



Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld

Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia

Volume XXV #4 - December 2025

Spring Happenings – September to November 2025



Volunteers are needed for your 2026 Executive, committee and delegates.

Time for **YOU** to have a go, even as an assistant to one of the Executives.

Applications close 31 December 2025, four weeks before the AGM. Contact the Secretary and request an Election Nomination Form (pdf) <https://navalassoc.org.au/links/naa-forms>

All positions will be vacated - see pages 21-26 Annexes B and C of our Guidelines <https://nwqld.org.au/pdfs/guidelines.pdf>

Liz has advised that she will **NOT** be nominating for *Flag Custodian*.

Lorrae will **NOT** be standing in 2026 - the following positions will be vacant. *The Treasurer's* duties are on page 24 of the Guidelines; *Newsletter Editor* and the *Public Relations Officer* (including managing Facebook and social events) are on page 25; and the *Delegate to NAA(Q) State Council* on page 26. There is a requirement for someone to store the Navy Women Qld historical boxes and cupboard. (I will transfer my Sub-Section membership effective 1 January 2026, as the ongoing conduct of one woman has made continued participation untenable, and it is easier to walk, then to continue in the roles that I loved, with so many amazing women to socialize with.) Thank you for the adventure and friendships during the last nine years. I wish you all well.

Judy has advised that she will **NOT** be standing in 2026 – the following positions will be vacant. *The Secretary's* duties are on page 23 of the Guidelines; *Stores Officer*; the *Delegate to CESWA* and the *Delegate to NAA(Q) State Council* on page 26.

Postal Address:

Navy Women Qld
Unit 77/9 Dux Drive,
BONGAREE Q 4507

Executive Contacts:

NWExecutive@nwqld.org.au

President:

Barb Jeffreys
0437 002 152
president@nwqld.org.au

Secretary:

Judy Prewett
0419 877 594
secretary@nwqld.org.au

Treasurer:

Lorrae Johnson
treasurer@nwqld.org.au

Vice Presidents:

Liz Grimes
Pat Nuss
Cathy Leung

Wellbeing Officer:

Catherine Leung
0432 227 181
Wellbeing@nwqld.org.au

Editors:

Liz Grimes
0438 766 493
Newsletter@nwqld.org.au
Lorrae Johnson
Editor@nwqld.org.au

Meetings: 2026

12 noon on the second
Sunday of each month,
except
May – third Sunday
July – third Sunday
**December – last Sunday of
November**

The Women of Australia Memorial

The Memorial was designed to honour the women of Australia, both military and civilian, whom, through their dedication and courage, provided a significant contribution during all wars and conflicts.

The Memorial has two distinct components one honouring civilians and the second honouring female members of the various Defence Forces.

It is hoped that this memorial will remain as a permanent reminder of those who served our Nation and, in particular, honour those women who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



Navy Women attended the annual Memorial Service held on the second Wednesday of September every year. This year, we included the Church Service as well. All Service women and their families are welcome to attend in honour of our sisters passed. North's Club provided an excellent lunch.

Hervey Bay Navy Women s Christmas Lunch

Navy Women travelled from Bundaberg to Brisbane district to join the Navy Women in Hervey Bay for their Annual Christmas Lunch, organised by our Life Member, Judy Hunter. Judy organised raffles for lucky door prizes, just for being there. There is always a Men's Table for the spouses to share their Warries that always get better with the telling. All Navy Women are welcome.



Remembrance Day 2025



Beachmere



Gemlife Palmwoods

Letter from our President

The last few months have been relatively quiet, thank goodness. With the "silly season" in full swing we all need more time in the day.

In October, I attend the 2025 Presidents & Life Members' Lunch hosted by RSL Qld at the Officers Mess at New Farm. The table I was sitting at had a representative from the RAN and DVA, a WW11 Veteran and other Presidents. The conversation was certainly interesting.



I attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance in the city. This was very moving as it should be. >>

The WVNA (Women Veterans Network Association) were invited to a cocktail party at Government House. I attended along with many other Navy Women. This is a wonderful organization looking after the interests of all female veterans all around the country.



The "Jack" service in November was to commemorate Navy Women and was held on a day where the temperature rose to 35 degrees. Although it did keep many of us at home, it was still very well attended. One of our Life Members gave an absolutely brilliant address from the beginning of the WRANS to the current day RAN personnel. (Included in the newsletter).

We had our Annual Reunion Luncheon in November which was well attended. I had the pleasure to present Long Service Certificates to three ladies. Thank you ladies for everything you have done for Navy Women. (Story below).

Liz Grimes attended the Funeral of Winki Higgins yesterday and reported that Winki has been laid to rest next to her dearest friend Lenny Maiden. Thank you Liz.

I spent one weekend visiting several of our WWII Treasures, and they were all happy to see some-one from the Association. Although they receive phone calls and mail, they had not seen any-one in some time.

Now on a grim note - Due to the continued dissension among some members of the Executive, I will be addressing all members at our AGM in February. This needs to be done so you can be fully aware of exactly what has been happening. An Executive Committee is there to make the decisions in order to have smooth running of the Association. This was not done in 2025. Our Guidelines are part of our Rules and should be followed. Not ignored when it suits. I won't stand for anyone bullying anyone, and I certainly do not appreciate being told I am bullying by the person I'm questioning. It's my job as President to ask the questions if I think something is wrong. The need to control everyone and everything is not to be tolerated, nor will intimidating and bullying by anyone.

I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, Healthy and safe 2026, and I'll look forward to seeing you all in February at our AGM.

Thank you all for your service.

Barb Jeffreys
President
0437 002 152
president@nwqld.org.au



LIFE Members



Judy Hunter

2001



Barbara Snowden

2006



Pat McKay

2007



Jennie Rathbone

2016



Pat Nuss

2016



Wendy Griggs

2022



Wendy, Judy, Pat N & Pat Mc with
Jennie & Barbara - 2024

Diploma of Merit

Cecelia Ashe 2001
Joy Moynahan 2012

Certificate of Merit



Liz Grimes 2021

Honorary Member for Life



Joan Gilbert 2014

RSL Queensland

RSL Queensland is here for all veterans and their families – helping you find purpose, connection and support when you need it.

Across the state, we deliver programs and partnerships that promote your physical and mental wellness and help open doors to employment and purpose.

As custodians of commemorative events across Queensland, we uphold the legacy of service members past and present.

And through our state-wide network of RSL Sub Branches, we nurture the deep and enduring ties created through service, and provide you with opportunities to continue to serve our communities.

For every veteran, every day of the year, RSL Queensland is creating valuable connections for life.

<https://rslqld.org/>

Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills Aspley Sub Branch Inc

Legacy

In 1923 **Legacy** made a promise to help veterans' families carry on with their lives after the loss or injury of their loved one.

It was a simple promise that **Legacy** keeps today; providing the same stability, guidance and assistance that a partner would normally provide to his or her family.

Today, **Legacy** supports more than 28,000 partners and children of veterans who gave their lives or health serving our country.

Our work can mean a child gets an education and a fair go, a widow is not disadvantaged and alone and a family is not torn apart by the effects of post-traumatic stress or other psychological injuries.

Since the **Legacy** promise was made by a soldier to his dying mate in the trenches of WW1 to "look after the missus and the kids", **Legacy** has supported Australian Defence Force families in times of great need.

From those who lost partners in war to the children of today's veterans, injured or killed in service to Australia, **Legacy's** work continues for the families of all who sacrificed for their country.

We ensure that no spouse or child of a veteran suffers financially and socially after the death or serious injury of their loved one. <https://www.legacy.com.au/>

Australian War Widows Incorporated

"We all belong to each other. We all need each other. It is in serving each other and in sacrificing for our common good that we are finding our true life."

The Guild was established on 22 November 1945 in Victoria by Mrs Jessie Mary Vasey, widow of Major General George Vasey who was killed en route to New Guinea during World War II.

It began with the smallest of beginnings focusing on craft which taught weaving and other handicrafts to members so that they could augment their inadequate pensions, the War Widows' Guild of Australia is a group which promotes and provides companionship, counselling and support for its members.

As Guilds were established in all States, the organisation became a powerful lobby group which was consulted by

Governments on all matters concerning War Widows. Each State made its own arrangements to cater for their members' needs, but all made housing a priority. By 1954, the Guild was in a position to take advantage of the Aged Persons Homes Act and go on to make provisions for housing for their members.

