

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

## *Joining Forces*



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Welcome to the Christmas Edition of **Joining Forces** 2023.

This edition is a little larger than usual, but for a very good reason.

**Samantha Morgan**, a member of our association, has very kindly spent a significant amount of time in preparing for us, her both serious and amusing biography of her career in the Australian Navy. Sam is an exceptional woman and spent a substantial number of years serving her country in both shore based postings and a number of tours on board ships.

After 32 years of being a member of our Defence Forces (Navy), Samantha has now retired and has moved a little north of the Sunshine Coast but still retains her membership and contact with the Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Association Inc.

I trust you enjoy Samantha's deliberations of her service life as she certainly has a service record to reflect upon with great pride.

Additionally this edition contains dates and venues for meetings and coffee & catch up dates for next year. Please also note the change of date for our Financial Year and Annual General Meeting.

Until the next edition the Management Committee wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2024.

With respect.

*Larraine Houlihan*



Dec 2023—Feb 2024  
Edition 16

Inc Assn IA 59129  
ABN 15 390 668 848

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST—EDITORS NOTE**

As stated in the President's Report we have a wonderful Bio from one of our Navy women. It is an exceptional read and we trust you enjoy her story.

Christmas is almost upon us and hopefully we will see you all at the OGM/ Christmas luncheon on the 7th December 2023.

Larraine

**Samantha Jane Sarah MORGAN**

**W144260**

**F8088703**



HMAS Ballarat —2008

**Honours and Awards:**

Australian Service Medal with Bougainville Clasp  
Defence Long Service Medal with First, Second and Third Clasps  
Australian Defence Medal  
Chief of Navy Group Commendation – HMAS Westralia Fire

**Service:**

PNF 19 September 1988 to 20 September 2017  
Active Reserve October 2017 – December 2020

***My Story – Reflections by the Sea***

It was the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1988 and it was a beautiful spring day in South East QLD that I travelled on a Greyhound bus to the Brisbane Recruiting Centre with my Mum and Grandad to sign on the dotted line.

I was a little under a month from my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday but I was ready to embark on an adventure that I had quite literally dreamed of since being a little girl after some intriguing conversations with my Grandad of his time in the Navy during WWII. Little did I know that this adventure would see me wearing Her Majesty's uniform for some 32 years to come.

Like many of us my journey started at the *Gates of Hell*, "HMAS CERBERUS" and for a kid from the sunny warm climes of Tweed Heads to say that the weather in that part of Victoria was a shock to the system is an understatement. Running out to the West Gate for morning PT as the sun came up conjures more than just the cold and the feeling of sore limbs but more so the beginning of true mateship and a sense of many shared adventures to come.

I started my career as a Writer and after completing my initial training at *Cerberus* I was back on a train and this time heading for HMAS CRESWELL and the pristine beaches of Jervis Bay. I recall looking out in the bay at the silhouettes of our Warships and wishing for the day that women would be allowed to serve at sea ... I got my wish and then some, but more on that soon.

From *Creswell* I was posted to HMAS CAIRNS and had my first taste of life in Far North QLD (FNQ). These were good old days indeed. One memory to share is that I was fortunate enough to be selected in a group assigned with representing the Navy in Cooktown for Anzac Day. We were flown up the day before in a RAAF Caribou and were billeted out with local families for a couple of nights as the various ceremonies took place. Most notable was marching down the main street of Cooktown on ANZAC Day in the good old white bowling dress and straight into the pub to be dismissed at the bar ... very appropriate noting the heat and our need to rehydrate. As I say these were the old days and not something that would happen in our military today.



Left:

Recruit School

Members of select 12 person Drill Squad  
December 1988

Samantha is kneeling, front far right



Passing Out Parade 1988

From Cairns I was posted to Sydney to HMAS WATERHEN for a couple of years, then HMAS KUTTABUL for duties with the Navy News Team and by this point in time it was December 1993. My long-held wish had come true and I received my first posting to sea on the HMAS JERVIS BAY. Apart from a cold move from the wharf out into Sydney Harbour I never sailed in that old girl as she was to be decommissioned but with that came an even bigger surprise and news that our crew was to be sent to the US Navy Base in Norfolk Virginia to take over the USS Saginaw for it to be commissioned as HMAS KANIMBLA..

