

# Women's Royal Australian Army Corps



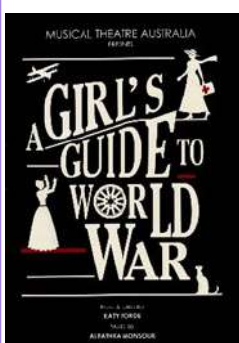
## QLD REVIEW



Issue 177 May 2025



## Dr Lilian Cooper, Josephine Bedford, Dr Agnes Bennett Forgotten Women that defied conventions and left an indelible mark on history ...



Recently I attended a beautiful enlightening musical **A Girls Guide to World War** that was performed at QPAC Brisbane. This portrayed the war time experiences of two female doctors, Dr Lilian Cooper (first female doctor registered in Queensland) from Brisbane and Dr Agnes Bennett from Sydney. Dr Cooper was accompanied by her companion Josephine Bedford who was also a trailblazer in Queensland; one of her triumphs was establishing the Creche and Kindergarten Association (C&K). The exceptional war time experiences of these ladies is a little, but significant part of their lives. They were involved in many things that paved the way not only for females but for the greater good of us all. These were not the only Australian ladies serving on the Serbian Front, in the April 2025 edition of Vet Affairs there is a full-page article on a number of other Australian doctors and nurses etc. that served on the front and have recently been honoured by

the issuing of Serbian Stamps. It's amazing how once you come across a snippet of a story how much information is out there and, in this case, as I started researching, a plethora of information flowed forward.



*Dr Lilian Voilet Cooper*



*Mary Josephine Bedford*



*Dr Agnes Bennett*

When WWI broke out in 1914, these ladies offered their service to the AIF but were rejected, as females were not being accepted by the army, only nurses were allowed to enlist. In fact they were rejected due to "the disability of gender" but they were never going to stay home and knit socks. They were not going to take no for an answer. They had heard of the "Scottish Women's Hospitals" (SWH) which was being staffed and funded by women from all over the world. They joined this organisation. Several of these hospitals served in various war-torn countries, but only ONE actually managed to serve on a frontline, it became known as the "Bennett Unit". Our Dr Bennett was its Commanding Officer. Serbia was in desperate need of medical support and accepted the help of this hospital in 1916 becoming the only one of SWH to serve on the frontline. Over 1300 women (doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, x-ray operators, orderlies, administrators, drivers, cooks etc.) served in Dr Elsie Inglis's 14 medical units throughout the war in France, Russia, Greece, Corsica, Malta, Romania, Salonika and Serbia.

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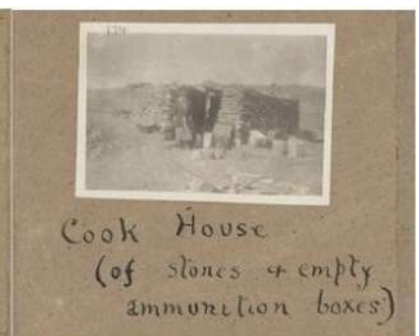
The musical gives an excellent reflection of their time at war. Whilst the Bennett Unit was on the frontline there were other Army Hospitals a day's drive away in Greece, they were right in the thick of it, within earshot of the guns and under constant air raid threat. The hospital was so successful, and Drs Bennett and Cooper had built such a reputation that doctors from other units would come to learn from them. Things that we take as simple good practice today were not around at the time. Dr Bennett introduced many practices that enhanced the survivability of the wounded once they reached her unit. Just simple things like being washed and cleaned on arrival made a significant difference. Many wounded once they knew they were being evacuated to a hospital requested to be sent to the Bennett Unit, they even escaped other hospitals and made their way to hers hoping to sneak in.



Transport in the Serbian Army was limited to stretcher bearers, carts, and mules. The Bennett Unit had the only cars on the front, being the Model T Fords. Josephine was put in charge of the transport section of the unit, her ability to keep the vehicles serviceable, where spare parts were virtually impossible to come by, earned her the nickname "Miss Spare Parts" from the female drivers. Many of the drivers were "upper class" British women who mucked in and did whatever was asked of them, all the way down to just boiling water and digging holes. It could be suggested that these ladies would have made great diggers as not only did they work hard, but they were a wild lot to manage and made the most of the time. The treacherous roads up to the dressing stations near the front were extremely steep and zigzagged with sharp hair pin bends down the precipitous slopes. Josephine noted that many drivers returned at night with icicles round their necks and their eyebrows frozen. These women not only drove but were often found digging the ambulances out of the mud and snow, pushing them up the hills, washing down their motors and repairing broken parts.

