman.

### *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.

Ashleigh McGINN nee BULMER W103726 born 20May1949–09Jun2023 Served from 11Nov1968 of class 106/68 ROT

Margaret Mary FINDLAY nee GALLAGHER R84749 20Jun1938-18Jul2023 Served from 08Nov1957-07Jun1960

Jennifer Anne Priestly GRAHAM CSM OAM 27Jul1955-25Aug2023

Robina (Robbie) Gladys KING nee GRANGER. WR4219 17Jul1928-14Sep2023 Served from 15Mar1952 - 01Dec1954

Kaymarie ANDREW nee BLUETT W106676 22Oct1947-04Oct2023 Served 13Oct1969-19Jan1973.

Lesley Mary PETERS. nee REYNOLDS WR3076 15Mar1925-12Nov2023 Served from 25Jun1945-04Jun1946.

Jennifer Ann HANSON nee JANES R85907 14Sep1946-2023 Served from 10Jul1964-03Feb1967

Beverley CHAPPLE nee PYE W112992 died 2023 Enlisted c1972

Gail SCHULTZ nee WARD W112361 died 2023 Enlisted c1972

Ruth Kerrie MILLSTEED W104250 11Jul1950-2023 Enlisted: 25Aug1969 POWRRP

### **Vic WRANS**

Alice Maud BETTS nee BUNYARD WR719 09Jan1925-21Jun2023. Aged 98 years Served from 08Feb1943-11Apr1946 as a Writer

Irene Ida TODD nee TAYLOR WR801 21Dec1921-10Jul2023 Aged 101 years Served from 22Feb1943-26Apr1946 as POWR Writer.

*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.*

# 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.



Sep 2023



## March Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for next newsletter is 29 February 2024.

Please send your stories and photos to:

[Editor@nwqld.org.au](mailto:Editor@nwqld.org.au) and include

[Treasurer@nwqld.org.au](mailto: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.**

## 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

## Email us your Updates & details of Payment

Event: .....

Special Diet: .....

Subs : Full Membership \$38 pa  
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**



Nov 2023



## 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.