Going forward into the future the guild is looking to modernise and consolidate ensuring that there is always a service to look after War Widows in need and advocating on behalf of all War Widows to the National Government.

On 7 July 2020, the War Widows Guild of Australia Incorporated changed the name of the organisation to **Australian War Widows Incorporated**.

<https://warwidows.org.au/>

The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc.

<https://www.pva.org.au/welcome-to-qld-branch>

Partners of Veterans Association of Australia (PVA): Supporting the partners and families of Australian veterans through advocacy, resources, and a strong, connected community.

PVA QLD Inc welcomes all partners, ex-partners or widows/ers of all current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and we invite you to learn more about our unique Association and join the huge network of partners helping partners.

The P.V.A. network is an expansive resource of shared knowledge and experience of the life of an ADF family...we understand, and we can help!

P.V.A. QLD Inc. offers – Friendship - Support - Information – Understanding via our many sub branches, groups and/or contacts spread throughout Queensland – Qld Listing is at:

<https://www.pva.org.au/PVA%20QLD%20Groups%20and%20Contacts%20at%202023.10.08.pdf> .

For more information, call 1300 553 835; or on Facebook - www.facebook.com/partnersofveteransaus . You need to become a member of Queensland to join our closed Facebook page.

The Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation

The Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation provides evidence based, age appropriate, prevention and early intervention mental health education programs to young people aged 8-18 years who are living in a family impacted by mental illness.

Designed by mental health professionals, our Camps, Activity Days and online Connect Sessions are proven to empower young people to thrive beyond the impacts of family mental illness.

Delivered within a peer-based, social, and recreational setting, the Kookaburra Kids programs aim to provide connection, improve mental health literacy and encourage help seeking behaviours.

Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation, (previously Camp Kookaburra) was founded in 2002 by Dianne Madden, who through personal experience identified the lack of support for children living in a family affected by mental illness.

Around the Traps with Liz

Another year is about to close. It has been a year some of us would like to forget - with cyclones and storms, ill health for some of our members and some of a Treasures and other members who Crossed the Bar. However, a New Year is almost upon us, Christmas is just around the corner and life is looking up. I am looking forward to seeing you all in 2026. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commemoration

Jack Memorial Service



On the last Thursday of each month the Naval Association of Australia (Queensland Section) (NAA(Q)) conducts a Commemorative Ceremony at the **Naval Memorial** at the South Brisbane Memorial Park, adjacent to the Ship Inn and the Queensland Maritime Museum.

Each ceremony highlights the services of persons who have served Australia.

The ceremonies commence at 11.00 and are open to everyone.

At the conclusion of the Commemoration, there will be fellowship and drinks at the Ship Inn, at your own expense.

All are welcomed.

All Navy Women Qld members attending are requested to wear their black shirts (not T-Shirts) or white shirt (T- Shirt) with black jacket with white skirt/trousers. Medals and name badges may also be worn.

September :



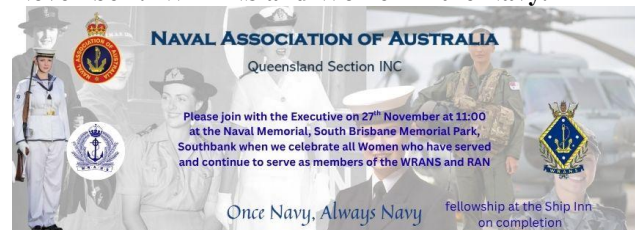
Bill Krause – Guest Speaker

October :



Judy as the new MC // CMDR Rosemarie Apikotoa RAN

November : WRANS and Women in the Navy.





Navy Women in Attendance



Judy as MC // Wendy as Guest Speaker



WRANS and Women in the RAN

Guest Speaker at the 'Jack' Memorial Service on 27 November 2025 - Mrs Wendy Griggs

Wendy served in the WRANS as a WR/LWRROT from 14 July 1970 to 13 July 1974. She was Secretary of Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld sub section of NAA from 2010 to 2022.

Wendy was awarded a 15 year Long Service Certificate in 2015, a Diploma of Merit in 2019 and was welcomed as a life member in 2022.

Wendy is President of the CESWA Qld and the Secretary of Redcliffe District Ex-Servicewomen's Club

The genesis of the WRANS was the foresight of Florence McKenzie, affectionately known as "Mrs Mac" - Australia's first female electrical engineer.

She set up her own electrical contracting business in 1918, and in 1922 she became the first Australian woman to take out an amateur radio operator's licence.

In 1939, McKenzie established the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps (WESC) in her Clarence Street rooms. Her original idea was to train women in telegraphy so that they could replace men working in civilian communications, thereby freeing those skilled men up to serve in the war. By the time war broke out, 120 women had been trained to instructional standard in Morse code and visual signalling (flag semaphore and International Code of Signals).

She campaigned to have some of her female trainees accepted into the all-male Navy until, on 21 April 1941, a Navy Office letter to the Commodore-in-Charge, Sydney, authorised the entry of women into the Australian Navy - 'The Women's Royal Australian Naval Service' (WRANS). This initiative was in response to increased wartime demands for naval personnel but the minister's specified that "no publicity...be accorded this break with tradition".

Immediately thereafter, on 25 April 1941, 14 of Mrs Mac's WESC trainees (twelve telegraphists and two domestic helpers) had their medical test, three days

later arrived at HMAS Harman in Canberra, dressed in the green WESC uniform designed by McKenzie. It was several months before a female Navy uniform (copied from the British Women's Naval Service) - minus shoes - was ready. It was not until 1 October 1942, they were sworn in as enlisted personnel in the WRANS. Francis Proven became WRANS number 1, going on to become a Third Officer.

All told, McKenzie trained about 3,000 women, one-third of whom went into the services. Many others remained at the Clarence Street school as instructors, and some 12,000 servicemen passed through her signal instruction school in Sydney.

In May 1941, the Air Force appointed Florence McKenzie as an honorary flight officer of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force, so she could legitimately instruct Air Force personnel. This was the only official recognition McKenzie received during the war for her efforts.

The first Wrens started the unique sisterhood of Australian servicewomen who left home, keen to help the war effort in whatever way they could, to work in a totally unknown environment - often in a city a long way from home and family. This was a huge step away from the norm for young women of their era and was courageous in itself. The initial 14 represented the first wave of women in the WRANS.

We women of the Navy owe much to Florence McKenzie and take great pride in her service and subsequently our service to Australia.

By October 1942, 580 female volunteers had been recruited and enlisted, and four months later the number had increased to 1000 women. The first 14 were primarily radio operators, but throughout the war, women served as telegraphists, coders, telephonists, messengers, drivers, stewardess and cooks. By 1945, a total of 3122 women had enlisted in the WRANS representing about 10 per cent of the entire Royal Australian Naval force at the time.

During her tenure as Director of WRANS 1944-47, Chief Officer Sheila McClellans, strove to increase recruitment, to expand areas of employment and to improve promotion provisions. Many of her endeavours, however, were frustrated by the conservative male hierarchy of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), unused to women in the service.

Post-war rationalisation led to the Service being disbanded and the last wartime Wrens were discharged in 1948.

Two years later in 1950, pressure on naval manpower from Cold War commitments prompted the RAN to re-establish the WRANS, albeit reluctantly, with every other possible option examined first. The decision was announced on 18 June 1950, with formal inauguration at the start of 1951. Wartime Wrens could re-

enlist, but their previous service was not recognised for pay or advancement. (This sounds familiar as the 18 month trial I participated in, in the 1980s for viability of active women reservists, did not get counted when they decided the trial was a success.)

Women could only occupy specifically designated shore posts and would be discharged if they married or became pregnant. Despite these restrictions, there were 1,500 applications for the initial 250 positions. The postwar Wrens operated on a policy of taking over shore duties to free up RAN personnel for at-sea service: a policy described as "a Wren in, a man out".

Captain Joan Streeter, OBE, led the WRANS between 1958 and 1973, becoming known as 'Ma'am WRANS' throughout the Navy. She is best remembered for bringing about the changes in 1968 that allowed the retention of women in the WRANS after marriage. She spent a total of 23 years in the Service.

Another prominent figure of that time was Captain Barbara McLeod, AM, who joined the WRANS as a Direct Entry Officer Candidate in 1953, at a time when the conditions of service for women in the WRANS were improving. She was the first Wrens Officer to be posted to the Staff of Flag Officer Commanding East Australia, becoming Commander of WRANS, HMAS Kuttabul, and she served in every establishment where the Wrens were posted, including Navy Office, Canberra. In 1970, she became the first woman in the RAN to have completed a senior management course at the Australian Administrative Staff College. After 25 years of service, Captain McLeod became the longest serving member of the WRANS to that time.