Because of the difficulty of keeping the hospital near the action as the frontline moved forward, and the conditions of the road, sometimes there were delays of up to nine days getting a wounded soldier from the front to the hospital. Dr Bennett proposed a small very simple dressing station be established near the frontline. Dr Cooper was considered the best choice of surgeon to man this forward outpost. 'They had built a nice little mess house of kerosene tins filled with soil and a tarpaulin roof put up very neatly and were building a place to store things in – the kitchenette was made of stones one on top of another and the roof a hammered out cartridge cases they had brought down from the trenches ... I went out for a walk over the hills with Dr Cooper. Signs of fighting everywhere even some of the dead not properly buried.'

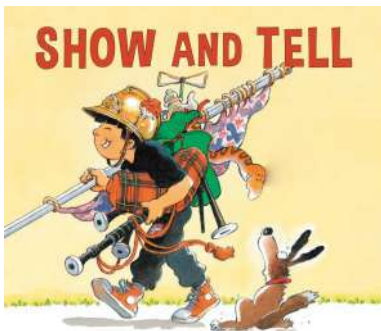
(Dr Agnes Bennett's diary, 9 January 1917)



For Lilian, the opportunity to offer her expertise to such a worthy cause, and be able to perform such vital surgeries, was vindication for all the opposition she had faced during her training and early career. Her long hours of life-saving operations, removing bullets and shrapnel, amputating limbs and repairing wounds, stabilised patients enough for transport down to the hospital at Ostrovo. 'The bomb wounds, in my experience, were the worst, so many of them developed gas gangrene, and were most difficult to do anything with.' (Dr Lilian Cooper, 1917 as cited in McLaren, 1919).

The creators of the musical have only been able to present a small snippet of their lives and those who served with them. They suggest that it would take at least a twelve-part TV series to even start to tell some of the stories of the ladies that served in the SWH. For example, the author of "My Brilliant Career" Stella Miles Franklin joined up under a false name "Frankie Doodle" and helped with anything and everything. There are many of these stories to be found and told.

Continued Page 9



## Memorabilia on show at the March General Meeting

**Lyn Potter** and **Di Elsworth** brought along their Pte Birthday Bears. They kept them with them during their Army Career, especially, taking them along to camps which was a lot of fun.

**Sarah Hayes-Gregson** showed us some exquisite Christmas Cards. Handmade by the Japanese where she lived with her family as a child between the years of 1951-58.

**Margaret Watson** had lots of wonderful photos of her time when she served with 1 WRAAC Coy.

**Kay Halford** brought in a wonderful old 'wash board' and a Charles Hope 3-tiered tin for making homemade ice cream.

**Carmel Tunstall** told us of the time she was in Recruit Training at Wacol and it was her 21st Birthday – she received a Birthday card from the girls, it had a cannon on the front to depict the 21-gun salute plus they sent a telegram.

**Mariann Matthias** also told us of her family link to Cowra NSW during WWII. Mariann will be travelling to Cowra this year for Anzac Day.



## Blast from the Past 'CORPS DAY 2003'



## Tri-Services Luncheon 2025

This years annual get together of all three Services was held on Saturday 12 April 2025 at the Geebung RSL, and what a wonderful occasion it was.

Army, Navy and Air Force were all well represented at the Annual Tri-Service 'sing off'. Melodious tones filled the great hall as each Service took their turn to compete for the absolute pinnacle of vocal clarity ... *'The Tri Service Cup'*!

A hush came over the happy participants as the choral judge contemplated on the massive task that was ahead of her. This year a special judge was invited to adjudicate. Jacque, an employee of the Geebung RSL, and eloquent speaker was up for the task.

By the narrowest of margins the Air Force girls lifted the magnificent winner's trophy. Congratulations to Air Force, well done to us all.

Delicious meals were served while guests chatted, caught up with old friends and made new friendships. The fun and interaction of the Tri-Service Luncheon has the vibe of no other event. I for one am looking forward to Tri-Service Luncheon in 2026. See you there!



