

Women's Royal Australian Army Corps

QLD REVIEW



Queensland



Issue 176 March 2025



CORPS DAY 74TH ANNIVERSARY





WHAT A HOOT!

74 years have come and gone! And our desire to celebrate the forming of Women's Royal Australian Army Corps (WRAAC) is still as strong as ever! If anything, it is getting stronger as we grow older!

2024 WRAAC Association Qld Committee really worked hard to make this a most enjoyable and memorable day for all the members who were able to attend. AND they were successful! Thank you for your efforts! This years theme was the Cooktown Orchid, Queensland's floral emblem, and the room looked very elegant with the purple sashes on the chairs. From the moment, we walked through the door we were greeted as if we were all guests of honour! We were informed about the Attendance Book, the individual photograph, the merchandising, the library and the raffle tickets, WOW!

There was a visiting group of ladies from Hervey Bay who appeared to have had a jolly good time. Word has it that a few have submitted paperwork to become members! Welcome!

Once most of us were seated at our tables, the formalities began. The Flag Party, Dee Elliott and Chris Clancy, displayed their military training had not been forgotten. Very smart ... great job Ladies!

Narelle led us in The Ode, and then of course came General Housekeeping info – where we can find the essentials i.e. Bar, Toilets, and of course fire precautions etc.

President Kay Halford officially welcomed us all and had a few words to say, surprisingly!!! Carmel said Grace and then we were into a very tasty Entrée!

Lots of chatter and laughter until Gwenda recited our WRAAC Prayer followed by the Toast to WRAAC Corps.

Off to the side the *Empty Table* had been prepared. Norma McNaughton read the '*Symbolism of the Empty Table*' – very moving! Concluded with toast to Absent Friends! A few sobering moments!!

Carmel announced that she had discovered a book which may be of interest to some members - *Sharing Stories A Social History of Kelvin Grove Village by Helen Klæbe* referring to some history of Gona Barracks at Kelvin Grove. WRAAC member Judith Cox is featured in the book. Carmel has donated this book to our library, contact our Librarian Daniela if you would like to borrow it. Details page 10 or on the website.

Our wonderful Secretary, Marjorie McShane, proposed the Loyal Toast. This was followed by Kay's announcement of the 25 year Pin recipients which Carmel presented to Lyn Potter (having held many Committee positions) and Di Elsworth. Surprised and honoured ... where did those 25 years go? Special Lucky Door Prize draw - Kay explained that Kerry Lofdahl's family had donated it in remembrance of her Mother, CAPT Shirley Lofdahl. What a lovely gesture! She will always be remembered! More eating, drinking, and lots more laughter. Put that many women in one room and what do you get!?! ... lots of noise! But no one was complaining.

Then came the raffles So many prizes! Someone will know how many, but it really didn't matter to those who found they were a tad unlucky on the day whilst others were smiling with delight! Thanks goes to all those responsible – beautifully presented!

But then 'every member gets a prize' time ... a gift box of WRAAC memorabilia marking this special day! Lovely and useful little treasures!

A big, big thanks to Jaque and her Geebung RSL team! Job well done! Meals were very appetising, and all special needs were met. I don't think many of us would have lined up for dinner afterwards!

Kay 'handled' the microphone again to thank the Committee. Special thanks to Lorraine Houlihan for fulfilling the role of 'happy snapper' throughout the day. Lorraine then told us a story about her & Jennie Promnitz's revamped lyrics to a song i.e. the how, the why and where it came about brilliant! Can you imagine all our voices joined in harmony to sing with such gusto the new lyrics to *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cowen.

The Finale to a most enjoyable and memorable day 2025 WRAAC Corps Day.....

ENDING WITH ONE LAST CHALLENGE:

getting all these women on one stage for one last photo!

Anything IS possible **WE DID IT!**

Watch this space for more celebrating later in 2025 and even bigger in February 2026!!!

Submitted by Di Elsworth





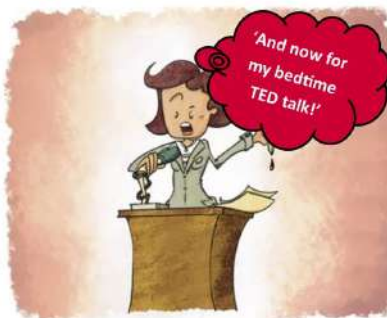
View the full collection of photos on the website!

