



# Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld

Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia

**Volume XXV #2      June 2025**

Autumn Happenings – March to May 2025

## ANZAC Day 2025

2025 is a year when many special commemorative anniversaries will be observed. In this newsletter we reflect on the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of Australian troops at Gallipoli, and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of Second World War, both in Europe (May 8) and in the Pacific (August 15).

We must forever honour and remember those who defended us, those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who endured unimaginable suffering, so that we may have the freedom which we enjoy in our world today.

Thank you everyone for your photos.



Young Veterans



**Springsure** - ANZAC Day Dawn Service was a quiet affair with a good turnout for a small country town. Beside Lorrae, there were another two *young* Veterans, and a handful of local older vets. Their ranks are slowly dying out and the locals still honour their family members who gave the supreme sacrifice. The Gun Fire Breakfast afterwards was provided by the Lions Club, assisted with the cleaning by the three local Policemen who attended the Flags.

The March at 10am was much more emotional, being led by two WWII jeeps, nearly identical but made by two different companies, owned by two local families. The three older veterans sat proudly in the back seats and waved at the folks lining the single town block, to the modern Cenotaph in the grounds of the Town Hall. Three younger veterans followed, with all the local First Responders following, (SES, Fire Fighters, etc), then the school band and the regional primary schools, and coming up the rear were the Pony Club, with little pre-schoolers riding proudly unassisted on their very big horses.

**Brisbane** – The March in the CBD was much smaller in numbers than in previous years due to the weather. The President rode in the buggy ahead of the squad. Afterwards, some of the squad met at the Victory Hotel.



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### Meetings: 2024

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

## 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe

On Tuesday May 8, 1945, British prime minister Winston Churchill made an announcement: *The war was over and the Allies had won.*

*"The German war is therefore at an end....Advance, Britannia! Long live the cause of freedom! God Save the King!"*

Spontaneous celebrations broke out around Australia with crowds waving flags, shouting, laughing and singing. It became a significant date for us to remember and reflect on the important role of many Australians across the European theatre of war.

80 years later, like many other days of significance throughout the year, VE Day is marked with commemorative ceremonies and services across Australia. It remains an opportunity for veterans and their families to reflect on the legacy of those who fought in World War 2 and commemorate the importance of the part they played.

Our casualties from enemy action during the war were 27,073 killed and 23,477 wounded. Many more suffered from tropical disease, hunger, and harsh conditions in captivity; of the 21,467 Australian prisoners taken by the Japanese, only 14,000 survived. Lest We Forget!

Every year, there are numerous ceremonies around Australia remembering these events. Our President attended the service at New Farm on our behalf.

DATES to Remember this year:

**Anzac Day (April 25):** Marks the 110th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings

**80th Anniversary of the End of World War II (August 15):** Commemorates the Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day and the cessation of recruiting women into the Defence Forces >>>>>>

**75th Anniversary of Australia's Involvement in the Korean War (June 25)**

: Acknowledges the contributions of Australian troops in the Korean War and the commencement of recruiting women into the Defence Forces

**80th Anniversary of Sandakan Memorial Day**

**30th Anniversary of Operation Tamar in Rwanda**

**"Ask NOT what my Mates can do for me.  
Ask what I can do for my Mates!"**

### Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur*

On 14 May 1943, the 2/3rd Australian Hospital Ship (AHS) *Centaur* was en route from Sydney to Cairns when she was sunk by a Japanese submarine south of Moreton Island, off the Queensland coast. From the 332 people on board, only 64 survived.



Attending the Victory in Europe commemoration at New Farm on 10 May.

Wendy, Cath & Barb



Barb & NAA(Q) State President Pat



See page 70 of Qld RSL News 2025 Edition 2 for the write up of Navy Veterans who served on HMAS Sydney (III).

See page 90 of Qld RSL News 2025 Edition 2 for the write up of HMAS Voyager II (05).

See page 93 of Qld RSL News 2025 Edition 2 for the write up on Mayor of Ipswich presented with naval memento.

The word from the recent welfare workshop is, even if you don't have a need you should register for myagedcare—it helps speed up the process when a need does arise

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

**my aged care**

**1800 200 422**

**[www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au)**



# Letter from our President

Hello ladies,

I hope you are all well, sitting down with a “cuppa”, your feet up and ready for a different sort of read. 😊

ANZAC Day is always a memorable day. Although many marches were either cancelled or held in the rain, the main march in Brisbane was held in sunshine (but only until it was finished, then the heavens opened again). It was so reassuring to see the number of young children in the crowds along with their parents, teenagers and adults alike. For that one very special day every year, I think the numbers are growing and it's wonderful to see.