Submitted by Chris Clancy



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**

You must pay direct to the Sunshine Coast as stated in their flyer and then advise Dee Elliott of your attendance. Email: [deirdre\\_colin@bigpond.com](mailto:deirdre_colin@bigpond.com) Mob: 0408 222 592

Internet Banking: AUSWIDE Account BSB 645646 Account No. 102736405

Lunch Cost: \$45.00 Non-Member. For those travelling from Brisbane, this includes a free bus. A Bus hire is being shared by WRAAC Assn & DSW RSL Chapter and will leave from Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch at 9.15am. It will pick up at the Salvation Army Church, Ann St., City at 9.45am and proceed to Maroochydore for 11.30am



**Numbers and pick up point will be required by 23 May 2025. Please advise our Secretary Marjorie, 0400 038 221 or [secretarywraac\\_qld@outlook.com](mailto:secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com)**

Flyer on the website [Events | wraacqld](#)





## From the President's Pen

Hello all, what crazy weather we continue to experience here in Queensland. As I was writing my last, 'from the pen' message for the March Review, Cyclone Alfred was causing chaos. Again, here in south-east Queensland we have been through another mass of downpours which saw many cancelled events and marches on Anzac Day. My heart goes out to those who did march in pouring rain but they did it in true Anzac Spirit, well done ladies.

Some of our members in other states are in need of rain, so trust me when I say that Queensland would like for it to head your way.

### Support

As you are aware, our Volunteer Support Officers (VSO) are doing their best to contact everyone but unfortunately a couple of them had to take time-out for themselves, so the rest of us are doing our best to catch up. If you still have not heard from anyone yet, you will, and I apologise for the delay.

Ensuring all our members are satisfactory is very important and sadly we have once again had a member pass away without knowing.

Recently, after having a complimentary Newsletter returned to sender, we followed up with some enquiries. As discovered previously, when a resident has passed away in a Nursing Home, the establishment doesn't usually get back to the sender of mail, and if there are no family/friends to look after this, the mail is often discarded. I mentioned this at our Corps Day function and one member said she might be able to follow that up and she did. Thank you Denise Busk.

Alice Ivy Smart passed away approximately 3 years ago and in saying this, could I ask that you remember:

**Alice Ivy SMART DOB 1929**  
**Enlisted F15029 27.07.1951**  
**Discharged WO1 30.09.1979**



**Rest in Peace**  
**Soldier of the Queen**

### New Members

We are fortunate to welcome two (2) new members and a re-joiner.

Maureen **Howard** nee Stanley has returned after a 21-year hiatus. The others are Barbara **Clyde** nee Beswick aka Letts, and Mary-Rose (Mez) **Mulvaney OAM**. Looking forward to catching up at one of our meetings/functions.

Congratulations to all for your support and helping our Association reach 45 years. At the GM/AGM on 24 May, we are going to have a little cuppa and cake for morning tea with a reflection on the past. To those who can't be with us, you will be in our thoughts. Thank-you for your support, stay safe.

Kay

## Care Corner



**Wellbeing Support Officer Activities** Oh my goodness where is 2025 going, we have celebrated Corp Day and now ANZAC Day 2025 has been and gone. During these past months we have seen some horrendous weather across Australia and many of us here in Queensland battered down the hatches for the arrival of Cyclone Alfred. It truly continues to touch my soul when I hear the stories of friendship, support and kindness that continues to be the endearing backbone of members in the Association particularly when it comes to ensuring that not only WRAAC are doing okay but the general community that we are all a part of. I hope that everyone came away from 'Alfred' and the horrendous aftermath of flooding that seemed to follow in areas such as Hervey Bay and most recently Central Queensland. Ladies please always reach out if you are unsure where to seek assistance, never feel alone.

To those involved with Corp Day celebrations well done it was a fun filled day and celebrated well.

As discussed at the General meeting I have been working on a simple home audit checklist that you may wish to use to assist in helping to reduce the risk of slips and falls around the home. I like to think of it as something we should all do regularly; better to be in our own cozy lounge watching TV as opposed to resting up in hospital due to an injury. My aim is to have this up on the WRAAC webpage in the near future. For those who cannot attend the meetings I gave a quick chat about the National Seniors Webpage and some interesting resources for Keep SCAM SAFE. I have provided the link below. This is a very informative page to look through if you have access to a computer.