We spent 6 months in the US training and preparing the ship to sail back to Sydney. I tried to make the most of any weekend and leave opportunities to see a bit of the US and was pleased to have made it to Niagara Falls, Memphis (Graceland was a must), Nashville, Washington, some towns in North Carolina and Atlantic City to name a few places.

The transit back to Sydney was special too with us sailing through the Bermuda Triangle in the midst of a wild storm just like the movies and I will admit that there was a little fear coursing through my veins that we were going to be sucked up into some kind of a strange vortex never to see the light of day again. I am happy to report that we survived! Then there was the transit through the Panama Canal breaking out from the Atlantic back into the Pacific.

Sailing into Sydney Harbour for the first time was a sight to behold. I have now seen much of the world and many harbours in between but I can say with my hand on my heart that there are none so beautiful as Sydney ... maybe Malta but that is another story. With family waiting for me on the wharf it is a precious memory and to add to the joy of the day I was informed I was being promoted to Leading Seaman and would be returning to *Cerberus*.

So back to Victoria I went and this time I was far more appreciative of the sights of the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas and by now I was far more prepared for the cooler climate and embraced life in '*Hades*' as it were.

After *Cerberus* came HMAS WATSON in Sydney at the Submarine Warfare Centre and after a short stint there I was off again, this time to HMAS HARMAN in Canberra.

The clock rolls forward and its 1997 and I had made the decision to apply for transfer of category to Naval Police Coxswain (NPC). After being accepted for transfer I completed my training at HMAS PENGUIN and on successful completion of the course I was posted to the Navy's Submarine Base HMAS PLATYPUS. These were the days of the Oberon Class of Submarine but on the cusp of moving on to the new technology of the Collins Class Submarines. As a new kid on the block in the NPC world I was detailed off to carry out shift work on the main gate of *Platypus* doing 12-hour shifts controlling access to the base and therefore our Submarine Squadron ... I remember those days so well ... you should have all slept soundly knowing that I was there protecting our Submarine Fleet ... just me and my trusty broomstick ... you know just in case I needed to take down an intruder! It still cracks me up to think we were entrusted with such a huge responsibility and yet we were not armed ... what could possibly go wrong right? All's well that ends well ... nothing to see here ... thank god!

In April 1998 my Chief asked for a volunteer to travel to WA for a 3-month deployment on HMAS WESTRALIA. I threw my hand in the air quick time and was most excited about some more sea time and the prospect of a South East Asia deployment. We trained through a couple of weeks of Work-ups and departed Fleet Base West (FBW) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1998.



Left:  
Transiting  
Panama  
Canal 1994



Right:  
CPO Morgan  
ANZAC Day  
Cairns 2006

We set sail from HMAS STIRLING when not long into our transit out the ship suffered a catastrophic fire in the engine room and four of my shipmates lost their lives. Remembering the buzz of the Junior Sailors café that morning before sailing with us all laughing and planning our time in SE Asia was in stark contrast from where I found myself late that evening. I had the soul-destroying task of packing my fallen shipmates kit in preparation for return to their Next of Kin. I can say that this was the darkest day of my career, but strangely also among one of the proudest. That may sound quite strange but please understand that my pride directly reflects the efforts of my shipmates and all the other sailors sent to assist us in bringing the fire under control and ultimately saving us all from what could have potentially been much worse. Suffice to say that a fire at sea in a tanker is one of a sailor's worst nightmares. In closing on that I can say that memories of that day have left everlasting scars as I am sure for all involved but I am ever so grateful to be here and to tell you the story today.