CORPS DAY 2025

Well, what a great day Corps Day 8 Feb 25 was. A very professional march in of the Australian and Corps flags by Dee and Chris. 'Soldiers of the Queen' always gets the toes tapping and the urge to start marching. The singing at the end of the day made us all feel so proud of our service and remember what life in the military is all about.

As you all know our President likes to chat and of course took no notice of my suggestion to keep her welcome brief. Whilst there was much fun, laughter, and banter regarding her love of chatting; I think the moment that caused the most laughter was when our President stated that she could take a microphone to bed with her. It's always a good day when we get to see our President blush.

Submitted by Carolyn Paul
Graphics submitted by Nola Strawbridge



PS: TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design, with **ENTERTAINMENT** being the focus here!!



Care Corner



Wellbeing Support Officer Activities Firstly can I wish you all a very Happy New Year and I sincerely hope that 2025 continues to bring friendship, joy and continued camaraderie for the Association. Lovely to attend both the 2024 Christmas luncheon and in recent weeks a magnificent luncheon to celebrate Corp Day at the Geebung RSL. Thank-you, to all those hard at work behind the scenes, to ensure these days are enriched with Esprit de Corp, the testament is always in the smiles and heaps of laughter that fills the room on these occasions. Also, very gracious to have attended a magnificent 2024 Christmas Luncheon with the Ex-Servicewomen in Bundaberg, again thanks to the organisers there was a great spread and it was a lovely fun filled afternoon.

I have been very busy and active in assisting members of the Association with hospital visits and follow up home visits post discharge. And can I say there has been a little trip or two to the Accident and Emergency in recent weeks for support. Please never feel alone and always reach out if you would like some assistance, we will try our best to source the most appropriate support. I have also managed to assist with enquiries for My Age Care, which has flagged some misunderstanding as to how the government-subsided Australian aged care services can assist you. I will endeavour to continue to assist where possible on a case-by-case with individual concerns. Sometimes it is as simple as speaking directly with your Plan Manager to ensure your needs are being understood.

Now in my little crystal ball it has come to my attention that there have been a few slips, trips, and falls. Ladies please be very vigilant and diligent on your feet because according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, falls were a leading cause of injury hospitalisations in 2023 and notably were a resounding statistic leading to cause of deaths in preceding years. Bearing in mind the Chinese Zodiac for 2025 is considered the "Year of the Wood Snake" this signifies a time of patience, careful decision making and strategic planning – the time might be right to consider a quick audit of your home surroundings for trip/slip hazards, and also consider safe choices in your daily activities.

For those who are wanting to participate in the North Brisbane/Sunshine Coast Area we will be commencing a monthly 9-hole social golf game anticipated to be played in the last week of the month. So please watch the notice board if you would like a little walk, natter and I dare say loads of fun and laughter as we chase that little white ball around the course.

I look forward to working closely with the committee and the VSOs to continue supporting you all.

Take care,

Terrie-Ann
Wellbeing Support Officer



**The Council of Ex-Service Women's
Associations Queensland**

**INVITATION
TO ALL EX-SERVICEWOMEN**

**TO
TRI-SERVICE LUNCH 2025
AND
INTER-SERVICE SINGING COMPETITION**

WHEN: Saturday 12th April 2025
11.00 for 12pm

WHERE: Geebung RSL- 323 Newman Rd. Geebung
Two Course Lunch and Cash Bar

COST: WRAAC Association Members \$20.00

RSVP & PAYMENT BY COB 26TH MARCH 2025

WRAAC Assn Secretary Mob: 0400 038 221
Email: secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com

Payments to: WRAAC Assn Qld Inc.
Bank of Queensland
BSB: 124074 Account: 23017767

Please advise any special dietary requirements



POPPY SERVICE - So that we can honour you!

If you wish your service to your country to be recognised at your funeral, you need to let your family and/or funeral director know your wishes. Remember to notify your local RSL Sub Branch as well. Our Association cannot interfere, it is your family's responsibility to request this Service.



From the President's Pen

Hello all, well our final Christmas meeting/gathering, came and went and was most enjoyable. Narelle's Christmas puzzle kept everyone busy.

Then the big plans for Corps Day kept us very busy, and finally came the event. The feedback was good, and the number of attendees was positive, we expect many more for our 75th next year.

Thanks to Kerry Lofdahl, daughter of our late member Shirley Lofdahl, who asked if she could include a perpetual lucky door prize in memory of her mum. Lorraine Houlihan's sister-in-law, Jennie Promnitz, was fortunate to win the wonderful hamper which was valued in excess of \$200.00.