<https://nationalseniors.com.au/resources/keep-scam-safe>

A quick little summary of the work that goes on behind the scenes in Wellbeing has seen me providing 62 hours support by way of phone calls, hospital and home visits. Often supporting matters for My Aged Care, Veterans Home Care and navigating DVA matters. The VSO's continue to be very active in telephone calls and certainly around the time of Cyclone Alfred the support for each other in the Association continued. Just recently the Association received a call from Bundaberg District Women Veterans requesting support for a member who



*Left Photo: Gwenda Smith & Mez Mulvaney Greenslopes Private Hospital*

was in Greenslopes Hospital. I have attached a lovely photo of Gwenda Smith meeting Mez Mulvaney WRAAC, who has now joined the Association. Job well done Gwenda and Welcome to Mez, speedy recovery post-surgery.

As your Wellbeing Officer I regularly attend as much training and information sessions to keep myself abreast of DVA and Queensland RSL protocols and resources that are available to support you as Ex Servicewomen. If there is anything of particular importance, I will endeavour to ensure it is passed on to you all.

Unfortunately, the wet weather has not supported the Social Golf on the Sunshine Coast, but we will get there. For those who are wanting to participate we are aiming to play 9 holes once monthly on a Tuesday morning. More to follow on this.

*Continued Page 7*

I decided this year to join the ladies in Bundaberg for ANZAC Day and have shared a couple of pictures of the events of the week in this review. Of particular fun was watching a few WRAAC Ladies enjoy themselves doing the Nutbush Dance on ANZAC day post Remembrance Service Moore Park Beach. Great Day Ladies.



I look forward to seeing as many of your smiling faces in the upcoming functions and my travels in the community. To the hardworking committee and VSOs keep up the good work the Association continues to run on your efforts.

Take care,

Terrie-Ann Wellbeing Support Officer



On the lead up to ANZAC Day the weather was beautiful, the day before it turned for the worse. The heavens opened and it poured most of the night into the early morning hours. There was a short break during the Dawn Service in the City, but it commenced again as the Service was ending. Continuing through until just before



leaving for the City March. Walking to the form up point it was clear; we stepped off and left wheeled into George Street, the heavens started but it was just a light sprinkle and then it stopped. We managed to complete the March without any further precipitation. After the March a number of us walked down to the 'River Bar & Restaurant' for a late breakfast, we made this with three minutes to spare before the kitchen closed. Good dialogue filled the air which was further enhanced by the arrival of the WRAAF. Eventually going our separate ways. Having been given a ride to and from; on arrival home Kay and Marjorie came in for a coffee, we just sat down to enjoy it, and the heavens opened once again. We could not believe how lucky we were, having a perfect bracket of time with no rain.

Gwenda Smith



Source Redland Bayside News Submitted by Pam O'Connor

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the WRAAC Association (Qld) Inc. will be conducted at  
Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung

on Saturday **24th May 2025**.

The **General Meeting** will commence at **10.30am**

and the **Annual General Meeting** will follow after a short interval.

The following nominations, all valid, have been received for the AGM.

| POSITION         | NOMINEE          | NOMINATED BY      | SECONDED BY       |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| President        | Kay Halford      | Barbara Moses     | Pam O'Connor      |
| Vice President   | Carmel Tunstall  | Jan Thorne        | Pam O'Connor      |
| Secretary        | Marjorie McShane | Alison Rolff      | Mary Liversidge   |
| Asst. Secretary  | To be shared     | between President | and Treasurer     |
| Treasurer        | Carolyn Paul     | Chris Clancy      | Trudy Thomas      |
| Asst. Treasurer  | Cindie Manzie    | Chris Clancy      | Trudy Thomas      |
| <b>COMMITTEE</b> |                  |                   |                   |
| Member           | Di Elsworth      | Lyn Potter        | Pam O'Connor      |
| Member           | Cheryle Phillips | Fran Sinclair     | Lorraine Houlihan |
| Member           | Gwenda Smith     | Julie Chapple     | Rhonda Jones Holt |



## FEMALES MAKE HISTORY AT RMA SANDHURST

On the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst representing His Majesty, The King. This was an historic occasion for a couple of reasons. Whilst RMA Sandhurst has three (3) Sovereigns Parades per year, this was the first time that an all-female banner party had ever been on the Sovereigns Parade. It consisted of a CSM (a nurse with Royal Army Medical Service) carrying the Banner, Escorted by two (2) Staff Sergeants, one from the Royal Army Veterinary Corps and the other a Royal Army Medical Service paramedic. Further history was made because as non-combatants the Royal Army Medical Service do not carry bayonets, however on this occasion the carrying of a fixed bayonet had been specifically approved by the RAMS Corps Colonel and the RSM.