After returning from WA back to *Platypus* it was not long before I was given the happy news that I was to be promoted to Petty Officer and posted to the Navy's Fleet Air Arm at HMAS ALBATROSS. This posting was my first real experience with Police Investigations and as such I was required to complete the first Tri Service Military Investigations Course. An intense course not only due to the legalistic and forensic nature of our studies but more so because the course was conducted at Lamia Barracks in Holsworthy. I was the only Navy person on this course so you can imagine our first parade with the RSM's eyes firmly set on the one sparkling bright white uniform in amongst a sea of green and a few random blue orchids. At that point I thought I would rather be back in the Bermuda Triangle facing that storm rather than that snarly faced mean looking RSM ... such is life in the blue suit so they say. Let us just end that by saying I was looking forward to getting back to the bird farm in Nowra and the safety of my Navy brothers and sisters. Due respect to all you RSM's out there ... some of you are just a bit scary!

To say that the offer of new and exciting challenges is only ever just around the corner certainly paints a picture of my career. Not long after my Investigator course I was offered an 8-month posting on the Minesweeper Auxiliary (MSA) BROLGA and a deployment to Bougainville on Peace Keeping Operations. The *Brolga* was originally a light house tender commissioned by Navy for the Mine Warfare Fleet. We sailed that little tub from Sydney to Bougainville and spent 3 months on station which yet again delivered untold experiences in a tropical wonderland albeit with certain dangers. As clear in my mind today as sailing around those islands were the small fleets of wooden canoes coming out from shore with fresh catches of fish and crayfish to be traded for batteries, cigarettes, lollies, and whatever other treats we could buy from our small canteen onboard. So refreshingly innocent and kind were these people, for the most part unaffected and untainted by the wonders of the modern world.

A few of us were invited by a local Tribal Chief to his village and I was overwhelmed to be given a handmade decorative grass skirt ... for my wedding day they said! The ladies adorned in their own tribal attire laughed and giggled as they handed me the skirt saying 'you try ... you try'. I asked 'Where is the top?' ... to which more giggles followed and they said 'no top' ... 'you try now'. Boy oh boy I was lucky to get out of that without causing an international incident ... I was not about to get semi naked in a grass skirt and nothing else on a Peace Keeping mission noting that mobile phones and therefore instant photos was now a thing ... none the less they were truly beautiful kind hearted people.



MSA Brolga  
2000

Return  
from Peace  
Keeping Op  
Bel Island  
2000



After *Brolga* I returned to *Albatross* for a little longer before receiving word of a posting to HMAS STIRLING in WA. It's a bloody long drive across the country but well worth it when you arrive. If you recall this was not my first time in WA but the scenery crossing over from the mainland onto Garden Island never ceases to amaze. It's quite simply a very picturesque and unique landscape with the colour of the Indian ocean very distinct from that of the Pacific in the East and the island itself is home to lots of lovely little tammars, quokkas and of course lots of deadly snakes. ... not so much is lovely about the latter.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the West, the team I worked with and the work I did greatly increased my knowledge and skills in the sphere of investigations. As chance and perhaps fate would have it the *Westralia* was looking for a Petty Officer to deploy on a SE Asia deployment in March 2002 and I again threw my hand up. In some ways it was an emotionally healing experience for me and I am very grateful to have had that experience. We were at sea on the anniversary of the fire as it turned out and it was a lovely way for me to remember, mourn and celebrate those shipmates lost 4 years earlier. On my return to *Stirling* and of course as the trend goes it was not long before I received a phone call from my Career Manager giving me the option to become the first female dual hatted NPC. Having already specialised in Investigations I was now set to embark on specialising my maritime skill set in a Small Ship Navigation course with a posting to a Minor Fleet Unit on successful completion. So off I went again back to Sydney and *Watson*. Gosh ... or sailor words to that effect, if I thought my Investigation course was intense then you can imagine my surprise at learning all things navigation and driving a ship through Sydney harbour while competing with the ferries, sail craft and humans in little kayaks. I got through it though and then posted to HMAS MERMAID based in Cairns. *Mermaid* was a Survey Motor Launch and served as part of our Hydrographic Fleet. Just ask a Hydrographic sailor or 'Droggy' as we call them and they will tell you that they are the only category in the Navy to make money for Defence by virtue of the Cartography.

