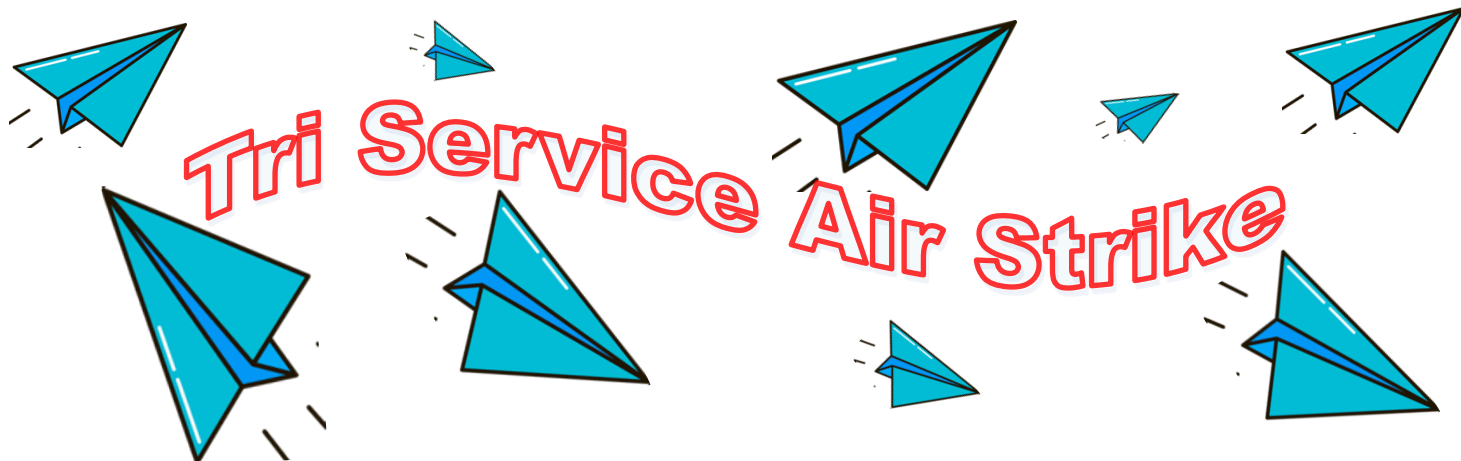


WRAAF ASSOCIATION QLD INC



Newsletter Issue No. 1

www.airforce-women-qld.org.au

Autumn Edition March 2023

From the President's Desk

After our very enjoyable 2022 WRAAF Christmas luncheon my husband and I travelled to Julia Creek to see family before going to Hughenden for a 4 day family Christmas get together. The whole 91 of us. It was wonderful in all aspects and the dreaded heavy rains held off nicely with just a few hours of good refreshing rain. You can tell I am from the country when the weather is so important to me. Actually more to my siblings and their families who all rely on good seasons for their primary produce - mostly cattle.



After those celebrations myself, sisters and brothers all made the difficult decision to move our Mum into aged care. On to clearing out the home our Mum lived in for the last 30 odd years.

Then on to the Tamworth Country Music Festival 2023 via Brisbane to unpack and re-pack the car.

After promising for many years to some our friends that we would visit Tamworth to watch them perform at the Country Music Festival we finally did it!



We joined Ellen Pennell and her husband for the trip and met up with several friends that were there to enjoy the music, festivities and atmosphere also.

For me a highlight of the trip was meeting up with Christine Day (nee Dwyer) and her husband Kingsley. She is a guitarist and a brilliant singer and Kingsley plays keyboards - yes two keyboards at the same time. Very talented.

We had a fantastic night being entertained by them. This night was even more special because Christine was a WRAAF in the late 70's and served in Williamtown where I was based at the time. She actually worked as a Air Defence Plotter along side her very good friend Ellen and they have stayed friends through the years.