The Sex Discrimination Act 1984 made separate women's branches for the Australian Defence Force unsustainable, and the two separate women's services were abolished, the WRANS regulations repealed, and the WRANS and RANNS were incorporated into the Permanent Naval Forces. Qualified nurses wanting to join the RAN as nursing officers were enlisted with the rank of Sub-Lieutenant on probation and underwent training as Officers at HMAS Creswell.

The WRANS served in all naval establishments performing the equivalent duties of their male counterparts, except that the WRANS were not permitted to serve at sea. The main fields of employment for the WRANS Officers were administration, training, recruiting, communications, supply and secretariat, medicine, dentistry and law. Conditions of service and employment opportunities (except for pay) for members of the WRANS were aligned as closely as possible with those of male naval

personnel. Variations in the conditions of employment stemmed from Government policy of the day that service women were not to be employed in combat duties. This policy effectively precluded members of the WRANS from seagoing employment.

The WRANS' senior officers campaigned to expand the service and remove restrictions that hampered recruitment and retention. Until January 1968 WRANS had to leave the service upon marriage. This was changed in 1969 to align with the Public Service where retention after marriage was allowed from 1966 and the automatic discharge of pregnant women was dropped in 1974.

By 1978, WRANS personnel were receiving equal pay to their RAN counterparts.

By the start of the 1970s, there were almost 700 women serving in the WRANS, including postings at all nine RAN shore establishments, and personnel accompanying the Naval Communications Detachment based in Singapore.

In 1979, just half of the military positions were open to women in competition with men. Today, the selection is wide and varied, and a path that leads to command at sea or ashore is increasingly well travelled.

By 7 June 1985, when the RAN first made billets available for women at sea, approximately five per cent of all RAN personnel were females. It was during this time that women first served in afloat support vessels. There were very few female role models, especially in the seaman branch or in high-ranking positions. Although all women recruited after 1984 were advised that they were eligible for service at sea, substantial numbers of women did not get to sea until the early 1990s.

By 1990, women in the RAN had a seagoing obligation – it was no longer voluntary – and they were in combat related duties in the Middle East. By 1998 women were in permanent sea postings and could become submariners.

Since the mid-1980s, women in the RAN have held a number of key appointments. For example, in 1988 Commander Liz Cole was the first female Commanding Officer (CO) of a naval shore establishment.

Today, women are employed as Directors and Deputy Directors of various departments within naval establishments, as Principal Warfare Officers (PWOs), Pilots, Observers, Engineers and Intelligence officers, as well as participating in information technology and systems related employment. By the end of 2005, there were 21 qualified female PWOs in the RAN. Equally, women in the RAN have now reached the pinnacle of a sea going career – sea

command – and have been able to shine in the glory of the title 'Captain'.

Commander Jennifer Daetz, who became the first female to assume command at sea when she joined the survey vessel HMAS Shepparton in 1997, was ship's captain while holding the rank of Lieutenant.

In 2019 two female sailors became the first women clearance divers – the last category previously unavailable to women. Women now fill all the same roles as men in the RAN.

Apart from military operations, women in the RAN have contributed in ongoing constabulary and diplomatic operations in Australia and across the globe. Over the last 83 years it is instructive to consider how far we have come in the Defence Force and the extent to which women have been integrated into the various positions and categories across the RAN. As the role of women in society continues to change, so will opportunities for women in the Australian Defence Force continue to increase. Women in the RAN are moving through the ranks, with many excelling in their chosen fields, and setting a fine example for other young women wanting to enter the Service. Women in the RAN now serve in every area of day-to-day naval operations at sea and ashore. Female officers now command RAN ships and establishments, and many have seen active service abroad. There have been considerable developments in naval personnel and training in the last decade that has further enabled women in the RAN to tread the 'road to command' ashore and at sea.

Women in the Navy today do not recognise themselves as 'women' of the navy, but as an integral part of the seagoing service, no different to their male counterparts but milestone 'firsts' are important to recognise for women in what has been a male-dominated organisation for millennia.

In January 1996, Robyn Walker, a direct entry medical graduate, assumed the position of Officer-in-Charge of the Submarine and Underwater Medicine Unit. In 2005 she became the first female in the RAN to reach the rank of Commodore, continuing her career in diving medicine and in 2011 Rear Admiral Walker became the first female admiral in the RAN and was appointed Surgeon-General of the ADF.

In 2019 Deb Butterworth became the first female Warrant Officer of the Navy and Rear Admiral Rachel Durbin became Head of Navy Engineering in 2023.

After the war, many of the women who had served in the WRANS returned home, and not allowed to be members of the RSL, became members of the Naval Association. In Brisbane in 1964 the female members of the Brisbane Sub-section opted to form their own sub

In 2015, in an effort to be more inclusive, the sub section changed its name to Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld and welcomed new members who served in the RAN without having been

Since 2020 the sub section has convened at Geebung RSL for meetings and social events. The talk is still of Navy doings and our superiority to the Army and Air Force and the camaraderie that was characteristic of our navy days is still very much in evidence.

My husband, also ex-Navy, used to say that I was in a different navy to the one he was in – in many ways. And he was correct. But now men and women are one in the same navy – how sweet it is.

By 31 December 1942, there were 500 women enlisted, with a total of nearly 1,470 by 30 June 1943.

What happened to these WWII Wrans? What was their life like afterwards for them? Where are they laid to rest?

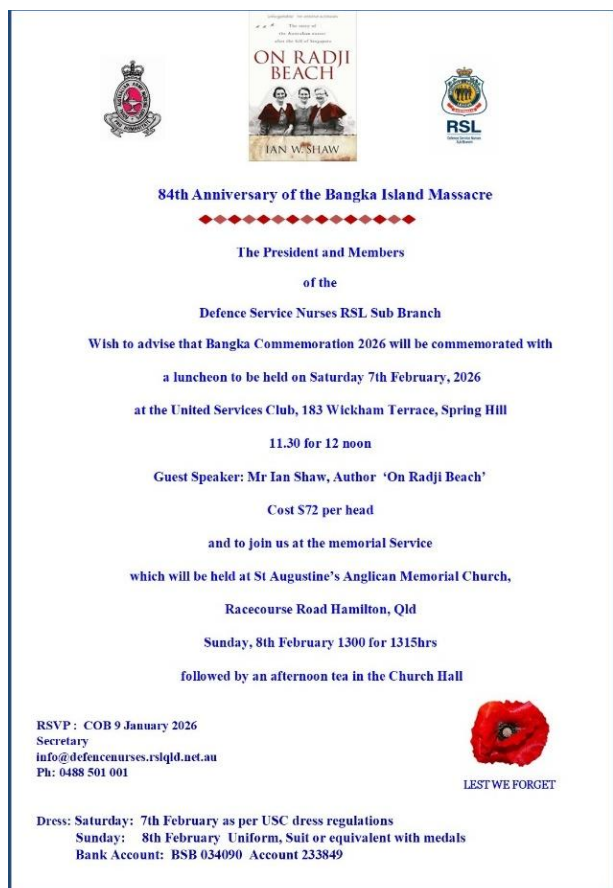
At least 20 of them are still alive.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF A REVIEW OF THE NAA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

NAA Constitution Review Sub-committee

WransWhereWeRest@gmail.com



Golden Rivet 2025

In 2024, NAA State Section won the Golden Rivet and held it at North Pine this year. Bundamba Sub Section won on the day, and will host in 2026. Photos from the day include:



It was a good turn-up from the Sub Sections for the annual Golden Rivet. The usual games, darts and carpet bowls were hotly contested, and, at the end of the day, there was only one winner. All had a good time and then it was time to depart to our homes. Thank you Judy for catering.



Cadets with Pat Nuss

Please contact me if you would like more information.

Pat Nuss

NAA(Q) Vice President (Cadets)

Mobile: 0439 674 199

Email: patrician@netspace.net.au

<https://www.navycadets.gov.au/>

Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Excellence

Containers For Change (C4C)

We are raising funds for the Cadets through *Containers for Change*. We have a separate account, and the funds raised each year are distributed in April and May the following year as a donation for their ANZAC Services.

Our account number is **C10236300** and all donations gratefully appreciated.