The 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe commemorations was another amazing event. This is held in the Forecourt of the Limbless Soldiers Precinct which makes it all so much more poignant. 331,781 Australians served during WWII. Over 8000 Australian soldiers died at Gallipoli, and another 26,000 were wounded. The total number of Australian deaths during WWII was 61,514. This figure is staggering.

Our ANZAC's fought at Gallipoli, on the Western Front and in the Middle East, and I'm sure that just about everyone had a family member over there. I know I did. My Dad's oldest brother (who just happened to be my favourite Uncle) was one of the lucky ones who came home from the Western Front in one piece.

He made his way from Brisbane all the way to the other side of Toowoomba, walked into the little 1 teacher school and when asked what he wanted, he said “I'm here to take my little brother home.”

After so many months of not knowing if he was alive or not, apparently my Dad just threw himself into his brother's arms and wouldn't let go.

This sort of reunion would have taken place all over the country. Unfortunately, there would have been some not so happy reunions. Those who lost limbs and ended up in hospitals, and the many who could not adapt to “normal life”. Unfortunately, this still happens today. I believe that “if we bend them, we have to mend them.” PTSD comes in many forms, but if any Defence member is prepared to do his duty for his country, then shouldn't we give them all the support they need when they return.

Everyone reading this has done their duty and served their country, during War times and Peace time. You have done yourself, your family and your country proud. Many of you continued to help your shipmates then, and it's continuing today, in one way or another.

Thank you all for your service.

Barb Jeffreys  
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<< Joan Gilbert has had several visits whilst she was in hospital. Joan was doing well and sends her regards to everyone.

>> WWII Veteran  
Vonnice enjoys a visit on  
the Sunshine Coast.



## 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





## *Hobart – National Navy Women's Reunion*

**March 13-16** - The day finally arrived. Lots of Queenslanders headed south to our island state of Tasmania to attend the 2025 Navy Women Reunion in Hobart. An Afternoon Tea was held on the Friday afternoon where many friends met again since the last reunion. Saturday was free and many attended the markets and other activities around Hobart and further afield. Saturday night was the formal dinner and was attended by approximately 240 ladies. Prior to the dinner, the Police Pipe Band entertained the ladies with a repertoire of bagpipe music. Before dinner was served, we were entertained by members of the Royal Australian Navy Band. On Sunday, some opted to go on a bus trip while many headed to the airport for home sweet home. All in all, it was a great get together. See you in Canberra in 2027.



Olders



*Lorrae, Judy & Liz*



*Barb, Heather, Lorrae, Pauline*



*Fran, Leanne, Anne & Wendy*



*Chris, Kaye & Christine*



*Thea, Marie, Helen & ?*



*Judy -the Flappers*



*Barbara, Helen & Lorrae*



*?, Barb & Donna - classmates*



*Beverly, ? Kaye, Margaret & ?*



*Fran, Maree, ?*



*Christine, Kaye, Chris & Carol*



*Sandie*



*Sandy, Rae, Cath & Lee*



*Wendy, Rebecca, Karren, Leanne, ?*



*Radar Plotters*





*Karen & Desley (Tshirts)*



*Helen, Bernie & Christine*



*Nicola, Barb, Lorrae & Tania*



*Michele, Christine, Kaye & Margaret*



*Anne, "Alice", Di, Tania, Sandie & Lorrae*



*Denise & Lorrae – 154 of 1974*



*Standing:  
Judy, Christine, Rene & Helen  
Sitting: Curls, Bernie & Yvonne*



*JJ (Jenny) & Curls*



*Truckies*



*Mischief Makers!!*



*Robyn, Anita & Liz*



*Liz's Jack*



*Helen & Helen*



*Barb & Lorrae*



*Di & Anne*



*? & Melissa*



*Police Band*



*?, ? & Sue*



*Susan, Annette & Robyn*



*Curls, Lorrae & Barb in Richmond*



*Who is she??*



*Yes 'Alice', it is over for 2025!!  
See you all in Canberra in July 2027  
– Keep Safe.*



## *CESWA Tri-Service Lunch*

April 12 - It was that time of year again. Time to have a fun time, eat a great meal, win some raffles, and get our singing voices ready. As Navy won the previous year, they were first to strut their stuff. After a great rendition, we thought that we may have had it in the bag. However, we had to wait for the other two services to produce their efforts. Finally, all three had sung their song and we awaited in bated breath to see who the judges deemed to be the winner. Congratulations to the Air Force ladies who won the cup. Oh well! There is next year..