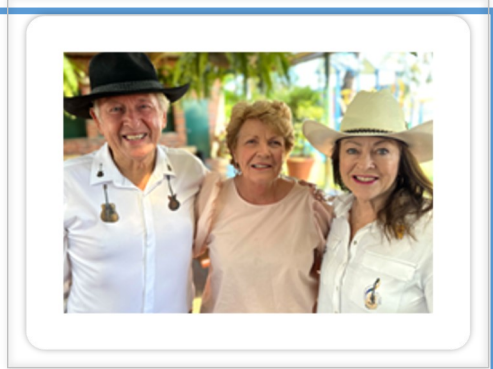
That's Christine on the left with myself and Ellen.

Very special to me is my friend Peter Simpson who worked with my husband for quite a few years in the late 70's. We socialised a lot together in those days. In 1980 we were posted to different bases and life goes on. We didn't catch up with him for many years.



He eventually left the RAAF and began taking his music more seriously. He married Diane Lindsay, a highly respected Country Music artist and daughter of Reg Lindsay, a very well known personality in the Australian Music field. Peter and Di are very active in the music arena and like to encourage 'up and coming' artists to follow their own dreams. They give back a lot to their music community and this has culminated in them both receiving Order of Australia awards this year.

A very big Congratulations to them both for this recognition. It was fantastic to be in the audience for some of their performances over the festival week. I have a massive admiration for their talent and abilities. Very enjoyable shows



I also got to meet and have a chat with this man whom I don't think needs any introduction but just in case there is one person out there that doesn't know him, it is the infamous Chad Morgan. Chad is 90 and still performs well.

He was also in the RAAF at the time of the Korean War. Like with most friends from our Defence Force days they are friends for life and it is so wonderful each time you get to catch up with them.

January came and went in a blur.

February was a month I will remember forever. Our son and his wife decided we should have a family holiday to Tasmania and trace some of my husbands childhood. He was born in Launceston. Our flights were business class and we were treated to a luxurious car and accommodation. Not an everyday occurrence for us. We did and saw many amazing things which culminated in finding and going to the RAAF Association Tasmania Museum. We were escorted around by AVM Peter Scully (Retired) who was a pilot in the Air Force from 1942 to 1992. He flew many types of aircraft from Wirraways to Mirages. He was very interesting and the museum had a very extensive range of memorabilia including WAAAF and WRAAF. I can highly recommend a visit if you are in Hobart.



March was an excellent month for our group primarily because we WON the coveted singing trophy at the Tri Service Luncheon. A very big thanks to Judy Morris who so cleverly devised the words and the talented Bonnie Boon who put it all into 'concert material' for those of us 'shower singers'.

WELL DONE TO EVERYBODY!!!!

Finally, we have the Anzac Day Parade coming up and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Also, our days will be starting to get shorter and cooler soon so please keep healthy and happy as the season for colds and the flu sets upon us.

Per Adua Ad Astra

Peggy Broomhall

81st BANKA ISLAND COMMEMORATION

19th February, 2023

St Augustine's Hamilton in the Diocese of Southern Queensland

I was fortunate this year to attend the 81st Banka Island Commemoration Memorial Service at the St Augustine's Church at Hamilton. The Service was fitting for those fallen nurses.

I would like to include the following

Source:



On Sunday, 13 February, the SA Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust (SAWMPFT) commemorated the 80th Anniversary of the Bangka Island Massacre by officially unveiling the largest memorial dedicated to women in the Southern Hemisphere.

Located at the playing fields at St Marys, the new memorial was dedicated to the 22 Australian army nurses machine-gunned on Bangka Island's Radji Beach, and to all Australian women who served their country in the armed forces.

President of the SAWMPFT, Helen Fischer, said the memorial service is an important opportunity to reflect and pay respect to the courageous women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The event included an official service, a presentation by special guest speaker His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), music by the Australian Army band and a catafalque party. Guests had the opportunity to lay a wreath or tribute as part of the service.

The memorial had been an 18-month project in conjunction with the Office for Sport and Recreation. When complete, the memorial plaza will include a commemorative post for each nurse that was on beach, including the sole survivor, South Australian nurse Vivian Bullwinkel.

"We are very proud to be able to have a memorial that remembers these women in such a beautiful way," Ms Fischer said.