Be A Change Maker



Barcode for **C10236300**

Goodtimes Network Photography

<https://goodtimesbrisbane.com/>

For many years, John and Rick have taken our photographs at many of our functions, especially the November Reunion Lunch, and the Reunion.

The 2024 Reunion Luncheon group photo is included in their Gallery Photographs.

Your Wellbeing

Please let our Wellbeing Officer know if you are not well, especially if you are going to hospital, or if you are dealing with a problem.

We practice support through friendship and camaraderie. If you just need to talk to someone, call any committee member, or one of our ladies.

Don't bottle it up, we do not have the answers, but we have an ear to listen whilst you think out your options.

Sometimes, a chat over a coffee is more beneficial than you may realise, so please, always feel welcome to join any of our groups.

Annual Reunion Luncheon

At our recent Annual Reunion Luncheon, I had the pleasure to present Long Service Certificates to three of our members, and I think they deserve a little more recognition for their ongoing membership of Navy Women.

Firstly, **Jan Bowers** earned her **15 years Long Service Certificate**.

Jan joined the WRANS in 1971 as a communicator. Her postings after Cerberus were Harman / Navy Office and was one of the last WRANS to be posted to HMAS Terror in Singapore. Jan took her discharge as she was a shift worker, her husband was at sea and her son needed at least one parent at home. Jan worked for Medicare Australia for 21 years. Jan and her husband travelled around Australia for a while.

Jan married again in 2005 and when he passed away in 2016, Open Arms help Jan deal with her loss. In 2017 she did a solo drive around the UK, Canada and Alaska. In 2019 Jan took part in the longest line of RV's out at Barcaldine and it is now a record in the Guinness Book of Records. Jan and her third husband now enjoy a life travelling in their Motor home / caravan wherever they want to go.

Helen Gilmore-Walsh for **30 years Long Service**.

Helen joined the WRANS in 1962 as a communicator, and her first posting was as the first WRAN in a newly created position in the MSO at Cerberus. A role she is very proud of. After marrying she was discharged (which was the way things were back then). On marrying her current husband Paul, Helen has become somewhat of an "over achiever". The list is too long to mention here.

After Paul's retirement and moving to Malany, they have both worked tirelessly for their community. As the first female President of an RSL, doing Welfare work and conducting Poppy Services. Working for the Malany Show Society where both Helen and Paul have recently been awarded Life Time membership.

Helen was awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary in 2008.

Today they live at Gemlife at Palmwoods where along with other ex Navy personnel, they've organised "Colors", ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services; and anything else that brings enjoyment to themselves and the other residents. Helen has very recently turned 81 years young and has no intention of slowing down at all.

Next came **Patricia Reiken** for **45 years** of being a member of Navy Women QLD



Pat joined the WRANS in 1965 as a WRT and had postings to HMAS Harman, Cerberus, Penguin and Kuttatubul and paid off on marriage on 21 December 1968.

Pat joined NW in 1980, and from 1984-2012 Pat has been a committee member 4 times, Vice President 3 times, Treasurer once and Proxy Delegate to NAA State Council once.

After marrying Trevor in 1968, it took 6 years before their first child was born. This was due to Trevor always being at sea as the Vietnam War was happening. After moving to Brisbane, and raising their three children, Pat went back to work as a School Secretary. A position she held for 22 years, until Trevor's ill health took precedence.

These days Pat enjoys not only volunteering at her local Seniors Group, and playing cards, but it seems she also has an adventurous spirit, ... still. Recently she attended a speedboat race day, which was followed not long after with going SCUBA diving, and thoroughly enjoyed herself. I hope when I reach 78 years young, I'm still up for some new adventures.

Two ladies who joined up with Pat, and have become lifelong friends to this day, are Pat Nuss and Jennie Rathbone. (life members)

BRAVO ZULU LADIES.



"Shave for a Cure"





Thanks Liz for the photos.



Christmas Party to wrap up 2025

On 30 November, we held our last meeting (that was not a meeting) for our Christmas party, our last gathering for 2025. Our Secretary, Judy, again donated the home made and beautifully decorated Christmas Fruit Cake and Red Velvet cup cakes for those who do not like fruit cake.

Our Life member, Barbara, again played Santa Claus with many helpers. Secret Santa presents were all well received and we thank all the ladies for their gifts.

A very large thank you to all those who brought a raffle prize, and many received multiple prizes, before crying 'redraw' to allow others to have a chance too. If you buy

the tickets, you can hope to win multi prizes. Thank you for the Runners who selflessly ran around distributing the prizes. \$515 was raised from the sale of raffle tickets to about 40 members.







Thank you Rose and Liz for your photos – so many great photos



Treasurer's job never done.



The Geebung RSL Club did another amazing catering task and came up trumps again.

Camaraderie

Over the past three months, Navy Women again meet at various locations to share fellowship with each other and our fellow sister services. Navy Women met at the Gold Coast and Western Suburbs meeting at various places for camaraderie and lunch. Navy Women met on the Sunshine Coast, Bribie Island and Morayfield to swap stories with their Army and Air Force sisters.

All Navy Women are welcome to meet at the below venues for a few good laughs and lunch. We usually wear our black shirts, so we are easy to find.

Western Suburbs – first Tuesday of the Month @ 11am

Contact Barb Jeffreys

3 Feb - Middle Green Sports club, Greenbank.

3 Mar -

Gold Coast – Third Tuesday of the month – 10am

Contact Sylvia Manners

17 Feb – Café 360

17 Mar - Beenleigh Heritage Village High tea

Western Suburbs Lunch



September - Andonis Café & Bar, Ripley - Barbara, Jenny, Pat, Jan, Mary, Robyn, Lorrae & Liz



October – Chapters - Letty, Liz, Barbara, Lorrae, Barb, Robyn, Pat, Kerry & Marie



November – Café 63 Ripley - Letty, Barbara, Mary, Barb, Liz, Lorrae, Marie, Pat & Robyn

A contact person is required to organise and book the venues for the Western Suburbs Lunches. It would be an advantage if you could add the event to Facebook and post the photos to the Facebook page: “Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld Subsection”



December - Wounded Heroes - Barbara, Lorrae, Robyn, Mary, Kerry, Letty & Barbara

Gold Coast Brunch

The ladies from the Gold Coast continue to look for new and interesting places to meet for brunch whilst visiting favourite venues.



September - Sanctuary Cove - June, Jan, Dianne, Jackie, Anne, Tanya, Gayle, Lorrae



October - Café 360 - Liz, Lorrae, June, Jackie, Sylvia, Jan, Gayle, Diane, Tanya, Anne, Lorraine, with Maxine & Glenys standing



November - Café 63 - Cathy, Wendy, Glenys, Sylvia, Jan, Barb, Gayle, Nyla, June, Glenda, Lorrae, Maxine & Liz

Community

Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence

Second Wednesday of each month 11am at

The Local at Beerwah.

The lunches at The Local are popular with ladies from the Sunshine Coast, Bribie Island, Caboolture and from the local area.

Bribie Island Ex-Service Women Luncheon

Bribie Island Ex-Service Women Luncheon–
Fourth Monday of the month at the Bribie Island RSL
Contact Anita Cooper.



September – Navy Women included - Anita, Paula, Lee, Barbara, Donna, Liz, Sandra, Sandy.



October - Anita, Liz, Sandy, Lorrae & her lovely mum Bev, Sandy, Judy, Margie, Wendy and hubby

The Bribie Island ladies had their last lunch with a Christmas theme. Decorations were laid out on the tables, and all had a great time.



November – Lorrae & her mother, Bernie, Sandy, Carol, Barbara, Liz, Judy, Paula, Donna.

Morayfield / Caboolture

Second Monday of each month

The ladies from Caboolture, Morayfield and other areas meet regularly at the Caboolture Sports Club for lunch each month. The club is currently doing a massive renovation which does not interfere with the patronage of our Army and Air Force sisters. There is usually about twelve ladies from the three services in attendance.



September - Barbara & Liz with our Sister services



October – Liz with service sisters



November - Liz & Barbara enjoying the company

ACT Wrens Luncheon

On 16 October, Lorrae attended a Luncheon at the Ainsley Football Club with the ACT Wrens. The lovely WWII Wran Merle was in attendance. She will be 106 years young in January 2026.