*The 2025 winners – Air Force*



*The Cup*



*Navy Handing Over The Cup*







### **PROJECT – “WRANS – Where They Rest”**

In April 1941, the first women started working for the Navy as members of the *Women's Emergency Signalling Corps*.

On 1 October 1942, they were enlisted into the WRANS with a seniority of the day they started working for the Navy.

By the end of WWII, there were over 3,140 women who had enlisted. They were fully disbanded in 1947. A handful are still alive, in their late 90ies or older.

In 1951, the WRANS were reformed, with restrictions. By the mid 1980's, the WRANS had been merged with the RAN.

#### **AIM:**

To record the final resting place of every woman who has served in the Australian Navy, whether as WRANS or RAN since 1941, anywhere in the world, buried, cremated, scattered to the Oceans or Winds of the world.

Lead Researcher: Lorrae Johnson (database)

Researchers: Joan (Reynolds) Henstock;  
Tania Beaumont (SA); Carol Mills (NQ);

At least two of us are published authors and we all have a solid history of research.

The private Project was commenced in January 2024, and to date, we have over 2,000 names of Service Women in the database, resting in various countries including Canada, Hong Kong, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, UK, USA and Zimbabwe, numerous cemeteries (including five in the Arlington National Cemetery USA), and many dates or places of death without any idea of where they are resting.

Lorrae Johnson (nee Owens)

[WransWhereWeRest@gmail.com](mailto:WransWhereWeRest@gmail.com)

**Navy News:** Read them online:

<https://www.navynewspaper.defence.gov.au/navy-news/may-15-2025/flipbook/0/>

<https://www.navynewspaper.defence.gov.au/navy-news/may-1-2025/flipbook/0/>

If you click on the three bars, and then click *ISSUES*, you will be able to read all the past issues. You can *subscribe* to receive notification of each Issue.

Your APRIL edition of **BROADSIDE** is now available to read in book format:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/qchr/fpxz/>

### ***Making Sandwiches***

**Women Veterans Network** **Townsville** support **Eat Up** who are currently operating in NSW, NT, QLD, VIC and WA. They are Australia's only organisation providing free lunches/sandwiches to schools for students on a national scale.

It was a great experience for Lorrae to be included when she visited Townsville to catch up with Navy Women.

They are always on the lookout for Volunteers who can spare two to three hours to make the sandwiches every three weeks

<https://www.facebook.com/eatupaus/>

<https://www.eatup.org.au/>



## ***Around the Traps*** with Liz

The last three months have been topsy turvy. Cyclones, Reunions, flu and hay fever, medical appointments, brunches and lunches – where has the time gone. It now time for the newsletter. I have been unable to attend a lot of events this quarter, especially the lunches with Gold Coast and Western Suburb ladies. I hope to remedy that as I miss chatting with the ladies.

### ***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, 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.

#### **March – The crew of HMAS Yarra (II) 1942**



Commanding Officer HMAS Brisbane, Commander Bernard Dobson CSM RAN and Commanding Officer HMAS Moreton, Commander Rosemarie Apikotoa and members of ship's company and Naval Association QLD Section attend the Jack Tar memorial.



*NAA(Q) State President & NWQld President with guests*

**April** – none due to ANZAC Day

#### **May – ANMEF 1914 - Navy & Military Expedition**



See page 92 of *Qld RSL News 2025 Edition 1* for the write up of the October 2024 - Ceremony Commemorates HMAS Sydney (II) – 03.

See page 36-37 of *Qld RSL News 2025 Edition 2* for the write up of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cyclone Tracy commemorative coin.

### ***Community***

#### ***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.



#### **Sunshine Coast Ex Service Women's C&C HOLE IN ONE??**

Early May a group of Ex-Service Women travelled to Bli Bli to try our hand at golf – that is mini golf. It was a beautiful day and eleven of us chose our putters, selected a coloured ball, formed into three teams, and teed off.

Then the fun began. Each course had two flags – one blue, one yellow. You had to choose which flag colour you were going to aim for at each hole. The team Liz was with went for the blue flag.