The raffle prizes were very well received together with our complimentary gift of a bag holder with WRAAC badge. These are now in stock and can be bought through our Merchandise Officer, Cindie. To the Committee a very big thankyou for all the work put in to the event. Each year we seem to improve on the one before, leaving high expectations on the Committee. However, certain jobs require certain skills and it is a must to draw on different member's strengths, placing a lot of pressure on them. We pack a lot in to the event so that you can enjoy the day and this year was no exception. Thank you to our volunteers Alison Rolff, Cheryl Phillips and Jean Bromham who arrived early on the day to assist.

Thank you to Lorraine Houlihan who took masses of photographs, some of which will be in this Newsletter, but the majority will go onto the website in due course.

My thanks also to Daniela Bensen for her display with the Library, also to Gwenda and Cindie who packed in a large merchandise display. Thanks to Julie Chapple who organised some of the Hervey Bay girls to join us for the day. I believe they must have had a good time as three of them have made an application to join the Association.

I am currently writing this as Cyclone Alfred hovers off the coast and is expected to cross land tomorrow morning, Saturday. We always expect this up north, but the weather patterns are forever changing and we have to learn to live with it.

Is this what they mean by Global Warming?

Welfare

Our new Wellbeing Model is going smoothly with most members now in contact with a Volunteer Support Officer (VSO). This in turn has seen our Wellbeing Support Officer, Terrie-Ann, receiving referrals and I might add, wasting no time to address the matters passed on to her.

Warm wishes to those who are currently unwell or experiencing some setbacks.

We are here should you wish to talk with anyone.

Website

While our Editor can only put so much in the Newsletter, please don't forget to check our website, www.qldwraac.org.au

Most of the upcoming **Events** for the next couple of months are listed and there are quite a few. Newsletters received from other States and Organisations are included under **Membership. Noticeboard** has a letter and email pertaining to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, so those who worked in Sigs., I'm sure will find this interesting, it also includes a video from HRH Princess Anne. (link to the video is available)

Why not take a walk on the wild side and browse your website.

New Members

We are fortunate to welcome four (4) new members.

Sandy **Hoffschmidt**, Sandy **Button** nee Smith, Rhonda **Jones Holt** nee Jones and Joanne **Williams**. Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings/functions.

I am happy to say that your Association is doing very well and currently has in excess of 110 financial members (at last count). Congratulations to each and every one of you for your support and helping us to reach 45 years in existence.

To those who had the vision 45years ago and organised an initial meeting to see if anyone was interested, I thank you.

It is hoped that we will have a little morning tea at our AGM in May and to those who can't be with us, you will be in our thoughts.

Finally, the AGM which is held in May, is your chance to have your say and choose a committee you want to run your Association for the next year. I ask those who would like to have a go, please consider nominating. The roles of all the positions are clearly outlined in the By Laws, which can be found on the website under **Membership**.

Thank-you for your support, stay safe.

Warm regards, Kay



The Captain and crew of the cruise ship
SS SUNNY COAST invites you to join us at
our Annual Luncheon.



The ship will be docked at:
The Maroochy RSL Events Centre,
Memorial Ave, Maroochydore.

Boarding Date : Thursday 5 June 2025 Time: 11.30 for 12 Midday

Passage must be booked and paid for by 25 May 2025

Further information to be advised in the next newsletter or on the website.

75th *Perth Reunion*
Anniversary
12 - 15 February 2026
Registration details to be advised later
Hosted by WRAAC Association (WA)
Email: wraac70@hotmail.com
Postal address: WRAAC 75, PO Box 309, HAMILTON HILL WA 6863

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the WRAAC Association (Qld) Inc. will be conducted at the
Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung on **Saturday 24th May 2025**.

The General Meeting will commence at 10.30am and the AGM will follow after a short interval.

The Nomination Form, Appendix B (attached), must be lodged with the Secretary by close of business
Wednesday **23rd April 2025**. Proxy Form, Appendix C, is also attached.

All forms are available from the website under 'Membership'.

Submitted by the Secretary

83rd Bangka Island Commemoration Service

On Sunday 9 February 2025. Kay, Gwenda and I attended the 83rd Bangka Island Commemoration Service at St Augustine's Anglican War Memorial Church in Hamilton, a beautiful church with the most amazing stained-glass windows.