The role of an NPC on a minor war vessel is worlds apart from Policing and Investigations and while I was still responsible for the discipline and morale of the ship my core duties involved being an Officer of the Watch (navigating the ship) and the ships Medical Care Provider. For any of you that know me you will know that the latter part of my duties did not thrill me as I am not particularly good with the sight of blood or icky stuff. It was a great posting though and encompassed deployments along the QLD coast, NT, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands. Of course, we had some very interesting weather to contend with too. Imagine trying to outrun a cyclone with a top speed of 13 knots and that is with a good tail wind. We did it though but lost our radar in the process ... and that is why we learn to navigate with more than just one navigational tool. I was awarded my limited Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate while posted to *Mermaid* and that was another first for the women in the NPC category.



HMAS Ballarat Milford Sound  
2008



NPC Graduation  
Course 1997



HMAS Mermaid  
PNG 2005

Three years on *Mermaid* and another phone call from my Career Manager with an offer of promotion to Chief Petty Officer and the task of heading up the first Naval Investigative Authority (NIA) in FNQ. Myself and a Petty Officer made up the team and our responsibility was to take on all major investigations for the Navy in FNQ and NT. There were some interesting flights on little bug smashers to meet up with ships in various locations and all I can say is that there is a reason I didn't join the RAAF – I don't like small planes! Helicopters I'm all good but small planes is a different thing all together!

It's now March 2007 and after just 9 months ashore and after setting up the NIA in FNQ I was posted back to sea. This time I was posted as Coxswain to the HMAS BALLARAT. *Ballarat* is an ANZAC Class Frigate that was based in Sydney. I joined the ship and a couple of weeks later the Command team and Senior Sailors were off on a leadership challenge in the Blue Mountains. The Commanding Officer was a huge abseiling fan – his idea of fun and let's just say certainly not mine. On the second day of the expedition, I tore my PCL (Posterior Cruciate Ligament) in my right knee while jumping into an icy pool of water deep in a cave in the Blue Mountains. To make matters worse I injured myself at the start of the trek and the only way for me to get out was to continue hobbling on one leg through caves and then abseiling down a 35m wall before having to walk 200m up a steep goats track to get back to the bus and the medic waiting with her trusty medical kit. Let me just say that I have not abseiled since.

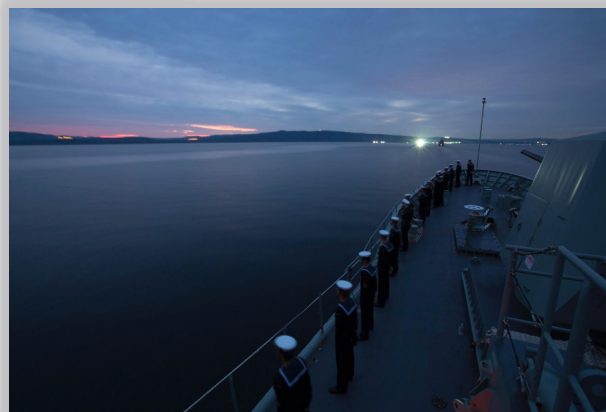
Getting over my knee injury I returned to the ship and was thrown into preparations for a deployment to Tonga and NZ. This deployment was a mixture of exercises and international relations and naturally always a great way to see new parts of the world. This was my first posting to a warship and it is an extremely busy job for a Coxswain with just one kellick in my team and everything ranging from Whole Ship Coordination, to driving the ship and naturally all the Policing and Investigation that is par for the course, but thank god no medical duties!

I was posted to *Ballarat* for 2 years before being sent to HMAS MORETON in Brisbane. After just 6 months another phone call and the happy news that I was being offered promotion to Warrant Officer. The first female Warrant Officer Naval Police Coxswain ... geez I wish me Grandad could have seen that.