Some of the holes were easier than others. Liz even got a hole in one, but it was the wrong-coloured hole. Not to worry!! The game proceeded with much laughter until we reached the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. After completing the final hole, we retired to the 19<sup>th</sup> hole where 12 of us relaxed and had a marvellous lunch.



Scores were tallied and we had a winner with 59 points and a loser with 70 points. Then it was time to head home after a marvellous and entertaining day.

*Liz with her team*



## ***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**

June : Café 63 @ Springfield

July : Café 63 @ Winston Glades (Flinders View)

August : Café 63 @ Redbank Plains

September : Café 63 @ Bundamba

Contact Lorrae Johnson

### **Gold Coast – Third Tuesday of the month – 10am**

June : Southport Surf Club

July : Xmas in July @ Fox N Hounds

August : Helensvale Bowls Club

September : Georges Sanctuary Cove

October : CSI Club Southport

November : Café 63

December : Secret Santa @ Café 7

Contact Sylvia Manners

## ***Western Suburbs Lunch***

**March** – Chapters Book Shop, Café and Wine Bar at Karalee is a favourite for some of the ladies.



*Lorrae, Sandie, Barb, Bernie, Robyn, Mary, Margaret, Marie, Pat, Barbara & Letty*

**April** – a non event due to the NAA State Conference.

**May** - Queens Park Café & Kiosk at Ipswich was a change of venue as the planned venue was closed.



*Lorrae, Letty, Sandie, Barbara & Jan*

## ***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.

### **March – Sharks**



*Sylvia, Lorraine, Lorrae, Jan, Gayle, Jackie, Glenya, Barb, Glenda, & June*

### **April – La Vintage Café – amazing decorating.**



*Wendy, Lorrae, Barb, June, Sandie, Sylvia, Mum, Tania & Gayle*

### **May – Café 7 has an amazing menu - Hi Tea for Christmas Party?**



*June, Barb, Lorrae, Glenda, Di, Jackie, Gayle, Sylvia, Tania, Sandie, Barbara & June (absent from photo)*

## ***Ordinary General Meetings***

At the May Ordinary General Meeting of our Sub-Section, Cathy and Margie held a 4 rounds Bingo game. It was a very serious session with *heads down* and lost balls all over the floor. Great fun was had by all, requesting another day.



*Margie & Cathy calling*



## Community

### *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.

**March 24** – Guest speakers were two wonderful ladies from *Orange Sky*. (see page 14). *Navy Women include:*



*Anita, Lorrae & her mum Bev, Judy, Liz, Margie*



**April** - Anita, Liz & Margie



**May** - Liz, Judy, Anne, Lee, Lorrae and mum Bev, Jackie, Bernie, Donna & Anita.

### *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. Welcome to Donna who now attends the lunches.



**April** - Sammie & Liz

### *Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence*

Second Wednesday of each month 11am at

The Local at Beerwah.

The March meeting was missing a few ladies who were either travelling on holidays or not well. Thankfully we had a cool breeze to relieve the heat.

The lunches at The Local are popular with ladies from the Sunshine Coast, Bribie Island, Caboolture and from the local area. May's meeting was a little different as Fran organised The Biggest Morning Tea for cancer fund raising. It was well attended with several raffle prizes donated by local business. A few games were played and winners received some lovely chocolates which they shared around. There were a few showers but it did not deter the fun all had.



*Liz at the April lunch*

### *Redcliffe District Exservicewomen's Club*

In May, Redcliffe held their annual birthday luncheon, with several Navy Women in attendance.



*Judy, Cathy, Lee & Sandy*

### *NAA State Conference (photos)*



Navy Women at the State Conference – Joan, Marg, Lorrae, Rose, Jenny, Judy, Bernie, Kaye & Pat



NWQ's Secretary accepting the *Sunshine Coast Shield* from the State President.



## *Cadets* with Pat Nuss

**TS Maryborough** (at Maryborough) is seeking FEMALE staff as it enjoys one of the highest percentage of female participation in the Australian Navy Cadets, and need sufficient female volunteers to serve the youth of Maryborough.

**NTS Oxley** (at Laidley) was the recipient of the \$250 donation for their ANZAC Day activities. Thank you all for your contributions to the Containers for Change that allow us to make this contribution.

See page 92 of **Qld RSL News 2025 Edition 1** for the write up of the TS Ipswich Parade Night. (04)

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](mailto: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**

### *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.

## *Hervey Bay 's Navy Women*

For many years, Judy Hunter has been organising lunch on the last Wednesday of May and November. She would really love to hand the job over to someone who can continue organising the day. Navy Women come from many directions for the event. There is a table for spouses too, so make a mid-week holiday and stay overnight. See you in November.