Merle enjoying lunch



Lorrae, Rosemarie, Kerry, Maureen; Pauline, Heather, Dollah, Janice, Sue, Judith, Joan, Merle, Beth and Trish

Community

Women's Veteran Network Australia

The Governor of Queensland invited members of the WVNA to Government House on 27 October 2025 for a Cocktail Party. Navy Women were in full swing.



Sunshine Coast Ex-Service & Serving Women's Association (SCESWA)

The SCESWA hold numerous C&C mornings at various sites, and many of our members attend.

We wear our black shirts so we are easily identified amongst our sisters, and many reconnections have been



made.

The Committee has spent a very long time exploring and obtaining approval for the plinth for the updated plaque. It has finally come to fruition in the park at Maroochydore / Cotton Tree.

Their Christmas Lunch was held at the Kawana Surf Club. One of the attendees was Dorothy



Young, a World War II veteran aged 101 (she turns 102 in January).

Communicators enjoyed their recent AGM & Luncheon





RSL
Geebung Zillmere Bald Hills
Aspley Sub Branch





CONSIDER JOINING

**GEEBUNG ZILLMERE
BALD HILLS ASPLEY
SUB BRANCH INC**

BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Sub Branch Social Club including Bus Trips
- Access to full Welfare Advocacy
- Ceremonial Days celebrated e.g ANZAC Day etc
- Other functions include - Presidents' Luncheon, Sportsmans Lunch, XMAS Party & Volunteers Party
- Monthly meetings inclusive of Sub Branch, Citizens Auxilliary & Club Social Members
- Mentoring of 13 schools in our area
- Volunteer roles including - home, hospital visits, badge selling, Bunnings sausage sizzle
- Full use of all facilities of Geebung RSL

Contact Us

secretary@
geebungrsl.com.au

3216 5258

RAN COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ASSOCIATION (RANCBA)

<< The RANCBA holds their Annual Luncheon at the Ship Inn, South Bank, each year in late October. It would be great to see more of the communicators attending this luncheon. Currently, five of us (two from the Gold Coast) meet with our male counterparts for a great lunch. Hope to see you there in October 2026 (date to be advised).

Marcia Christine Chalmers

Marcia Chalmers' career began on 14 July 1958 when she joined the WRANS as a Recruit Wran Telegraphist. She was promoted through the ranks, achieving the rank of Petty Officer Wran Radio Supervisor (S). Marcia was selected for Officer training and was appointed as a Probationary Third Officer WRANS (Communications) in October 1962 receiving her permanent commission on 24 October 1963. Later, Marcia changed from the Communications Branch to the Administration Branch. She served Command WRANS Officer on the staff of the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Australia (FOCEA) and as Command Personnel Officer (CPSO) in Sydney. CMDR Chalmers served as Training Officer and Officer Training Course Officer at HMAS Cerberus. Other major achievements of note included the last Director of the WRANS (DWRANS), second female Officer to attend the Joint Services Staff College. As Acting Captain, she was the first Director of the Defence Families Information Liaison Service.



Marcia Chalmers

Marcia was awarded a Chief of Staff Commendation and was presented with her Certificate of Service by the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff. At the completion of her fulltime service, she was the longest serving female member of the RAN, having served 31 years. CMDR Marcia Chalmers retired on 20 July 1989 as CAPT M.C. Chalmers RAN, Retired.

Tragically she passed away early November 2025.

Stand down, Ma'am, your duty done.

Rest in peace.

Contributed by Liz from Joan's records.

Care

with Barb

Sick Bay

Please let us know if you are unwell, or in hospital, and we may be able to organise a visit to cheer you on.

Two of our WWII ladies have not been well recently.



Murielle Ahern was in the RBWH for three weeks with pneumonia and is now back home in relatively good health. Muriel received the best care from the staff which has brought her back to baseline health. She is in good spirits and is enjoying the simple pleasures of being at home where her family take very good care of her.

Murielle wishes everyone at Navy Women Qld a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The other is **Fay Royal**, who is normally in very good health but a few weeks ago fell and broke her hip. That didn't slow her down very much at all, but now needs a pacemaker and will probably outlive us all. Fay is now back in care and doing what she does best, enjoying life.

Our Honorary Member for Life, **Joan Gilbert**, is in care and not very well at all. Although talking can leave her breathless, she still loves to have a chat.



I'd like to wish these ladies a full and speedy recovery.

Helen and I visited **Vonnie Hitzke** after she had celebrated her 101st birthday. She was tired but keeping well at that time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone spending time in Sickbay or Hospital

Fraser Coast Christmas Party - continued



Care *Wellbeing* with Cathy Leung

Here we are Christmas Time. I am feeling a bit "Bah Humbug". Not only do I have my own list to finish off (bless TEMU) now my family are worried about "What to get". My answer now is a single malt minimum 15 years old. Something that will see me through January.

The final Christmas Lunch, last raffle and Secret Santa and here we are resting up for Christmas with friends and family. My granddaughter Lucy will enjoy her second Christmas. Only problem is finding something she DOES NOT have.

Navy Women were successful in obtaining funding for Veterans Health. The funding came late this year, and we have until end of February 2026 to use the money.

The theme, "Connect, Move, Nourish, Thrive 365" allows us to focus our mind and body. Staying fit in both body and mind helps to ease stress and boost your mood.

Our effort is "Thriving and Surviving, Lunching and Learning, Calories Burning". Veterans' Health Week is more than a day or two of activities, it reminds us to continue making healthy habits and choices throughout the year. We are never too old to learn something new.

It's not just walking and talking (which is great to do), it also means feeding your mind with good food and creativity.

THRIVE 365

CONNECT • MOVE • NOURISH

On Wednesday 25 February, come to Geebung for a day of fun, mindful activities and a healthy lunch.

We will start at 11 am and finish around 3 pm.

We will move your body and engage your mind. If you are a crafty person, bring an activity or instructions to teach someone, e.g. know how to crochet teach someone the basic technique. Are you a card player, teach your game. I will bring my mahjong set for anyone interested. Chair Yoga, and indoor bowls will get you moving.

Send me an email and I can organise the day around the activity you want to contribute.



Contact Details

Please feel free to text me a message at 0432227181. Leave your name and number and I will get back to you. I don't always have my phone on me, as many of my friends can attest to. I will respond once I look at my phone.

Wellbeing@NWQld.org.au

YOU'RE INVITED

Join us at

THRIVE 365
CONNECT • MOVE • NOURISH

**Thriving and Surviving
Lunching and Learning
Calories Burning**

**Wednesday 25 February 2026
11am start.**

**Geebung RSL Club
323 Newman Rd
Geebung QLD**

Contact the Secretary Navy Women
Email: secretary@nwqld.org.au

**Register Early
Provide Special Dietary Needs
RSVP: 8 February at the AGM**

Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses

PO Box 3455, Newmarket, Q. 4051

email: admin@centaurnursesfund.org.au

web: www.centaurnursesfund.org.au

CENTAUR MEMORIAL FUND FOR NURSES is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) by Qld Government Number: CH0017

The **CMFN Scholarship** (Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses (CMFN) Scholarship), an annual award for Queensland nurses or midwives pursuing higher degrees (PhD, Professional Doctorate) in nursing/midwifery, supporting research and knowledge development in remembrance of military nurses and the 2/3 AHS *Centaur* sinking. CMFN also funds other initiatives like the Centaur Higher Degree Research Scholarship, offering up to \$10,000 for advanced studies, honouring service and promoting professional growth in nursing and midwifery.

**If you are 65 or over
register now:**

my aged care

1800 200 422

www.myagedcare.gov.au

Australian American Association, Brisbane.

<https://www.aaabrisbane.com/>

The Australian-American relationship linked across both sides of the Pacific Ocean with a common heritage and many countless and cherished ties. A very big thank you to Teresa for your dedication to the monthly Jack services, it is truly appreciated and acknowledged.

St John's Royal Australian Navy War Memorial Church

at 688 Nudgee Road, Northgate was built in 1962, eleven years after it was proposed for construction with the adjacent St Jon's Convent School. This church is the only non-military place of worship built specifically as a Royal Australian Navy War Memorial. The church contains a Roll of Honour of the sailors who enlisted in Brisbane during the Second World War and later died during that conflict.

The NAA(Q) supports this church on ANZAC Day, with donations of books for the school library. <https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/272321>

Have you registered with DVA yet?

Every person who has served needs to apply and be registered with DVA – especially for a white card. <https://www.dva.gov.au/>

The *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA) becoming the single ongoing Act 1st July 2026. <https://web.atdp.org.au/vetsact>

Defence Service Recognition Pin.