*Source RMA Sandhurst website*

## Dr Agnes Bennett

Dr Agnes Bennett was born in Sydney and graduated from Sydney University having studied science and receiving Honours. Not being able to study medicine in Australia she was accepted into medicine at the Edinburgh University, so she set sail to Scotland. In 1899 she graduated with Honours. Tragedy struck whilst at university when her fiancé drowned. She never married. On returning to Australia she had difficulty in gaining employment in hospitals as they didn't want to employ female doctors. For a short time she had a private practice which eventually closed because men would not allow their wives and daughters to see a female doctor.

In 1905 she went to New Zealand to soon become the Chief Medical Officer at St Helen's Maternity Hospital and Hon. Physician to the Children's Ward at the Wellington Hospital.

After being rejected by the AIF she set sail to France having volunteered for the French Red Cross. On the way her ship docked at Port Said (Egypt) where she saw rows of young, badly wounded men lying on the wharf, on stretchers, in the hot sun. She asked an orderly who they were and was told; They are ANZACS who have been wounded at Gallipoli, poor sods. There are no hospitals here. That was enough for Agnes, and she packed her bags and went down the gangway and found that there was only one young Doctor there. She said; *I am a doctor, and you bloody well need me. Where do I start?*

Having secured a storage shed as a makeshift hospital, she ordered soldiers who were acting as orderlies to move the men out of the sun. She set up an operating theatre and with little anaesthetic started to treat the wounded men. She worked for several days and nights and saved many lives. A British Officer arrived and said that she should not be doing this as only a doctor who was an Officer should treat wounded troops. She was much taller than the Officer and she said, well, make me a bloody Officer. The Officer went away and was soon back with the necessary papers which she signed and so became the first woman to become an Officer in the British Army. Captain Agnes Bennett RAMC now ordered that a train be found and that the wounded men be taken to Cairo Army Hospital and that she would go with them. She then obtained a leather Sam Brown belt and gun holster and an officer's cap, she was now a surgeon and would take over the Cairo Hospital where she found overcrowded wards and men lying on stretchers in the corridors. The doctors and the staff were pleased to see that there was someone to put an end to the chaos. She also outranked them all. She was told that beds were in short supply and there were some coming in a few weeks. Not prepared to wait, she rounded up a group of fit soldiers and commandeered several army trucks and went to the harbour where there were several luxury ships moored. The men ripped out all their bunks and they made fine beds for the wounded men in Cairo Hospital. Agnes remained at Cairo and ran a very efficient Hospital until the end of the Gallipoli Campaign.

After the Gallipoli Campaign Dr Bennett moved to Britain and served with the army's Millbank Hospital; here she met Dr Elsie Inglis who was forming the Scottish Women's Field Hospitals in France. She now joined the SWHs going to Edinburgh to raise her staff of high-spirited young girls who were keen to see some action. She took her hospital to the Serbian Front where she, Dr Cooper and Josephine Bedford joined up.

After the war Dr Bennett returned to Sydney but still was not accepted as a doctor, she returned to New Zealand and worked once again at the Wellington Hospital. For a time in 1939 she also worked with the Flying Doctor Service in Australia and in 1940-42 she worked in Britain.

Her dedication and service was recognised by many countries through the awarding of the following: The Order of Saint Sava, The Order of The Redeemer, The Royal Red Cross of Valour, The Order of The Phoenix, The Polish Cross of Valour, The Polish Cross of Merit, and The Order of The British Empire.

Dr Bennett returned to New Zealand and passed away in Wellington on 27 November 1960, *her heroism almost totally forgotten.*



*Continued Page 10*

## Dr Lilian Voilet Cooper and Mary Josephine Bedford

Lilian Cooper was born on 11 August 1861 at Chatham, Kent, England. Her father, Henry was a captain in the Royal Marines. From a young age Lilian had a desire to be a doctor. She entered the London School of Medicine for Women in 1886 and received a licence to practice in 1890. She had undertaken and passed examinations at the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow.