Judy Flash & Kay had left at the time of the photo. Attendees include:



Judy Hunter, Marilyn, Rhonda; Ronda, Karen, Barb, Maureen, Lorrae, Kay, Sue, & Darhma. Liz, Jackie, Helen, Maureen, Terrie & Bronwyn.



*Men's Table*



*Enjoying a Chinese Dinner the night before :  
Standing: Iain, Liz & Paul  
Sitting: Barb, Helen, Judy & Lorrae*

Half the year is almost gone. It has been a big year so far. Plenty of activities enjoyed by all who came. We have continued to subsidise our afternoon teas after each meeting. This gives us all time to enjoy a cuppa with friends and a few games to add some spice. Laughter truly is the best medicine.

The meetings in the months ahead will continue with more games and mischief.

July will be a version of Xmas in July with a special afternoon tea. Come in your Xmas gear. No need to bring a gift, keep it for Novembers Secret Santa.

In August there is the usual monthly meeting and a plan for a movie day, its tentative, depending on movies available.

September meeting will be a games day.

October meeting is reserved for breast cancer fund raiser, Pink Ladies Day and VET health is lunch and a cruise on the Brisbane River.

November month is fully booked with our Annual Luncheon and Christmas Lunch.

I have held back on posting too much DVA information on our Facebook page as I deliver most relevant content in my monthly reports. It is important to note the changes to Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025, (VETS Act) will not affect our members. It will only affect those who are newly eligible.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for your RSL newsletters for promotions and programs you might like to attend.

Come along to our monthly meetings and have some fun.

## 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](mailto:Wellbeing@NWQld.org.au)

**The VETS Act** will implement a 'single Act' model from 1 July 2026 – more details available here:  
[www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform](http://www.dva.gov.au/legislationreform)

Every Australian Navy Woman is recommended to check their entitlements under the VETS Act. If you do not have a DVA Card, you should apply for one, and check their entitlements, as we will all have the same entitlements, regardless of when we served.

There is an excellent DVA write-up in the March edition of the *National Bosun's Call* - The National Newsletter of the Naval Association of Australia.

## NAA State Conference

Due to the approaching cyclone, the NAA State Conference was delayed until 5 April at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club.

Lorrae attended as your only delegate and stayed at private accommodation, in lieu of incurring more expenses.

Guest Speakers were the highlight of the meeting, with Ms Peta McKinnon, Director, DVA; (who provided an update on DVA); Mr Philip Lilliebridge, Legacy, Qld (who provided details of Legacy and the benefits to their members) and Ex-Chief Petty Officer Diver Ashley Semmens, who plans to swim the English Channel in June 2026 to raise funds for "Navy Clearance Divers Trust".

Ray Sanford OAM spoke at length of the dwindling numbers in membership, and "Who Will Care For Me". The idea is to allow siblings FULL membership of the NAA, and it has been voted down several times.

He then spoke of *Care* and hospital visitors.

*Our local Sub Sections remain a very important link in the provision of care to naval veterans, their activities are paramount to breaking social isolation. Catching up coffee and a social telephone call is critical soft care and is mostly unrecorded.*

DVA have a raft of care options to assist naval veterans, many are tailored to assisting veterans to remain in their homes.

The options are detailed in the DVA Co-ordinated Veterans Care Program (CVC) details of that program are at:

- <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/programs-services/coordinated-veterans-care/coordinated-veterans-care-cvc-program>
- <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/providers/programs-services/veterans-home-care/veterans-home-care-vhc>
- <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/care-home-or-aged-care/services-support-you-home/community-nursing>
- <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-at-home>

There are 22 Sub-Sections in Queensland, and only five Sub-Sections lodged a report to the State AGM.

Navy Women won the *Sunshine Coast Shield*.

NWQld has 15.9% of the State's total of 2024 Full members and 48.7% of the State's 2024 Restricted members. NWQld only have members who have served, whilst the other sub-sections include spouses and family members, etc.

If you have 30 minutes to spare, the AGM minutes are *interesting* to read.



# DVA HEALTH

Source: <https://www.dva.gov.au>

## THE HEALTH CHECK

A Veterans' Health Check is a comprehensive health assessment with your GP to help you better understand and optimise your health and wellbeing. It provides an opportunity to access early intervention care and appropriate referrals when you need it.