The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant serves to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service and the contribution of veterans and their families. The Covenant is supported by the Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath.

<https://recognition.dva.gov.au/>

The Veteran Card provides access to specific health treatment services. The Lapel Pin provides the opportunity for Australians to identify veterans when they are not in uniform or wearing their medals. The Oath is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people to give enduring and formal recognition of veterans and families.

Personal information requests

Defence holds personal information about Australian Defence Force (ADF) members to assist in the support of members and their families, both during and after their service.

Personal information about ADF members can be accessed via the personal information request process and will be actioned within 30 days.

Except during the Christmas close-down period.

Request personal and medical files.

<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/accessing-information/personal-information-requests>

Department of Veterans' Affairs Free 12 month health and fitness program - Heart Health Program - Registrations Open

It's a 12-month general health and fitness program, and it's free for ex-ADF members with overseas operational or peacekeeping service, and those covered by the ADF firefighters' scheme.

Registering your interest or checking eligibility is easy. Simply visit <https://www.veteranshearthealth.com.au/eligibility/> and follow the steps. Or please call the program phone number [1300 246 262](tel:1300246262) at any time to speak to one of our team.

Veterans Queensland

The Veterans Queensland is the central point of contact and coordination for veterans' policy issues and Queensland Government commitments relating to veterans.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/about/how-government-works/government-structure/veterans-queensland>

Ensure you have all your entitlements / concessions from your state and local Government authorities –

<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/veterans>

Queensland Veterans Council

The Queensland Veterans' Council is an independent statutory body established to provide advice to the Queensland Government on veterans' matters, to hold and manage Anzac Square and its Memorial Galleries and to administer the Anzac Day Trust Fund.

<https://www.qvc.qld.gov.au/>

Support at Home

<https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/support-at-home>

Veterans Home Care

<https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/programs-services-information-for-providers/veterans-home-care/veterans-home-care-vhc>

The Official Newsletter of the Navy Victoria Network is published monthly and available online. Well worth a visit at <https://navyvic.net/>

Broadside : Aug-Nov 2025

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/qchr/f/rzos/>
<https://online.fliphtml5.com/qchr/f/dcdp/>
<https://online.fliphtml5.com/qchr/f/sxnt/>
<https://online.fliphtml5.com/qchr/f/dqbj/> **

A very big Thank you for the privilege of presenting this Newsletter over the last four years. Thank you Liz for working with me to present these Newsletters. This is my final one. I wish the new Editor all the best.

DVA's mental health literacy and mental health initiatives include free training programs for veterans and the community, the comprehensive Defence and Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030, and direct support services like Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling. The training aims to improve awareness and provide suicide prevention skills, while the strategy outlines a long-term approach to wellbeing through prevention, early intervention, and access to care. If you are interested in undertaking this course, check out the various DVA pages ::

<https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/a-win-for-the-veteran-community-free-mental-health-training-extended>

'VETERAN' - whether on active duty, discharged, retired or reserve - is someone who at one point in his / her life wrote a blank cheque made payable to "AUSTRALIA", for an amount of "up to and including his / her life".

The Hon Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, launched the Defence and Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030 (the Strategy) in Parliament today. The Strategy's vision is to empower and support the Defence and veteran community for optimal mental health and wellbeing during service or employment, during transition to civilian life and beyond. The Strategy has six goals:

People are our most important Australian Defence capability. The resilience, dedication and professionalism of the Defence and veteran community underpin our national security. We want Australians to be attracted to serving our nation in our Australian Defence Force, and confident that they and their families will be well supported by their leaders, their mates and the broader Defence organisation.

BREAST CANCER

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** and as usually, anything raised by the raffle and other donations by our members at the October meeting, are matched by our Operational Account. The ladies turned out in Pink, and we raised \$344 in the raffle. Navy Women match that amount.

<https://fundraise.nbcf.org.au/login/event>

THANK you every-one for your support this year.



Fraser Coast Christmas Party - continued



Fraser Coast Christmas Party - continued



Cutting the cake for naval history



CO HMAS Moreton
CMDR Rosemarie Apikotoa
cuts the unit's birthday cake.
Photo: MAJ Carolyn Barnett

LEUT Michael Wilson

PERSONNEL at HMAS Moreton turned out in force for the base's ninth birthday celebration, led by CO CMDR Rosemarie Apikotoa.

Moreton is located on the Brisbane River at Bulimba, and was commissioned on May 14, 2016, by then Governor of Queensland Paul De Jersey.

It now forms an integral part of Navy's capability in south-east Queensland.

Initially a naval station, Moreton began as HMAS Penguin IV in 1932 as a depot in New Farm.

In 1940, it was renamed Moreton, serving as a naval base and supply station.

Moreton was decommissioned in 1994 before being recommissioned in 2016 as Navy Headquarters – South Queensland.

Now a vital cog in Navy operations, Moreton provides a shore-based capability that supports minor war vessel visits alongside and ship visits into other south-east Queensland ports, including Brisbane and Gladstone.

Moreton administers all Navy personnel in the region, including the RAN Band – Queensland and Navy Reserves, and also provides support to 11 naval cadet units around south-east Queensland.

CMDR Apikotoa highlighted Moreton's role in supporting the ADF in the region.

"We support the fleet while also

This is an amazing time to be here, to be a part of our mission

CMDR Rosemarie Apikotoa
CO HMAS Moreton

working with Army on new seaborne capabilities – and also everything we do to support our people," she said.

"We have also achieved so much when we look at community engagement.

"Don't judge us by what we just have on board, but how we project out."

CMDR Apikotoa thanked all in attendance for gathering to celebrate Moreton's ninth birthday, including members of previous command teams.

"This is an amazing time to be here, to be a part of our mission," she said.

"Moreton may be a relatively small establishment, but it certainly packs a punch whilst playing a vital role for Navy, particularly in south-east Queensland."

14 News

November 27, 2025



The Women UNLIMITED Leadership Summit in Sydney.

Reminder to always be kind

LEUT Felicity de Fombelle

KINDNESS to others and looking out for people who don't seem included.

These were PO Jess Elliott's key takeaways from the recent Women UNLIMITED Leadership Summit in Sydney, which featured big-name speakers such as Hillary Clinton and Julia Gillard.

With a PTI background, these are not the events she would usually attend.

But she scored an invitation in her current role as Assistant Staff Officer Navy Women, alongside Deputy Fleet Commander CDRE Anita Williams.

"It was big on the brain, that's for sure," she said.

"I was super humbled to be there, to listen and learn.

"It was two days of incredible speakers and, for me, it all came back to kindness. You never know what's happening in someone's life and don't realise the impact you

can have simply by being kind.

"Julia Gillard spoke about that a lot – that you never know what people are carrying."

Having returned from maternity leave and with two "little cyclones" to care for at home, being alert to people's circumstances resonated with PO Elliott, whose Navy career spans 13 years.

"So many of us leave the office and go home to our actual jobs, like caring for young ones or an elderly relative," she said.

"My young son and daughter are the best and I am super grateful I can come back to work and balance that. Well, it's not really a balance. I've got a serving spouse too, so it's just a juggle trying to keep everybody happy."

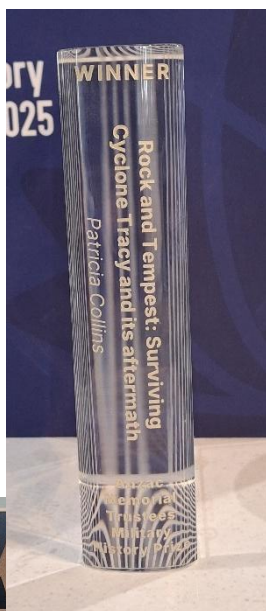
As one of the younger attendees, PO Elliott is conscious of supporting other young women.

"It made me think that, in Navy, we can all show leadership and values like compassion, which are key to being a good person."

The State Library of NSW History Awards 2025

'Rock and Tempest: Surviving Cyclone Tracy and its Aftermath' by Naval Association of Australia member, Patricia Collins, has been shortlisted for the Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize in the 2025 NSW History Awards. It was also Highly Commended in the Australian History Prize category.

The State Library of NSW History Awards ceremony on 5 September 2025, was attended by Patricia and her son, Terry. Patricia's book was the winner in the Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize 2025.



Sorry about the lateness of this article. Well done Patricia and Thank you for your consideration.



