

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Association

Joining Forces



ANZAC Day
25th April 2023
Edition 13

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the latest edition of *Joining Forces*.

This edition is different from our usual newsletter. In this edition I have put together as many photos as possible, taken from around South East Queensland and some interstate Women's Veteran groups.

This is a chance for our members of SCESWA to view how the other women veterans commemorated this special day.

A final reminder that our Annual Luncheon is coming very soon with the final date for numbers and payment on Monday 22 May 2023. Please see the Flyer in this edition for further details.

A further reminder that 3rd August 2023 sees our Ordinary General Meeting plus the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Hopefully some of our members might take the step and consider becoming a part of the Management Committee. The secretary has recently forwarded the forms and a copy of the By Laws for your consideration. If you would like to discuss or have any questions on becoming a committee member please feel free to call either President Lorraine or Secretary Jan.

Until the next edition.

With respect.

Lorraine Houlihan

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST—EDITORS NOTE

I have included a very special ANZAC Day Biography of an amazing woman veteran. I trust you all enjoy her story of courage. Looking for the next edition members Bio . Volunteers?

Lorraine

AN HISTORIC ANZAC DAY BIO - A GREAT WOMAN VETERAN

FLORA SANDERS —A GREAT UNSUNG MILITARY HEROINE

Flora Sanders was a British woman who served in the Royal Serbian Army in World War 1. She was the only British woman to officially fight on the front line. She was the youngest daughter of a Rector and she was born in North Yorkshire on 22nd January 1876.

Despite being a decorated war hero, you probably have never heard of her.

Originally volunteered for First Aid Yeomanry, formed in 1907, as one of the original members. She left the FANY in 1910, joined another renegade, Mable St Clair Stobart, in the formation of the Women's Sick and Wounded Convoy Corps. The Convoy saw service in the Balkans in 1912 during the first Balkans War. At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, she volunteered to become a nurse, but was rejected due to lack of qualifications.

Sanders nevertheless joined a St John Ambulance unit raised by American nurse Grouitch, and on 12 August 1914 left England for Serbia with a group of 36 women to try to aid the humanitarian crisis there. They arrived at the town of Kragujevac which was the Base of the Serbian Forces fighting the Austro-Hungarian offensive. Sanders joined the Serbian Red Cross and worked in an ambulance for the Serbian Army's 2nd Infantry Regiment. In 1914 she went riding with a Serbian soldier who, impressed with her equestrian skills told her she was wasted as a nurse and should enlist as a soldier; she told Dr Isobel Emslie."I always wished to be a soldier and to fight".

In 1915 Sanders struggled persistently to get to the front (despite the efforts of people such as the British Consul, who instructed her to return to safety), eventually joining the ambulance of the Second Regiment at the Babuna Pass. During the Great Retreat though Albania, all the other ambulance staff fled or were killed. Sanders could no longer make herself useful as a nurse and was enrolled as a private by General Milos Vasic. She quickly advanced to the rank of Corporal. She recounted later that to familiarise the change she removed her Red Cross badge and replaced it with the brass regimental figures from Colonel Milich's epaulettes. In 1916, during the Serbian advance on Bitola, Sanders was seriously wounded by a grenade in hand to hand combat. She subsequently received the highest decoration of the Serbian Military, the Order of the Kakadorde's Star. This award is equivalent to the Victoria Cross. At the same time she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major.

Unable to continue due to her injury, she spent the remainder of the war running a hospital. In June 1919, a special Act of Parliament was passed in Serbia that made her the Serbian Army's first female commissioned officer. She was finally demobilised in October 1922.

She returned to Serbian as she found it difficult to adjust to normal life and married a Russian Officer. They moved to Yugoslavia. During World War 2 she and her husband were interned in Belgrade by the Russians after they had both returned to full military service. Flora returned to England after her husband's death in 1941 and died in 1956 at the age of 80.

Sanders published her autobiography, *An English Women-Sergeant in the Serbian Army*.

Idol of Affection, Flora Sandes



Sergeant Major Flora Sandes speaking with a Serbian officers in Salonika,



Serbian stamp in her honour 2015



Walking with a stick due to her injuries from a grenade in hand to hand combat

MAROOCHYDORE



Maggie, Deirdre, Gloria, Terri-Anne & Marion



Eyes Right



Gloria and Marjorie Strukalj (100 yrs old)