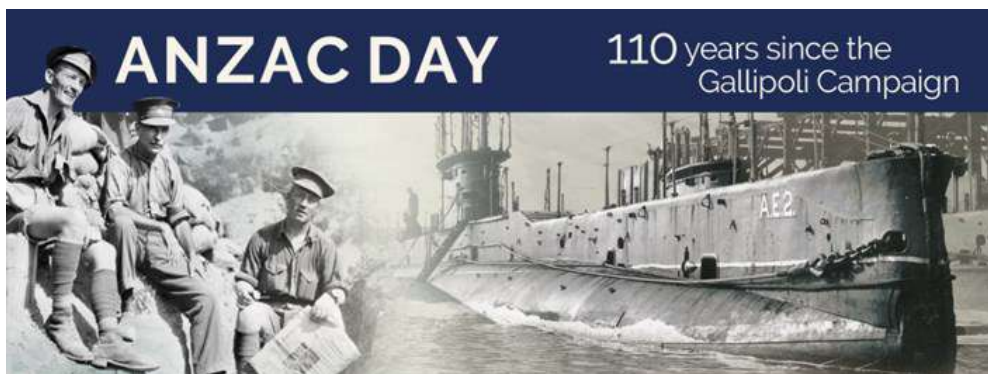
The Service was organised and designed by Major Ann Martin (Retired) with assistance from Judith Munday OAM. It was an emotional and touching Service, a tribute to those nurses who were mercilessly gunned down by Japanese Soldiers on the beach of Bangka Island on that fateful day 83 years ago, with only one survivor Vivian Bullwinkel.

The Bangka Island Story was relayed by Major Ann Martin (Retired) followed by an Offertory Procession of the Veil and Cape to the Captives' Hymn, sung by the Brisbane Girls Grammar School Choir. A visual Roll Call remembering the Bangka Nurses was then shown.

A relative of one of the nurses was in attendance and participated in the Service as did a Board Member from the ANMC (Australian Nurses Memorial Centre) established by Vivian Bullwinkel. The Ode was given by LTCOL Maxwell Williams CO 1st Regiment Royal Australian Artillery followed by the Last Post, One Minute Silence, and Rouse. The National Anthem, Final Prayers, and Blessing concluded the Commemoration Service.

The afternoon was followed by a lovely High Tea in the Church Hall.

Submitted by Marjorie McShane



BRISBANE ANZAC DAY MARCH 2025

TIMING: 9.30am for 10.00am march off – please make sure you are at the line up point (see below) by 9.30am. Once the march has started it will be impossible to join in.

DRESS: WRAAC outfit and beret/hat if you have one or smart casual dress/slacks in pale colours and closed in shoes and hats. Full medals only to be worn, no miniatures.

LINE UP POINT: We will be close to the corner of Elizabeth and George Streets. For new members look for the WRAAC Association banner, and be aware that we are one of the first to march off.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: A small water bottle would be beneficial for you to carry.

WATCH THE WRAAC WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION

BUS TRIP TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE

On Tuesday the 25th February, a number of WRAAC ladies who are also members of the Defence Service Women's RSL Chapter of the Sunnybank Sub-Branch (DSWC), along with members of the WRAAF and Sunnybank RSL had the pleasure of visiting Government House (Fernberg).

We met at Sunnybank RSL before heading off to Government House by bus. Henry, our driver, took us on a short detour through Roma Street Parklands as we were running early. He entertained us with some trivia questions and jokes, whilst waiting for the gates to open when we arrived.

We were broken into three tour groups for our wandering through the grounds and the house. Our tour guide was Brendan, a very dapper young fellow, who was very knowledgeable. He answered all our questions in detail and was very enthusiastic about his role. He started the tour with a short stroll around the gardens which are beautifully maintained and very peaceful to walk through.

Having never been inside Government House, it was very interesting and educational to learn about the history and contents of the house. There were spectacular artworks, furnishings, Waterford crystal chandeliers and furniture representing many eras. It must be very impressive when the house is all lit up and the tables are fully laid with their lovely silverware and crockery for a formal function. We were privileged to have morning tea in the Drawing Room upstairs as the Investiture Room was having the parquet flooring repolished. We were served by staff with tea or coffee and a delicious Queensland shaped biscuit, along with a selection of lamingtons and cakes from the Sunnybank RSL. The fresh floral arrangements were beautifully presented and the stained-glass window of *Robert the Bruce* was simply stunning at the top of the staircase leading to the private rooms.

Sadly, the Governor was not in residence that day as she was in India, but we did see her office.