"Members of the community will be able to walk through the memorial plaza and reflect on the circumstances these women found themselves in, and the incredible qualities they showed through extreme adversity."

The modern memorial sculpture is impressive and comprises of 22 poles. 21 stainless steel poles represent each fallen Nursing Sister and includes their name and details. One brass pole has the details of the sole survivor, Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinke

In addition to the memorial plaza, one of the new ovals being redeveloped will be named in honour of the aforementioned survivor, the Vivian Bullwinkel Oval.



Inspiring young women to fly

29 AUGUST 2022

Author

By Corporal Melina Young

Participants in the 2022 Air Force Women in Aviation Program and their guides on the ramp of a C-17A Globemaster at RAAF Base Amberley. Photo: Corporal Brett Sherriff

What could give a teenager the chance to fly in a military aircraft, train a service puppy, and handle firefighting equipment all in five days?

The Air Force Women in Aviation Program is the answer. It's a program where women aged 16-24 can explore the different careers available in the Air Force.

Recently held at RAAF Base Amberley, the program enabled a group of young women to briefly immerse themselves in Defence life. Participant Chelsea Smith, 17, praised the program and said it is suited to women who have their heart set on an Air Force role or just want a taste of the lifestyle.

"It was such an amazing experience and one that I will remember forever," Chelsea said.

Participants explored the different entry pathways into Defence.

They were provided opportunities to engage with serving personnel and gain first hand experiences of what a life in the Air Force could be.

Program Director Squadron Leader Jo-Anne Hume said that the program was not just for school leavers. "The program helps dispel the military life myth," Squadron Leader Hume said.

"It provides an opportunity for young women to have a look at military life and maybe challenge the traditional gendered roles they may not have necessarily believed they could do.

"The women were able to discuss with serving members about their roles and how they balanced their life and living on base."

Squadron Leader Hume said the program delivered new encounters for the young women including leadership experiences and a C-17A flight that put participants outside their comfort zone.

"We had two first time fliers who did not know what to expect," Squadron Leader Hume said.

"It is amazing to watch the young women blossom from a new experience and overcoming any doubt about what they are capable of achieving."

CONTINUED

The participants were keen to know how the Air Force ‘fits together’.

They engaged in hands-on experiences, sat in cockpits, watched security dogs latch onto ‘intruders’, donned firefighting equipment, and flew in multiple simulators.

Chelsea came away from the program with a better understanding of the Air Force lifestyle, and said that it solidified her goal of becoming a pilot. “I would absolutely love to pursue a career in the Air Force, and I’m currently in the recruitment process, which I became certain about undertaking after the completion of this program,” Chelsea said.

Squadron Leader Hume said it was “amazing watching the young women grow so much in such a short period”. “Hopefully this program encourages the next generation of people to join,” Squadron Leader Hume said.

“The future of the Air Force is with a diverse workforce.

“Showing young people what they can do in the Air Force is the first step to them believing that they can.

Source: defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2022-08-29

Linguistic skill a strength that opens doors and minds

21 MARCH 2023

As part of Harmony Week, this week (March 20-26), Squadron Leader Jessica Aldred spoke to two inspirational Air Force members whose lives and careers encapsulate the spirit of the celebration. One of them was Flight Lieutenant Jagroop Mangat, who explains how speaking a number of languages helped her build relationships.

Speaking four languages has led to some unique and varied career opportunities for electronics engineer Flight Lieutenant Jagroop Mangat.

Joining in 2009 as a communication technician and later commissioning, Flight Lieutenant Mangat has deployed on Operations Slipper, Accordion, Pakistan Assist II, Resolute and COVID Assist in her technical and linguist capacities.

She said her Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi and Pashto language skills are a strength that have opened doors.

“For Operation Resolute, I was assigned to a patrol boat that gave me an excellent opportunity to work with the Navy as a linguist and experience life at sea with small bunk beds, short showers and amazing food,” Flight Lieutenant Mangat said.