Promotion to  
Warrant Officer  
2009



At the helm of HMAS Ballarat 2008



Sail past ANZAC Cove on ANZAC Day, at dawn  
2015 on HMAS Anzac

I was promoted on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 and having reached the pinnacle of the Non-Commissioned world I was posted back to Sydney to the Major Fleet Unit Sea Training Group. I was back in the harbour city but only for 6 months before another challenge was sent my way. I was offered a position at the newly established Directorate of Navy Continuous Improvement in Canberra. My key project was the ANZAC Class Ship Improvement Project and within a couple of months I was posted back to WA to the ANZAC SPO as a team leader for the project. Civvies often say 'wow ... you move around a lot in Defence' ... Of course, we all know the answer to that.

Another couple of years in the West and then it was time to return to my roots with a posting to the Inspector General of Defence as a Professional Standards Investigator. Two years in this role and my Mum and partner Tracy would nickname me 'Bag chucker' as there was lots and lots of travel, planes, trains, and automobiles. Loads of investigations all over Australia. I think my busiest week involved 4 capital cities in 5 days. There were many early morning flights out of Canberra battling the fog and the cold but it was very interesting and very rewarding work and I had the absolute pleasure of working with two of the nicest human beings and fellow Warrant Officers. One Army, one RAAF and one Navy ... we were quite a team.

As I had achieved everything and more than I could possibly have imagined in the category of NPC it was time to broaden my horizons and so I applied to sit a board to become a Ships Warrant Officer. Low and behold I was chosen to become the Ships Warrant Officer of HMAS ANZAC in December 2014 and it was my profound privilege to be deployed on her for the Northern Trident Deployment 2015. I joined the ship in December 2014 and throughout an arduous program of work ups and various challenges with the material state of the ship we had ANZAC ready to sail in March 2015 from Sydney on a 5-month European deployment with the highlight being the 100-year Commemoration of ANZAC at ANZAC Cove in the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Please indulge me as I spend a little time on this chapter of my career. By far the proudest and most humbling moment of my career came during this deployment. To be the Ships Warrant Officer on HMAS ANZAC in ANZAC Cove on the 100-year commemoration of ANZAC was truly surreal. We lined the ships decks at dawn in a sail past with other Commonwealth ships led by the Turkish navy in salute to our heroes, to the men and women who willingly gave their lives so that we could live and breathe their names today. I still have chills that run through me when I think back to that moment ... the absolute quiet only interrupted by thoughts of what it could possibly have been like for those brave men to clamber down the side of their ships to what they perceived as an adventure and their duty to the country and family that they loved.



On Deck of HMAS Anzac, 2015 off ANZAC Cove, ANZAC Day



ANZAC Day 2015  
Commander Belinda Greenwood (CO HMAS Anzac) & WO Samantha Morgan (SWO HMAS Anzac)



Leaving Fleet Base West for Northern Trident 2015



HMAS Anzac entering Valletta Malta 2015



Gun Battery-Valletta Malta

The only sound barely recognisable was the ever so gentle lapping of water against the ship's hull and the lights ashore shone in recognition of their sacrifices by the ever-growing number of people on their pilgrimage to pay respect to those brave servicemen and women who gave their lives and paid the ultimate sacrifice in war so that we may live the lives we do today.

I mentioned earlier that there is perhaps one other harbour I had the pleasure of visiting that might come close to the beauty of Sydney and that is Valletta Malta. During ANZAC's Northern Trident deployment we had the privilege of visiting many ports and for me Malta was something of an old-world theme and quite majestic in a sense with replica cannons mounted in Valletta's eastern historic ramparts that were fired upon our entry to the harbour in a traditional salute welcoming us to the city. The other ports we visited included Souda Bay Crete, Brindisi Italy, Ferrol Spain, Brest France, Portsmouth England, Casablanca Morocco, Cape Town South Africa, and Port Louis Mauritius. It was an honour and a privilege to represent our country during this deployment and it is filled with moments in time I shall never forget.

In February 2016 I was posted from *Anzac* back to Canberra and worked within the Directorates of the Navy Safety team as well as our Officer Education Scheme.

I discharged from the Permanent Navy in September 2017 and continued with the Active Reserves carrying out the role of a Support Officer for the Australian Navy Cadet Youth Development Program until Dec 2020. I worked with and for a great bunch of people on both the Navy and Cadet side of the house and feel that our combined vision and energy for the cadet program brought about some very innovative and challenging activities and new programs for the youth and Cadet Officers alike which was both highly rewarding and very gratifying.