The life size statue of Queen Elizabeth II, which was originally at the corner of George and Alice Streets in the city, now stands here proudly looking towards the city.

We were able to view the State Vehicles in their garage, but unfortunately, we were not able to have a ride! They still have the Queens Crown on the number plates, as does the household crockery, as King Charles is into sustainability and only wants change when it is really necessary.

After leaving Government House, we headed for Mount Cootba Lookout, stopping to draw the raffles along the way. After a very short visit to the lookout, we headed back to Sunnybank RSL.

A very enjoyable and enlightening day was had by all. I would encourage you to consider joining the Defence Service Women's Chapter so that you too may enjoy these great outings.

Submitted by Gwenda Smith



COMMITTEE FOR 2024-2025

PRESIDENT	Kay Halford	0413 216 643	presidentwraac@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Carmel Tunstall	0413 337 329	girl.1944@hotmail.com
SECRETARY	Marjorie McShane	0400 038 221	secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Kay Halford and Carolyn Paul to assist		
TREASURER	Carolyn Paul	0402 078 632	treasurerwraac.qld@outlook.com
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Cindie Manzie	0431 376 843	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Clancy 402 844 648 Narelle Gourlay 0417 648 309 Gwenda Smith 0400 818 846

WELL BEING OFFICER

Terri-Ann Howard 0409 700 581
(Associate Member)

ARCHIVIST

Lyn Potter 0412 551 407

MERCHANDISE OFFICER

Cindie Manzie 0431 376 843

EDITOR

Gwenda Smith 0400 818 846 editorwraac.qld@outlook.com

WEBMASTER

Kay Halford 0413 216 643 webmaster.qldwraac@outlook.com

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION



POSTAL ADDRESS: WRAAC Association (Qld) Inc.
30 Scrubby Creek Road, BROWNS PLAINS QLD 4118



WEBSITE: www.qldwraac.org.au

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

GENERAL MEETING VENUE:

- ◆ Geebung RSL
323 Newman Road, Geebung

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- ◆ 10.30 am
- ◆ Bi-monthly or as required

COMMITTEE MEETING VENUES:

- ◆ South East District RSL, 42-50 Oxlade Drive, New Farm
- ◆ Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch, 19 Gager Street, Sunnybank

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- ◆ \$15.00 due on 31st March each year

INTERNET BANKING

- ◆ **ACCOUNT NAME:** WRAAC Assn Qld Inc.
- ◆ **BSB:** 124074 (Bank of Qld) **ACCOUNT NO:** 23017767
- ◆ **PAYEE REF:** Please quote your Initial & Surname and what the payment is for. Eg. ACitizen/Fees

IMPORTANT

Please text or email the Treasurer with your payment details, to ensure your payment can be receipted correctly.



Process for borrowing:

Contact the Librarian Daniela Bensen on 3869 3190 or E: bensen21@hotmail.com

- * Borrowing time will be 3 months.
- * If you are local we would ask that you 'pick up' and 'return' at a meeting.
- * If you are not local we will try and make an arrangement to save a postage fee.

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

Thank you



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

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

Don't Forget!

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 31 MARCH EACH YEAR

FEES ARE **NOW** **OVERDUE** FOR 2025



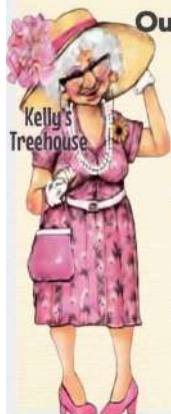
HAVE YOU PAID?



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

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

The Truth About Women Our Age..



We've seen it all, we've done it all, we've been around the block. We're living large, we're so in charge.. Old Ladies, what a crock!
We've just begun to have our fun! We've earned each little wrinkle. Say it loud! We're downright proud, and when we laugh, we tinkle.
Real women feel it's no big deal to add another candle - We're Old! We're Bold! We're Solid Gold... There's Nothing We Can't Handle!

Your imperfections make you unique!

The best thing about being over 50?



We did all our stupid stuff before the invention of the internet, so there's no proof!

Lucky Member Draw ...



Sandy Hoffschildt

Congratulations!

You know you're getting old when

going out is fun but going home is better.



I LAUGHED SO HARD A TEAR RAN DOWN MY LEG!!

Anniversary, Birthday or maybe a Lotto Win ...

Whatever you were celebrating!!