“In my three-month stint, we came across three vessels carrying suspected unauthorised maritime arrivals and my task as a linguist was to identify the vessel’s captain and find out if anyone had injuries or medical issues, especially women and children, for our medical staff to address.

“I was also required to interview everyone and get their details for Australian Customs. At one time, I interviewed 60-plus people on board one of the vessels – it was hectic but rewarding.”

As part of the Sikh religion, Flight Lieutenant Mangat draws on the inspiration of selfless service from Sikh gurus who believe in equality, justice and service to humanity. ADF service is her way of giving back to the community.

Continued

She believes people bring experiences, skills and lifestyles from their culture and we can all learn and merge them with our own views to build a stronger community.

“Diversity makes for a stronger fighting force, it makes for a more capable force and it makes for a force multiplier,” she said.

While deployed to Kot Addu on Operation Pakistan Assist II, supporting the humanitarian assistance response to devastating floods, Flight Lieutenant Mangat better understood her strengths and values to Air Force.

“Even with the environmental challenges, staying in tents, living off ration packs and the heightened security threat, I was maintaining our communication systems and providing linguist support to our medical team,” Flight Lieutenant Mangat said.

“It took some time for me to understand my strengths and values until I was one of the key engagement links between our medical team and host nation community needing medical support for Operation Pakistan Assist II.

“It was important for me to recognise that when you are diverse of thought or of background, you bring a new voice to the table... and that voice can help with mission accomplishment. I feel privileged to have served in the ADF and would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Flight Lieutenant Mangat is currently a network engineer in Canberra.

Author: Squadron Leader Jessica

Source Air Force News: defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2023-03-21



This guy obviously helped the WRAAF Singers make their planes



5

DATING A PILOT RULES

How do you know when your date with a fighter pilot is halfway over?

He says, "Enough about me. Want to hear about my plane?"





WE WON



Many thanks to Judy Morris and her very clever rewrite of “Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines” and to our excellent conductor, Bonnie Boon, who somehow did not pull her hair out when we tried a practice run on the 11th.

I certainly doubted we would come in winners on the great day, but we did, much to our excitement.

To whet your appetite, Verse 1 Chorus 1:



Those magnificent WRAAF in their blue uniforms

They marched up diddly up up and marched down diddly down down

They left home and family and went off to serve

Those magnificent WRAAF in their blue uniforms

CHORUS

Up, down flying around – postings galore and friendships abound

They each stood strong and so proud

Those magnificent WRAAF in their blue uniforms



Following the excitement of our win, we all joined together and congratulated Margaret Huntley having achieved **25** years of membership.

CONGRATULATIONS

Margaret Huntley
(Butler)



On the 28th August 1963, 18 yr old Margaret BUTLER joined 28 other recruits on WRAAF Training Course 134 at Point Cook, Victoria.

Being a Queenslander, Margaret would have found the parade grounds of Point Cook very chilling with the August winds that blew across the base.

Margaret joined as a Transport Driver and served at Operational Command Penrith and at Williamtown, NSW. Somewhere around late 1965, Margaret married Fredrick HUNTLEY having been discharged from the WRAAF 24th September 1965.

Margaret was one of the first that joined the WRAAF Branch 10 January 1998 and then continued enjoying the camaraderie of her WRAAF friends by joining the new Association 10th November 2018.

Having joined the WRAAF Branch in 1998, Margaret had reached the 25 year membership milestone and our new President, Peggy Broomhall, proudly presented her with our 25 year membership pin and a framed copy of your Certificate of Loyalty.

Congratulations Margaret

Always end the night with a positive thought.

*No matter how hard the day may have been, there is always
a reason to be grateful.*

Let tomorrow be a fresh start.