Maggie



Gloria, Veronica, Maggie and Deirdre



Maggie, Terri-Ann, Gloria, Deirdre & Marion

MALENY



Visitor, Helen & Christine

GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS



Valerie



Val & James Sokhall from 128 ACU Yandina



Kay, Brenda & Val—WRAAF

BRIBIE ISLAND Women Veterans

Bribie ladies at the march

Including
Trudy and
Cindie



CALOUNDRA



Sub Branch President Heather at Dawn Service



Caloundra Dawn Service



Lorraine & Sam



Wreath Laying



Jan, Noelene & Judy



Judi, Tracy & Noelene



Tracy & Jan



Noelene Laying wreath for Nurses

DEFENCE NURSES



Judy & Defence Nurses



BUST in honour SISTER ALICE O'DONNELL
Died HOSPITAL SHIP CENTAUR



WRAAC ASSN QLD with 31 Platoon Delta Company



WRAAF ASSN QLD



WRANS ASSN QLD



EXWRANS/RAN Melbourne

BUNDABERG DISTRICT WOMEN'S VETERANS



Bundaberg Women Veterans



Glenda, Dot & Faye—Bundy Women Veterans



WW1 Enactment—Burnett Heads



Leone, Helen, Shirley & Pat—Burnett Heads



WRAAC Vic—School Presentation
Nola Williams & Margaret Jager



WRAAC Western Australia



Janet Young-English WRANS at Woodgate Beach



WRAAC and ARMY—Canberra



Bendigo Vic—Ex Service Women



ANZAC Day Sand Art



WW1 Silo Art - Devenish VIC

Round Up of Events Attended by SCESWA Members

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Association Coffee and Chat morning Thursday 4th May 2023



Bribie Island Ex-Service Women's Monthly Luncheon

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





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

Requests the pleasure of your

company

for the

Annual Luncheon

Thursday 1st JUNE 2023

To be held at

**Maroochy RSL Services Club
Memorial Ave, Maroochydore.**



Timings 11.30am for 12.00 midday
Costing \$40.00 Association Members,
\$45.00 Non Members.

ALL MUST BE PAID BY RSVP

Monday 22 May 2023

NO refunds after 25 May 2023



Persons numbering..... will be attending the luncheon on Thursday
1st June 2023

Indicate payment methodCheque \$ Money Order \$

Internet Banking : Auswide BSB 645646 Acct No 102736405

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assoc. inc.

A complimentary Bistro Meal will be made available for Bus Drivers

Dietary/Allergy requirements and names must be advised.

FORWARD details to

The Secretary

Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Association Inc
PO Box 654 , BUDDINA, Qld. 4575. and/or

email : thornejl@hotmail.com



SCESWA Important Dates for 2023

-  **18 May 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting**
-  **1 June 2023—SCESWA Anniversary Luncheon, Maroochydore RSL Events Centre**
-  **15 June 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting**
-  **6 July 2023—SCESWA Coffee and Catch up, Caloundra RSL Sub Branch**
-  **17 July 2023—Bundaberg District Women's Veteran Inc Birthday Luncheon**
-  **20 July 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting**
-  **29 July 2023—Council of Ex Service Women's Assn Qld Church Service, Location TBA**
-  **3 August 2023—SCESWA General Meeting & Annual General Meeting, Kawana Surf Club**
-  **17 August 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting**
-  **5 September 2023-SCESWA Spring Coffee and Catch up, Stoney Bridge Gardens, Palmwoods**
-  **13 September 2023—Council of Ex Service Women's Assn Qld, Women's Memorial Service, Pine Rivers RSL**
-  **21 September 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting**
-  **5 October 2023—SCESWA Ordinary General Meeting, Maroochydore RSL Sub Branch**
-  **19 October 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting**
-  **20,21 & 22 October 2023—Hervey Bay Ex Service Women's Social Group, Weekend**

SCESWA Important Dates for 2023



2 November 2023—SCESWA Coffee and Catch up. TBA



16 November 2023—SCESWA Committee Meeting



7 December 2023—SCESWA Ordinary General Meeting & Surf Club



Christmas Luncheon, Kawana

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MO BARNES – WRAF



Facebook — Combined Ex Service and Serving Women Australia

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

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2023

Executive

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

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

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

Asst Secretary: Judy Friend, Phone: 0427 690 072, Email: judyandsam7@bigpond.com

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

Asst Treasurer: Fran Sinclair, Phone: 0416 013 987, Email: fran@kandfspace.com

Committee members

Health & Well-Being: Judy Friend, Phone: 0427 690 072, Email: judyandsam7@bigpond.com

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

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

Newsletter

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

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

Email: thornejl@hotmail.com

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

Our previous email is no longer is use.



BANKING DETAILS:

Name of the Account:

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

Institution:

Auswide Bank

BSB: 645 646

Account Number: 102736405

Cheque made payable to:

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

Forward to:

The Treasurer

PO Box 654, BUDDINA Q 4575

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBS: \$15.00 per year

Membership payments Due ***by 28th February*** each year

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

Payments will be accepted at the Meeting or Coffee n Catchup

POPPY SERVICE



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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS DETAILS

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

SCESWA BADGES & CAR STICKERS

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

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the next newsletter is 15th 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 and letters to the Editor at the association address or email Lorraine at l.houlihan1@bigpond.com. We look forward to members' input.

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