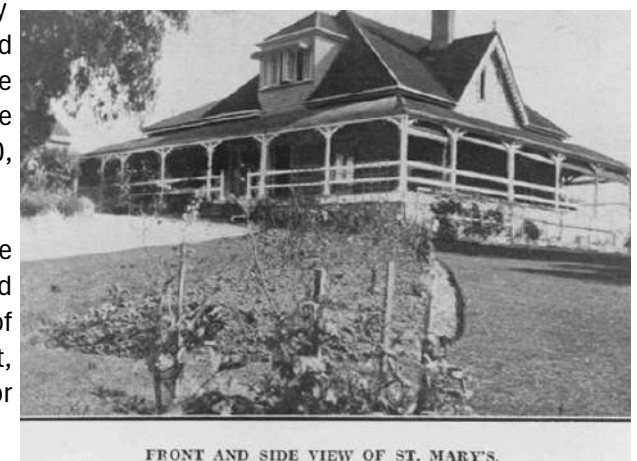
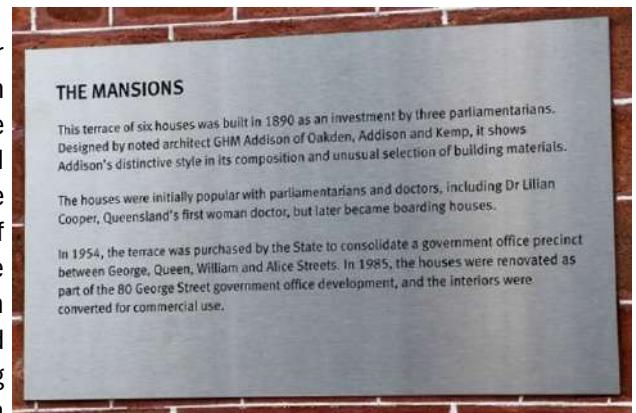
Lilian moved to Brisbane in May 1891 accompanied by her companion Josephine Bedford, in response to an advertisement from Dr James Booth, becoming the first female doctor registered in Queensland. By the end of 1891 she had established her own surgery in the 'The Mansions' in George Street, Brisbane. She joined the Medical Society of Queensland in 1893 and later became an Honorary in the Hospital for Sick Children and the Lady Lamington Hospital. In 1905 she became associated with the Mater Hospital and remained connected for the rest of her life. Always seeking further knowledge Lilian spent time in America, earning a Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Durham. She was a Foundation Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and its first woman Fellow, having been admitted, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1927, to Fellowship of the College of Surgeons of Australasia which became the Royal College. Her Fellowship Number is 128.

In 1904, she embarked on a new frontier – the world of motoring. Teaching herself to drive, she acquired her first car, a 7hp Oldsmobile. Dr Cooper was one of the first women to own a motorcar and in 1905 was the only woman included on the list of foundation members (18) of the Automobile Club (now known as RACQ). Her longest trip was a drive from Brisbane to Sydney and she made many trips into the country surrounding Brisbane. Although Lilian was clearly very skilled with her hands as a surgeon, she put them to good use undertaking her own home maintenance and motor vehicle repairs and maintenance. Josephine started driving in 1910, experience which she put to good use during her war service.

Lilian changed to a Renault in 1923 with a registration plate Q2689 and this became a symbol of her indomitable spirit and tireless pursuit of progress. Cruising through the streets of Brisbane, she embodied the essence of female empowerment, challenging stereotypes and leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come.

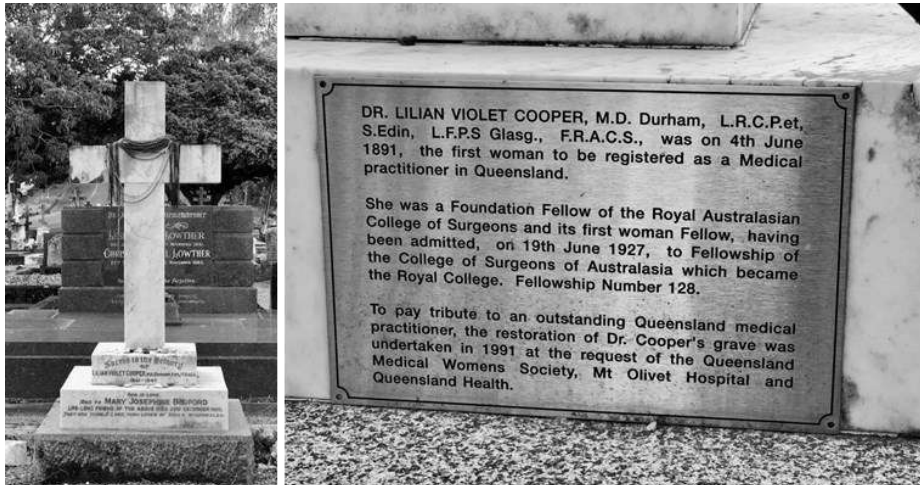
In 1915 she joined the SWH performing 12 months military service in Macedonia, where in 1917, King Peter I of Serbia awarded her the Serbian Order of St Sava, 4<sup>th</sup> Order, and Josephine was awarded the 5<sup>th</sup> Order of St Sava for their tireless work during the war. Lilian's exploits during the war are covered elsewhere in this article. Notably, her expertise was exemplified by the fact that of the 144 patients she operated on during her 8 months at the forward dressing station only 16 died. Remember this was under the most basic of conditions in an hospitable and dangerous environment.