In the wake of Cyclone Tracy's devastation in Darwin in December 1974, hundreds of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel answered the call - working tirelessly to rescue survivors, restore order, and rebuild a shattered city. Their courage, sacrifice, and service deserve formal recognition. Let's stand together to ensure these veterans receive the respect and recognition they earned.

Navy Women Canberra 2027 Reunion

A group of women have taken on the 2027 Reunion to be held in Canberra. Judy Lambert is the organiser with Angela Ballard, Colleen Gould and Lyn Jensen – "The Greenies".

(See the Flappers in the 2025 Reunion photos).

Further details will be posted, when known.

NWQld Membership

NAA have revised our application forms – and the latest one has been uploaded to our webpage:

<https://nwqld.org.au/membership.html>

If you have a friend who meets our criteria, and they would like to join, please provide the link for them to print the form and sign it. Full members can nominate them, and the form is then sent to our secretary, preferable by post. The form does not need to be TYPED, so long as it is legible. Attach your discharge /Service certificate with your application form. The money can be banked directly.

If you are a Club or Social member, and wish to change to a Full member, you will need to complete and send a new application form (for National and State requirements). However, a Full member can change to a Club or Social member by advising the secretary in writing (ie, email).

Fraser Coast Christmas Party - continued



End of Life Presentation

These sessions are well worth attending, regardless of your age.

Please contact **Keith Boulton** direct if you wish to attend.



You are invited to share in a conversation -
Preparation for aged care, dying and death.

12 February 2026 at
Queensland Maritime Museum
9 am arrival for a 9:30 am start
Concluding at 12:45, with the opportunity to purchase lunch at the
Ship Inn afterwards

Presenters to encourage the conversation include the
Chaplain to the Naval Association, Care representatives
from the services, and a psychiatrist.

All are welcome - bring your family and friends.

Please RSVP your attendance to Keith Boulton
at
Keith.Boulton@maritimemuseum.com.au
as numbers are limited

sponsored by the
Queensland Section INC
Naval Association of Australia.



and



Fraser Coast Christmas Party - continued



Vale

We have received news from interstate, and the notices are included in their Newsletters which are shared via email. We will report the loss of our sisters when we are advised.

Pamela Mary (nee CORBEN) NICHOLLS WR762
Birth 15Aug1923 • Hawthorn, Victoria,
Enlisted WRANS 15Jan1943 as a Telegraphist.
Commissioned 27Jul1944 until 02May1946 - 3RDO.
Death 23Nov2025 • Victoria,

Veronica Joyce (nee HIBBETT) HITZKE WR1539
Birth 19Jul1924 • Wondai, Queensland,
Enlisted WRANS 22Jun1943 until 26Feb1946 as a
Supply Assistant
Death 10Sep2025 • Sunshine Coast, Queensland,

Marie Terese (nee MARKHAM) HANKIN R84729
Birth 12Dec1935 • Marrickville, New South Wales,
Enlisted WRANS 06Sep1957 as RWRCB,
commissioned as 3RDO on 26Mar1959; and
discharged on marriage on 22Mar1963 as A/2NDO.
Death 07Aug2025 • Warwick, Queensland,

Alroy Mavis HIGGINS (Winki) N129014 / Q129014
Birth 04Mar1936 • Melbourne, Victoria,
RANNS LEUT three times between 21Jan1980 until
02Jul1991 (twice as Reservist)
Death 13Nov2025 • Woolloongabba, Queensland,

Marcia Christine CHALMERS R84873 / L2084
Birth 25Jun1939 • Bangalow, New South Wales,
WRANS 14Jul1958 until 23Oct1962 (POWRRSM)
WRANS Officer 24Oct1962 until 1989 CMDR
Death 05Nov2025

Pauline Cunningham FARRIES W86117
Birth 29Jun1947 • Chester, Cheshire, England
WRANS 13Jul1965 until 12Mar1968 as a LWRROG
Death 11May2025

Claire June (nee JOHNSTONE) RYAN W118928
Birth 21Jun1956
WRANS 15Sep1975 until 14Sep1979 as a SWRWTR
Death 02Nov2025

Norma Clarice (nee MAYNARD) JOLLY WR4439 /
R84439. Birth 24Jul1929
WRANS 10May1954 until 28Mar1959
Death 27Sep2025 Canberra ACT

Tracey ELLIOTT CMDR
Birth 30Jul1963 Death 24Jul2025.

Helen Margaret (nee SMITH) PATMORE R86170
Birth 09Apr1947
WRANS 06Sep1965 until 05Aug1967
Death 06Jun2025

Lest We Forget

*Please let us know of the death of any Navy Woman -
member or not; from any state and we will mention
them in the next newsletter.*

Membership – 2026 and onwards

Surname	First	Year
Abraham	Janet	2027
Adams	Patricia	2026
Ahern	Murielle	2026
Alden	Joan	2026
Allan	Kathrine	2026
Andaloro	Jacqueline	2026
Archbold-Thomas	Michelle	2026
Ashe	Cecelia	2026
Avery	Trudie	2026
Baldock	Barbara	2026
Barrett	Jennifer	2026
Barrow	Betty	2026
Bell	Jenny	2026
Belleri	Sandra	2026
Belstead	Kerrie	2026
Bennet	Mary	2026
Blackwood	Mavis	2026
Blinkhorn	Julie	2027
Bott	Toni	2026
Bowers	Jan	2026
Brand	Robyn	2026
Brooke	Donna	2026
Brown	Lorraine	2026
Brown	Paula	2026
Brunton	Christine	2026
Bryan	Sammie	2026
Burns	Diana	2026
Cameron	Kim	2026
Castles	Carol	2027
Clark	Gail	2026
Coleman	Kim	2026
Collins	Patricia	2026
Conn	Barbara	2026
Cooper	Anita	2027
Cunningham, OAM	June	2028
Curran	Jackie	2026
De Silva	Noala	2026
Deegan	Rosalie (Lee)	2027
Dennis	Wendy J	2026
Donnelly	Coral	2026
Dreyer	Maxine (Max)	2027
Duesing	Klawdia	2026
Duncan	Caroline	2026
Eastwood	Theadora (Thea)	2026
Eddy	Judith L	2026
English	Janet	2026
Flood	Glenda	2027

Surname	First	Year
Floyd	Margueritte	2026
Franklin	Bernadette	2026
Fraser	Glenys	2026
Gadd, OAM	Pamela	2026
Gilbert	Joan	2026
Gill	Elizabeth	2028
Gillis	Sandra (Sandy)	2027
Gilmour-Walsh	Helen	2026
Gordon	Elizabeth	2028
Griggs	Wendy	2026
Grimes	Elizabeth (Liz)	2026
Hall	Penelope	2026
Hausmann	Ingrid	2026
Henderson-Place	Judy	2026
Hermann	Janelle	2026
Hewston	Clare	2026
Hillis	Angella	2029
Hislop	Helen	2026
Holloway	Norine	2026
Howard	Tania	2026
Hunter, OAM	Judith	2026
Hyslop	Rae	2026
Jackson	Barbara	2026
Jeffrey (Pickering)	Phyllis	2026
Jeffreys	Barbara	2026
Jeisman	Robyn	2026
Jennings	Suzanne	2026
Johnson	Kerry	2026
Johnson	Lorae	2026
Johnston	Susan E	2026
Kelly	Jennifer	2026
Lane	Theresa	2026
Leung	Catherine	2027
Leutton	Margaret	2026
Louis	Marie A	2026
Lovegrove	Bronwyn	2026
Magann	June	2028
Magnus	Noelani	2026
Manners	Sylvia	2026
McGahan	Marie	2026
McKay	Carmel	2026
McKay	Lee	2026
McKay	Patricia	2026
McNeill	Denise	2026
McSwain	Dianne	2026
Morgan	Kaye	2026
Morris	Pamela	2026

Surname	First	Year
Morrissey	Janice	2026
Moss	Joanne	2026
Nichols	Ann	2026
Nichols	Gail	2027
Nicol	Lynette	2026
Nuss	Patricia	2026
O'Brien	Rhonda	2026
Ogilvie	Jean	2026
Onger	Rae	2026
Palmer	Susan	2026
Parke	Neridah	2026
Prewett	Judith	2026
Queay	Mavourneen	2026
Rathbone	Jennifer	2026
Reghenzani OAM	Christine	2026
Retallick	Elains	2026
Rieken	Patricia	2026
Robinson	Christine	2026
Rose	Ronda	2026
Royle	Fay	2026
Saxby	Ellen Mary	2026
Shepherd	Susan	2026
Siebrecht	Wendy	2026
Slatter	Gayle	2026
Smith	Shirley	2026
Snowdon	Barbara	2026
Southorn	Jacqueline	2026
Southwood	Fiona	2026
Summers	Kathryn	2026
Taylor	Marie	2026
Twigg	Anthea	2026
VanDijk	Rosemary	2027
Wailes	Doriel	2026
Walker	Anne	2026
Walsh	Dawn	2026
Walters	Janice	2026
Webber	Faylaine (Fay)	2026
Whaites	Pamela	2026
Whyte	Sandy	2026
Wilkinson	Annette	2026
Yench	Helen	2026

As at 12Dec2025 - 135

If your name is not here, contact
Secretary@NWQld.org.au

Fees and bank details are on the back page.

