



# AWAS / WRAAC

## NEWSLETTER

December 2023

### Greetings From the WRAAC Association President

As 2023 draws to a close I am sending Festive Greetings and good wishes for your Holiday Season.

We have had a successful year and I look forward to 2024 with anticipation of us spending time together at our various events.

A couple of notes for your 2024 diaries:

The AWAS/WRAAC Commemorative Service to be held on Sunday 5 May has had a start time change to 10.30 am. We will be providing morning tea afterwards in the coffee shop area.

The Annual Luncheon is confirmed for Saturday 20 July commencing at 12.00 noon and will be held at the Greensborough RSL located at 111 Main Street, Greensborough. The train station is across the road, and there is on-site and street parking.

Enjoy your festivities with family and friends and for those travelling, keep safe.

My best wishes to you all for 2024.

*Dexter Purcell*

President



# A Christmas Message from our Chaplain

Christmas offers a delightful occasion for family bonding and reflection. Although we may differ in our religious affiliations or belief system, the chance to take a break from routine, cherish moments with loved ones, and perhaps indulge in some well-deserved self-care, is universally appreciated. During this Christmas season, as women of the Army, we aspire for us to pause and relish moments with family, friends, and the festivity of this time.

As I reflect on the season, I'd like to share a simple contemplation with you. My thoughts centre on the extraordinary resilience embodied by a specific woman—Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Considering her purpose and journey, I am deeply impressed by her remarkable strength. Shouldering the profound responsibility of bringing forth and nurturing the Messiah is an immense task. I can only envision the depth of her character and fortitude. Yet, amid these substantial expectations, she consistently acknowledges herself as blessed, fortunate, and favoured.

Likewise, in our own lives, filled with expectations from family, friends, work, military service, and personal aspirations, it is so important to genuinely take a moment to reflect on how blessed, fortunate, and favoured we are too. There is much for which we can express gratitude.

During this Christmas season, my prayer for you is that you find moments for reflection, thankfulness and self-care amid the hustle and bustle. I hope you take the opportunity to appreciate and count the good things in your life.

To those serving on active duty over the season, and to those working in community services that never close, our prayers and best wishes are with you especially.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kirsten



# Calendar of Events 2024

February 2024

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>

**WRAAC Social Group Lunch**

**12 noon at Seaford RSL**

**17 Station Street Seaford.**

April 2024

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

**ANZAC Day**

**Check newspapers for details.**

May 2024

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

**AWAS/WRAAC Shrine Service**

**10:30 am Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne**

## **WRAAC Social Group Lunch October 2023**

The WRAAC Social Group met in October at the Altona RSL.

There were 26 ladies present from far and wide. A few of the ladies travelled to Altona from the Mornington Area also Bacchus March.

All agreed it was a great venue, location and great food.

The next gathering will be at the Seaford RSL on Sat 17 Feb at 1200hrs.



**VERA DUANE, MELISSA BELL, LYN BOARD, NOLA WILLIAMS, SHEILA VENNELLS-PRAED, GLENYS WILLIAMSON, MARGARET DARK, LIZ MACLAINE, GAYLENE DUNCAN, JUDY STEWART, GAY MARKEY, JENNY HAYES, LORRAINE MCDUGALL, BRONWYN FLACK, MARGARET JAGER, MARGARET BAILEY, DEXTER PURCELL, JAN DE WITTE, MARY KELLY, BRONWYN ROWLESON, RUTH OGDEN, KIRSTEN LARSEN, SUE (AIRFORCE)**

# **Western Suburbs WRAAC Social Group Morning Tea**

## **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**



**NOLA WILLIAMS, MARGARET JAGER, LIZ MACLAINE, MARGARET WILDMAN (NAVY), BRONWYN FLACK, DEBRA PEARCE, RAE (AIRFORCE), SHEILA FREEMAN, JUDY STEWART**

A group of 9 ladies from the western suburbs gathered for the first time for a get together. Included in this number were one from AirForce and one from the Navy. Lots of laughs and chatter was had. Thankyou to Bronwyn and Liz for organising the get together, with many more to come on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in each month. The next one is December 14<sup>th</sup> in Sunbury at the Kyedon Café in Ligar Street.

# Baby News



**Congratulations to Rebecca O'Connell (Stephen) on the birth of her son Axel.**

# OUR 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas, my true love said to me,  
I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.  
On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.  
On the third day we entertained the people from next door,  
And the turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.  
Day four, relations came to stay, poor Gran is looking old,  
We finished up the Christmas "Pud" and ate the turkey cold.  
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes flurried  
But we were nice and warm inside, and we had our turkey curried.  
On the sixth day, I must admit, the Christmas spirit died,  
The children fought and bickered; we ate turkey rissoles – fried.  
On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince,  
When he sat down at the table and was offered turkey mince.  
Day eight, and nerves were getting frayed – the dog had run for shelter  
I served up turkey pancakes, with a glass of Alka Seltzer.  
On day nine, our cat left home – by lunchtime Dad was blotto.  
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.  
By the tenth day, the booze had gone (except our home-made brew)  
As if that wasn't enough, we suffered turkey stew.  
On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting,  
The mince pies were as hard as rocks, and the turkey was revolting.  
On the twelfth day, my true love had a smile upon his lips,  
The guests had gone – the turkey too – and we dined on fish and chips.

## SICK PARADE

*To all our members who are not feeling well, our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
If you wish to have a chat, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member:*