*Continued Page 11*



She returned to Brisbane after the war and settled in Main Street, Kangaroo Point in a house called 'Old St Mary's' which she purchased in 1926. After Lilian's passing Josephine ensured that the home site was used for the development of the Mount Olivet Hospital (now St Vincent's Hospital) of the Sisters of Charity. Part of this hospital has since been named the Lilian Cooper Nursing Home. A visit to St Mary's Church of England Kangaroo Point provides visitors with beautiful images of memorial windows, one of which is dedicated to Lilian, and an altar at the front which displays embroidery of Dr Cooper's medal of St Sava.

Lilian died in her home on 18 August 1947, having retired in 1941. Lilian and Josephine, her lifelong friend, are buried together in Toowong Cemetery. Josephine passing on 22 December 1955.



## What was the Scottish Women's Hospital (SWH)?

The SWH was conceived at a meeting of the Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies just a few days after the outbreak of the First World War. It was the brainchild of Dr Elsie Inglis and Frances Ivens, who saw the war as an opportunity to demonstrate what women could achieve in medicine unaided by men. Prior to the First World War, women doctors were limited to positions linked to women's health, such as paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, and few held consultant posts. The very first qualified Scottish female doctors played an active part during the First World War and with the exception of the work of Eileen Crofton there is little study of the association. The British War Office turned down the offer of association with the SWH and instead the SWH operated under the auspices of the French and Serbian Red Cross.

The Scottish Women's Hospital at Royaumont was under the direction of the French Red Cross and located at Royaumont Abbey. The hospital, a former Cistercian abbey, was started by Dr. Frances Ivens and Dr. Elsie Maud Inglis. The doctors at Royaumont dealt with patients from the Western Front and undertook pioneering research on the use of X-ray technology able to diagnose gas gangrene infections earlier than bacteriological reports and before the presentation of symptoms. The work by Dr. Ivens and Dr. Savill at Royaumont was not referred to in subsequent work on the use of x-ray for the diagnosis of gas gangrene.



Dr Elsie Maud INGLIS

### Dr Elsie Maud Inglis

Born 16 August 1864 British India

Died 26 November 1917 England

Elsie had Triple Qualifications with memberships of Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

### Dr Frances Ivens

Born Mary Hannah Frances IVENS at Little Harborough, England in 1870

Died 6 February 1944, England

Frances was an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. During the First World War she was the chief medical officer at Royaumont, Scottish Women's Hospital.



Dr Frances Ivens

*Sourced from various articles Gwenda Smith*

## COMMITTEE FOR 2024-2025

|                            |                                        |              |                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| <b>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</b> | Kay Halford and Carolyn Paul to assist |              |                                                                                    |
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| <b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b> | Cindie Manzie                          | 0431 376 843 |                                                                                    |

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**WEBSITE:** [www.qldwraac.org.au](http://www.qldwraac.org.au)

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

- ♦ 10.30 am
  - ♦ On the 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

- ♦ 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.*

*Thank you*



#### Process for borrowing:

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



Don't Forget!

FEES ARE  
**NOW OVERDUE**  
FOR 2025

**MEMBERSHIP  
FEES  
DUE  
31 MARCH  
EACH YEAR**



**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](mailto:secretarywraac_qld@outlook.com) and she will be happy to discuss this with you.

*Lucky  
Member  
Draw ...*



*Carolyn Paul*

**Congratulations!**



**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 Veterans on the 2nd Wednesday of every month
- \* Combined Services Bribie Island Group who meet for lunch every 4th Monday of each month

**DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS  
including a contact name and phone number  
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.