Merchandise for Sale to Financial Members only

Stores@nwqld.org.au

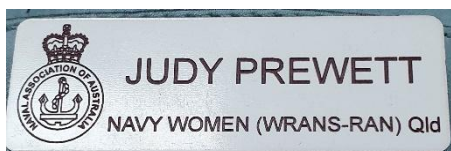
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld has a 'uniform' so that we can present a uniform appearance when gathered as a group.

White Hats are a non specific brand of Panama style – acquired from various department stores – Kmart, Target, etc

POCKET BADGE with magnets for Jacket >



^ **TALLY BAND**



NAME TAG with your name and our brand ^^



POLO SHIRTS with EMBROIDERY on right side



Formal Occasions:

(Funerals; ANZAC Day)

White skirt, pants or dress, worn with the white shirt, black jacket with the magnetised pocket badge, and white hat with our Tally Band.

Shoes to suit.

Alternatively, the black blouse can be worn in lieu of white shirt and black jacket.



AUSSIE PACIFIC POLO SHIRT with EMBROIDERY on right side

Informal Occasions:

(Coffee mornings, bus trips, social gathering)
Black tops with your choice of bottom half.

Wearing of medals:

Large medals are worn for events that commence in the day time;

Miniatures are worn for events that commence at night;

Ribbons are worn during the day for non-Ceremonial events.



BIZ OASIS button front SHIRT with EMBROIDERY on right side



Orders for shirts and name tags take 3 weeks.
Payment must be received before orders are placed.

For details of price, and to place orders, contact:
email Stores@nwqld.org.au

Meetings are Essential to the Association
A Quorum is Essential to a Meeting
Your Attendance is Essential to a Quorum

Calendar of Events 2026– subject to changes

Date	Event	Notes
Feb	Service @ Jack Southbank	Honouring HMAS Voyager (II) Lost Crew
8 Feb	Navy Women Qld AGM & OGM Geebung RSL	Geebung RSL - First meeting for 2025
19 Feb	NAA(Q) State Council meeting	Delegates attend
23 Feb	Navy Week	HMAS Moreton - TBC
26 Feb	Service @ Jack Southbank	RAN Navy Week Hosted by HMAS Moreton:
Feb	Voyager (II)	St Mary's - Kangaroo Point
1 Mar	HMAS Perth and the USS Houston were lost during the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942	
8 Mar	Navy Women Qld - Geebung RSL	
7-8 Mar	NAA State Conference –	Delegates attend – everyone invited
21 Mar	CESWA Tri-Service Luncheon Geebung RSL	Singing Competition
27 Mar	Service @ Jack Southbank	HMAS Yarra (ii) - Focus – Rankin & Taylor
3 Apr	Good Friday	Happy Easter
12 Apr	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	Easter Bonnet
25 Apr	ANZAC Day 0600 Service at St John's Church Northgate Corvettes Assoc Service Newstead 0930 Parade in Brisbane City	Formal Uniform
May	Victory in Europe Service 08May1945	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
17 May	Navy Women Qld	3 rd Sunday due to Mother's Day date
28 May	Service @ Jack Southbank	ANMEF 1914 - Navy & Military Expedition
4 Jun	Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assoc Inc Luncheon Maroochydhore	Civilian dress with name tags
14 Jun	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
25 Jun	Service @ Jack Southbank	Timor Leste Ships
4-5 Jul	Reserve Forces Day Wondai	
19 Jul	Navy Women Qld - Geebung RSL	3 rd Sunday due to Geebung bookings
30 Jul	Service @ Jack Southbank	Gulf War 1 & 2
26 Jul	Korean Veterans Day	
9 Aug	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	
Aug	Victory in Pacific Day 15Aug1945	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
18 Aug	Vietnam Veterans Day	
27 Aug	Service @ Jack Southbank	Seafarers
3 Sep	Battle of Australia Commemoration	
9 Sep	CESWA Commemoration to Service Women of Aust	Women's Memorial Pine Rivers Kallangur Formal Uniform
13 Sep	Navy Women Qld - Geebung RSL	
19 Sep	NAA Golden Rivet 2025	CSI Ipswich – Hosted by NAA State Black Shirts
24 Sep	Service @ Jack Southbank	Vietnam HMAS Vendetta
11 Oct	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	Breast Cancer Fundraising WEAR PINK
October	Hervey Bay Birthday weekend	
29 Oct	Service @ Jack Southbank	HMAS Sydney II –
7 Nov	Navy Women Annual Reunion Luncheon	Geebung RSL Club
	Navy Women Qld OGM	
11 Nov	Remembrance Day Service	
19 Nov	NAA(Q) State Council meeting	
26 Nov	Service @ Jack Southbank	Navy Women – All Navy Women
5 Dec	International Volunteers Day	Thank you to our Volunteers
	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Xmas Party
	Summer Break	

First Tuesday of each month

Second Monday of each month

Second Wednesday of each month

Third Tuesday of each month

Fourth Monday of each month

Last Thursday of each month

Western Suburbs Lunch

Caboolture Ex-Servicewomen's Lunch

Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence

Gold Coast Brunch

Bribie Island Lunch Bribie Island RSL Social Cafe

Jack Memorial Ship Inn, South Bank

Meeting Times

Navy Women Qld meetings are held on the **second Sunday of every month****,

1200 to approx. 1400

Geebung RSL Club

(323 Newman Road, Geebung -
near the Geebung Railway Station)

**** Except May, when it is the third Sunday
of the month (not Mother's Day) ****

July is third Sunday

December is Sunday closest to 1st December

Arrive by 11am to socialise with your sisters before the
meeting - stay afterwards for a Welfare subsidised brew.



*Keep your eyes open for the nesting Stone-Curlews in
the car park near the Club*

Email us your Updates & details of Payment

Amount paid:

Date paid:

Subs : Full Membership \$40 pa
Social / Club Membership \$15 pa.
No more than a maximum of 3 years in advance.

Event:

Special Diet:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Please advise if your next of kin details change.

Bank Details:

Bank of Queensland

Name: **Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld**

BSB No: **124 002**

Account No: **22446885**

Reference: **Surname reason/event**

December Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for next newsletter is 30 November 2025.

Please send your stories and photos to:

Editor@nwqld.org.au and include

Treasurer@NWqld.org.au

Newslette@NWQld.org.au

New Membership Fees:

<https://nwqld.org.au/membership.html>

Membership Type	Initial Fee + Badge	Annual Fee	Total Fee
Full	\$5	\$40	\$45
Social		\$15	\$15
Club	\$5	\$15	\$20

Membership Fees: From 2025

Membership Type	Annual Fee
Full	\$40
Social	\$15
Club	\$15

FACEBOOK

Under the Events tab of our Facebook page, I attempt to add every event that I am aware of that is open for us to attend. Please check them out.

<https://www.facebook.com/wrans.qld/events>

If you are a financial member, there is an events tab in our Members Only page – with other events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/563214483732517>

PHOTOS of YOU

Unless you advise otherwise, it is deemed we have permission to take and publish photos of you in the newsletter or on our Facebook pages.

If this is not the case, please advise the Secretary in writing.



Poppy Service

If you wish your service to our country to be recognised at your funeral, you need to let your funeral director or your family KNOW. It is your family who ask the Funeral Director to arrange to have the Poppy tribute. We cannot interfere with your service.

Smell Free

In 2022, we voted not to wear strong smelling perfumes to our meetings. Perfumes affect the health of many members, so please be considerate of our sisters when you are preparing to attend any functions.