Calendar - 2023



New Venue: Salvation Army Church—167 Ann Street,

DATE	
<p>APRIL</p> <p>Wednesday 12th</p> <p>Monday 24th</p> <p>Tuesday 25th</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Diamond</p> <p>Glasshouse Mountains Ex-Servicewomen's Luncheon 1100am to 1.30pm at the LOCAL Beerwah 18/44 Simpson Street, Beerwah</p> <p>Combined Services Bribie Island Group—Luncheon Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree, 11.30am Contact Anita Cooper 0402 246 408</p> <p>ANZAC DAY 9.30 am . Assemble at i/s Elizabeth and George St beside the Treasury Bld. (same as last year). Lunch following at 11.30 onwards at the River Bar & Kitchen, 71 Eagle Street, City. Any enquiries Contact Secretary 0419 659 902.</p>
<p>MAY</p> <p>Wednesday 10th</p> <p>Saturday 13th</p> <p>Monday 22nd</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Emerald</p> <p>Glasshouse Mountains Ex-Servicewomen's Luncheon 1100am to 1.30pm at the LOCAL Beerwah 18/44 Simpson Street, Beerwah</p> <p>OGM 9.30am for 10.00am start—Salvation Army Church, 167 Ann St., Brisbane City</p> <p>Combined Services Bribie Island Group—Luncheon Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree, 11.30am Contact Anita Cooper 0402 246 408</p>
<p>JUNE</p> <p>Thursday 1st</p> <p>Wednesday 14th</p> <p>Monday 26th</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Pearl</p> <p>SCESWA Annual Luncheon—Maroochy RSL Services Club, Memorial Avenue Maroochydore. 11.30 for 12.00pm Cost: \$40 for Association Members and \$45 for Non Members Contact: Secretary : Jan Thorne on 0410 448 433 or thornejl@hotmail.com</p> <p>Glasshouse Mountains Ex-Servicewomen's Luncheon 1100am to 1.30pm at the LOCAL Beerwah 18/44 Simpson Street, Beerwah</p> <p>Combined Services Bribie Island Group—Luncheon Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree, 11.30am Contact Anita Cooper 0402 246 408</p>
<p>JULY</p> <p>Saturday 8 th</p> <p>Saturday 15th</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Ruby</p> <p>WRAAF Toowoomba Annual Reunion, Burke & Wills Hotel, Toowoomba 11.00am for 12.00pm Cost to be advised</p> <p>OGM 9.30 for 10.00am start, Salvation Army Church, 167 Ann St., City</p>

YOUR 2022—2023 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Your Management Committee is committed to making decisions from an informed and inclusive environment by meeting prior to each OGM.

Executive

President: Peggy Broomhall. Phone - 0431 945 769 Email - pkbroomhall@bigpond.com

Vice President & Secretary: Janet Noack. Phone - 0419 659 902 Email - secretary.wraaf@gmail.com

Treasurer: Colette Whiteley Phone 0431 378 078 , Email treasurerwraaf@gmail.com

Asst Secretary: Maureen Stewart 0424 741 527 Email - morsy@optusnet.com.au

Asst Treasurer: Jill Buckland, 0400 928 136 Email - jillbuckland@bigpond.com

Committee Members

Chris Lloyd; Leigh Walsh; Pam Hardy-Treloar; Susita Coleclough; Vi Speis; Dorelle Mumford; Judy Evans

Well-Being Support Officer: Maureen Stewart. Contact details: Ph.3389 5762 Mob.0424 741 527

or Email: morsy@optusnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor : Janet Noack (details as above)

Merchandise Officer: Jill Buckland. Contact details: Phone 0400 928 136 - Email—jillbuckland@bigpond.com

Website Address

www.airforce-women-qld.org.au

WHERE & WHEN WE MEET:

Salvation Army Church Meeting Room at 167 Ann Street, Brisbane City.

Please arrive By 9.30am for a 10.00am start.

When:

3rd Saturday in January OGM, + Birthday Celebration and July OGM.

2nd Saturday in March OGM + AGM; May OGM and September OGM; November OGM + Christmas Faire

Newsletter:

Each quarter commencing in late March.

BANKING DETAILS

Name of the Account: WRAAF Assn Qld

Institution: Bank of Queensland

BSB: 124185

Account Number: 22836307

Cheque made payable to: WRAAF Assn Qld

Forward to: Secretary,

WRAAF Assn Qld

30 Scrubby Creek Road

BROWNS PLAINS QLD 4118