My partner Tracy was somewhat of a trailblazer for women in the Navy with 28 years of service and finishing up as the first female Warrant Officer Imagery Specialist. We are now retired and live in Woodgate QLD where we are close to the ocean and engaged with the Navy Women (WRANS/RAN) QLD, Sunshine Coast Ex Service and Serving Women's Association Inc and Bundaberg District Women's Veterans Organisation.

*Thank you for reading a little of the story of my career and most importantly thank you for your service ... we each have our own story to tell.*



WRWTR—HMAS Creswell  
1990



## Important Information for 2024

As members will be aware as of 1 January 2024 our financial reporting year has been changed to 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2024 and each year thereafter.

As a result our Auditing and Office of Fair Trading reporting dates have also changed in accordance to these new dates. This year we have already submitted our July 2022—June 2023 Financial Reporting responsibility and in addition we will have to also provide the Office of Fair Trading a 6 monthly Financial Report from 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023. As previously advised we now have appointed an official Auditor, Mr John Ellis who you will have the opportunity to meet at our Christmas Luncheon. John has very kindly agreed to audit our financial records in accordance with CPA standards and will do this on a Pro Bono arrangement with the Management Committee.

As a result of these changes we are hoping to have as many of our members as possible pay their annual 2024 subs by 31 December 2023. Treasurer Judi will be most grateful if members could assist her with this task. Judi will be available at the General Meeting/Christmas Luncheon on the 7th December 2003 to take your subs and provide your receipts. Financial members who have paid and are attending the Christmas Luncheon will receive an envelope containing their subsidy for the event. This may assist you in paying your subs at the December function.

It is important also to advise that as of 1 January 2024 we will be moving to a new and vastly improved financial recording and reporting system which allows us to apply for Grants from the ANZAC Day Trust and the like, in a more professional manner. The functionalism of this program far exceeds our past program and will allow greater ease of reporting to the Office of Fair Trading and our Auditor. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to its developer. There are not enough ways to say “thank you” and express our gratitude.

Additionally, our Annual General Meeting date will be now held on Thursday 4th April 2024 to fit within this new calendar and in accordance with the Office of Fair Trading requirements.

Secretary Jan will send out the first notices in early January 2024 and subsequently follow up with all of the documentation required by law to allow members to put their names forward for a position on the Management Committee for 2024. Please consider being a part of the Management Committee, we would love to have your input.



## November Coffee and Chat, Picnic in the Park and Wreath Laying



SCESWA Members attending the November C and C and Wreath Laying, Mike Howe and Garry King, Directors from the Maroochydore Board also attended.



Picnic in the Park after wreath laying



Gloria with her crocheted WRAAC rug. A gift from her daughter. Beautiful.

## Veterans Day—Australia Zoo



Deirdre and Jan—working on the SCESWA stall



Liz and Jennie trying to stay dry

**Round Up of Events Attended by SCESWA Members**

**Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence Monthly luncheon.**

Held on 2nd Wednesday each month at 11.30am. Next date is 13 December 2023. Contact Fran Sinclair on 0416 013 987 for further info. All welcome.

L to R; Liz Grimes,  
Lorraine Houlihan, Jennie  
Promnitz, Val Machin,  
Fran Sinclair, Mo Barnes  
& Bev Milner



**Bribie Island Ex-Service Women’s Monthly Luncheon**

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

**Remembrance Day Caloundra**



Noelene Lucjan—Laying the Wreath on behalf of the Nurses of all Corps



Lorraine Houlihan —laying the Wreath on behalf of the Sunshine Coast Ex-Service & Serving Women