We hope you enjoyed your special day!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT REVIEW

Deadline for the next newsletter is **18 April 2025**. Every effort will be made to use all contributions, but it may not be in the next issue. Please send all articles, clear photos, reports and letters to the Editor at the association address or email editorwraac.qld@outlook.com

Your input makes an ordinary Review "Extraordinary"

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



MARCH

2025

Monday 10	Caboolture Ex-Servicewomen's Lunch , 11.30am for 12 midday, Caboolture Sports Club. Any enquiries to Carmel Tunstall 0413 337 329
Wednesday 12	Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence Service , 11am to 1.30pm, The LOCAL, Beerwah Village Shopping Centre, 18/44 Simpson Street, Beerwah As we need to book please contact Fran Sinclair 0416 013 987 if you require any further information.
Friday 21	Service Widows Monthly Lunch Group (SWMLG) , 11.30am Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree This is a social gathering and is fully supported by the President Australian War Widows Queensland Any enquiries Anita Cooper 0402 246 408
Saturday 22	GENERAL MEETING 10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung If you have an interesting piece of memorabilia (doesn't have to be military), why not bring it along as a show and tell and share with the members.
Monday 24	Combined Services Bribie Island Group 11.30am, Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree Any enquiries Anita Cooper 0402 246 408

APRIL

Saturday 12	Tri-Service Lunch 2025, 11.00 for 12pm Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung See full information on page 6
Friday 25	ANZAC Day See information on page 8 for the city march

MAY

Saturday 3	COMMITTEE MEETING 10:30am Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch, 19 Gager Street, Sunnybank
Tuesday 20	Sunnybank RSL Sub Branch Bus Trip to visit RAAF Base Amberley If interested advise secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com asap. Numbers need to be gathered and security clearances conducted on each person attending.



Have you checked the Website for information and details of other Events that are happening.

- * Caboolture Ex-Servicewomen's Lunch on the 2nd Monday of each month
- * Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence Service on the 2nd Wednesday of every month
- * Combined Services Bribie Island Group who meet for lunch every 4th Monday of each month

WRAAC MERCHANDISE

Contact Cindie Manzie
E: cintru@hotmail.com



Bag Holder
\$10



Pte Penny Gadget

A "Torch" to light your way
An "Opener" to help you refresh
A "Tape" to measure
A "Key Ring" to travel with you !

\$4



Lapel Pin
\$8



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

\$3



Car
Sticker
\$3



Merchandise



**SHOPPING
BAG
\$5**

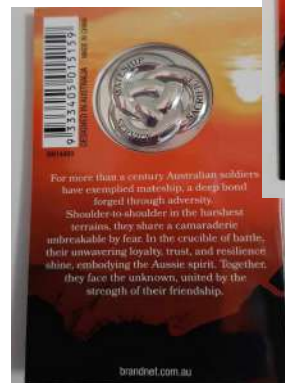
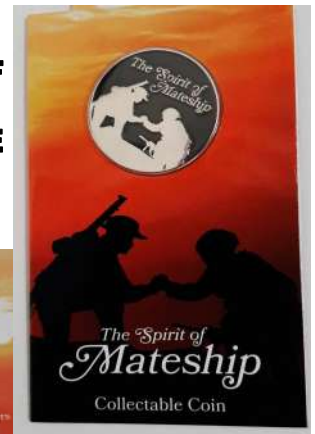


**REMEMBER
THEIR SERVICE
LAPEL PIN
\$5**

**CERAMIC
MUG
\$10**



**THE SPIRIT OF
MATESHIP
COLLECTABLE
COIN
\$2**



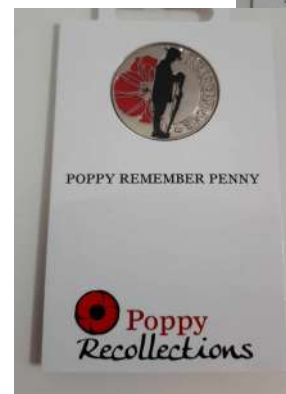
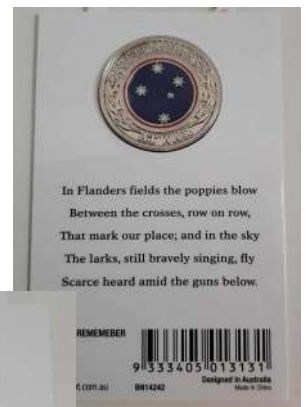
**BUNCH
OF
POPPIES
\$5**



**TRAVEL
MUG
\$5**



**MAGNETIC
MEMO PAD
\$2**



**POPPY
REMEMBER
PENNY
\$2**