Anniversary, Birthday or  
maybe a Lotto Win ...

*Whatever you were  
celebrating!!*

**We hope enjoyed your  
special day!**

**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.



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT REVIEW**

Deadline for the next newsletter is **18 July 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](mailto: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.



## MAY

**Monday 12** **Caboolture Ex-Servicewomen's Lunch**, 11.30am for 12 midday, Caboolture Sports Club.  
Any enquiries to Carmel Tunstall 0413 337 329

**Wednesday 14** **BIGGEST MORNING TEA**  
**Glasshouse Country Women Veterans**, 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 16** **Service Widows Monthly Lunch Group (SWMLG)**, 11.30am  
Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree  
Any enquiries Anita Cooper 0402 246 408

**Saturday 24** **GENERAL MEETING**  
**10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung. Followed by the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



This day will also be a celebration of the Association's 45th year. Carolyn Paul will provide a small delivery of the Association's History up to the present. The Honour Board and original Photo Albums will be available for browsing.

*Please stay and have lunch soon after to catch up with friends old & new.  
Geebung RSL support us, so why not support them!*

**Monday 26** **Combined Services Bribie Island Group**  
11.30am, Bribie Island RSL, 99 Toorbul Street, Bongaree  
Any enquiries Anita Cooper 0402 246 408

## JUNE

**Thursday 5** **Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Association Inc. Annual Luncheon**  
Time: 11.30 for 12 Midday. **RSVP and payment by 25 May 2025**

**\*\*\*Brisbane Ladies - see page 4 of this newsletter or the website for more details on the "Free Bus" to attend this event RSVP 23 May 2025**

**Saturday 21** **COMMITTEE MEETING**  
10:30am Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch, 19 Gager Street, Sunnybank

## JULY

**Thursday 3** **CHRISTMAS IN JULY BUS TRIP**  
Details on attached flyer

## AUGUST

**Saturday 2** **COMMITTEE MEETING**  
10:30am Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch, 19 Gager Street, Sunnybank

**Saturday 23** **GENERAL MEETING**  
10:30am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Road, Geebung.  
*Come early, enjoy a cuppa before the meeting. Stay after to catch up with friends old & new over lunch. Geebung RSL support us, so why not support them!*

# 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**

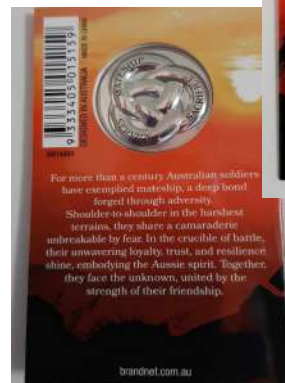
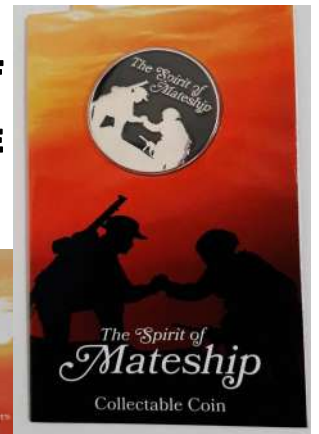


**REMEMBER  
THEIR SERVICE  
LAPEL PIN  
\$5**

**CERAMIC  
MUG  
\$10**



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



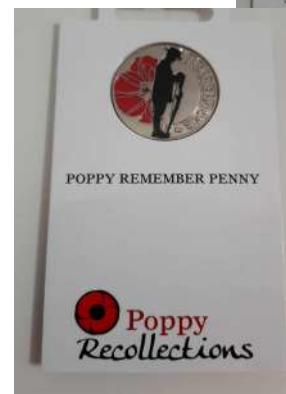
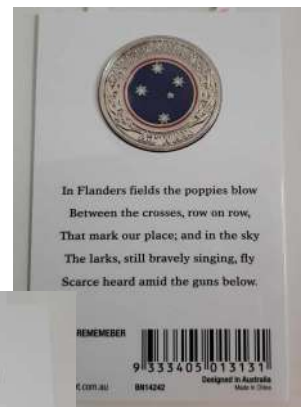
**BUNCH  
OF  
POPPIES  
\$5**



**TRAVEL  
MUG  
\$5**



**MAGNETIC  
MEMO PAD  
\$2**



**POPPY  
REMEMBER  
PENNY  
\$2**