## OGM & AGM Meeting and Committee Meeting Dates -2024



18 January 2024 —SCESWA Committee Meeting



8 February 2024—Ordinary General Meeting—Maroochy RSL Sub Branch



22 February 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



21 March 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



4 April 2024—OGM and Annual General Meeting—Kawana Surf Club



18 April 2024 —SCESWA Committee Meeting



16 May 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



6 June 2024—Annual Luncheon—Maroochy Events Centre



20 June 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



18 July 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



1 August 2024—OGM Maroochy—RSL Sub Branch



29 August 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



19 September 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



3 October 2024—OGM—Caloundra RSL Sub Branch



17 October 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



21 November 2024—SCESWA Committee Meeting



5 December 2024—OGM and Christmas Lunch—Kawana Surf Club



## COFFEE and CHAT & Other Association Dates—2024



**Thursday 11 January 2024—Maroochy RSL Café**



**Thursday 7 March 2024—Caloundra RSL Sub Branch**



**Thursday 2 May 2024—Kawana Surf Club**



**Thursday 4 July 2024—Bus Trip to Bribie Island**



**Thursday 5 September 2024—Bower Tree, 10 Courage St, Sippy Downs**



**Thursday 7 November 2024—Maroochy RSL Gardens—Annual Wreath Laying**

The dates below may change, if so, you will be updated in advance.



**Saturday 10 February 2024**

**WRAAC Corps Day—Geebung RSL**



**Saturday 16 March 2024**

**Tri Service Luncheon—Geebung RSL**



**Saturday 27 July 2024**

**Council of Ex Service Women Church Service**



**Wednesday 11 September 2024**

**Council of Ex Service Women—Pine Rivers Wreath Laying Ceremony**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

**JANUARY:** SUZAN MALLIGAN, JUDITH COOK, SHARON FREEBODY, MARGARET HUMBY, NOLA HOEPPER.

**FEBRUARY:** GAIL YOUNG, ISMAY SELBY, NOELENE LUCJAN, CHRISTINE BRUNTON, LOLA HURMAN, PAULINE VAN BUREN, JANET CAGNEY.



## **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.

## **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 2023-24**

### **Executive**

**President:** Lorraine Houlihan, Phone: 0408 126 710, Email: [president.sceswa@gmail.com](mailto:president.sceswa@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Deirdre Elliott, Phone: 0408 222 592, Email: [deirdre\\_colin@bigpond.com](mailto:deirdre_colin@bigpond.com)

**Secretary:** Jan Thorne, Phone: 0410 448 433, Email: [thornejl@hotmail.com](mailto:thornejl@hotmail.com)

**Asst Secretary:** Chris Birch, Phone 0403 905 023, Email: [christinebirch52@gmail.com](mailto:christinebirch52@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Judi Taylor, Phone: 0430 597 836, Email: [judimtaylor@gmail.com](mailto:judimtaylor@gmail.com)

### **Committee members**

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**Events Co-ordinator:** Deirdre Elliott, Phone: 0408 222 592, Email: [deirdre\\_colin@bigpond.com](mailto:deirdre_colin@bigpond.com)

**Membership Officer:** Chris Birch, Phone 0403 905 023, Email: [christinebirch52@gmail.com](mailto:christinebirch52@gmail.com)

**Grants & Merchandise:** Fran Sinclair, Phone: 0416 013 987, Email: [fran@kandfspace.com](mailto:fran@kandfspace.com)

### **General Committee Members**

Maggie Winduss

Dot Kunde

### **Newsletter**

**Editor:** Lorraine Houlihan, Phone: 0408 126 710, Email: [l.houlihan1@bigpond.com](mailto:l.houlihan1@bigpond.com)

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4575

**Email:** [thornejl@hotmail.com](mailto:thornejl@hotmail.com)

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



**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 **31 December** 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

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS DETAILS**

If you have moved address or changed your email or phone  
number, please notify our Membership Officer, Chris Birch on  
**0403 905 023**. This will allow your Association to continue to  
provide you with updated information throughout the year.

**SCESWA MEMORABILIA**

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, Note Books, Bags and Coffee Mugs for sale. These stickers are  
available for \$5.00 each. Note Books, Mugs and Bags \$10.00 each with new pieces of Merchandising to  
come .They may be purchased at all meetings and C n C and luncheon events. Fran will be happy to serve you.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Deadline for the next newsletter is 30 January 2024

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.