### It can help you:

- manage and take charge of your own health
- take action to stay well
- address health concerns early
- develop a relationship with your new GP

## DURING THE HEALTH CHECK

Your health check will depend on your needs.

### Your GP may:

- ask about your health and family history
- prescribe treatment
- refer you to other health professionals
- refer you for further tests
- suggest other DVA services and programs to support you

DVA has developed a comprehensive Veterans' Health Check guide to assist GPs to support the Veteran community. You can ask your GP to use this guide. It is also contained in the software of most GP practices.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Your Veterans' Health Check is confidential, and your results will not be shared with us unless you ask your GP. GPs have an ethical, professional and legal duty to their patient's rights to privacy and confidentiality. Speak to your GP if you have any concerns.

## WHO CAN RECEIVE IT?

### One-off Veterans' Health Check

You are eligible for the One-off Veterans' Health Check if you:

- are a former member of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), including reservists, with at least one day of continuous full-time service (CFTS)
- transitioned out of the ADF at any time

### Annual Veterans' Health Check

You are eligible for the Annual Veterans' Health Check if you:

- are a former member of the ADF, including reservists, with at least one day of continuous full-time service (CFTS)
- transitioned out of the ADF from 1 July 2019

## HOW MUCH YOU PAY

- If you use your DVA Veteran Card, there will be no charge to you
- If you are not a DVA client, use your Medicare card to claim a Medicare benefit for the One-off Veterans' Health Check

## HOW TO BOOK

### Step 1: Find a GP

- Every GP across Australia can conduct the Veterans' Health Check
- If you do not have a GP, search Healthdirect for bulk-billing GPs near you or call 1800 022 222

### Step 2: call the GP clinic

Ask whether the GP accepts your Veteran Card or bulk-bills (accepts your Medicare card)

### Step 3: ask for a 45-minute appointment

- Let your GP clinic know your appointment is for a Veterans' Health Check
- Ask to receive a reminder for your appointment by a call, text message or email

## WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT

When you come to your appointment, bring:

- your Veteran Card or Medicare card
- your current medical records (if you are seeing this GP for the first time)
- any questions or concerns you would like to discuss with your GP

## AFTER YOU CAN NO LONGER CLAIM

Ongoing health checks

- You can see your GP for regular health checks anytime, even if you can no longer claim for the one-off or annual Veterans' Health Checks
- You can access Medicare benefits for these appointments and claim for some or all costs

*RSL News – 12 May 2025*



*Graeme Davis & Scott Wilkinson with Lillian Coyne*  
Read the full story <https://www.rslqld.org/news/latest-news/giving-back-for-connection-and-compassion>



## Care

with Liz

### 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.

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

### 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.

**Joan (nee Neill) CARBOON WR/2941** 03Feb1927-18Apr2025 Vic. She served 15May1945-19Sep1946 as a Wran Signaller A/M.

**Suzanne Lesley ALLEN W106496** 26Mar1952-14Apr2025. Suzie served 21Jul1969-1974 as a Steward.

**Cheryl (nee McCONNELL) SMITH W123432**  
*Any details please?*

*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.*

### Orange Sky

**Orange Sky** supports people experiencing homelessness or hardship through access to free laundry and shower services, as well as the opportunity for regular connection.

They provide a supportive, welcoming and inclusive space for anyone experiencing loneliness or disconnection from the community, with a focus on improving hygiene, health and quality of life.

They provide clean laundry, Warm Showers and Non Judgemental Conversations.

**Metro & Regional Communities.** They support everyday Australians doing it tough by providing access to free laundry, showers and connection.

**Remote communities.** They offer free laundry facilities to residents in remote communities - where access can be limited, expensive and unreliable.

**Communities affected by natural disasters.** When disasters strike, they are committed to providing relief for people impacted through clean laundry, warm showers and a safe space for connection.

The **Orange Sky Australia** website is a wealth of information. <https://orangesky.org.au/>

**Hotel room supplies** – bathroom disposal packs supplied by the Hotel for their customers comfort, are being regularly collected by Lorrae and will be donated to the following charity whose vans work in the Maleny to Nambour area

## ACT WRANS Memorial Service

– Saturday 19 October 2025

The annual WRANS Memorial Service at HMAS Harman will be held on Saturday 19 October 2024 commencing at 1100 and followed by refreshments in the Bonshaw Mess afterwards.

If the weather permits, the service will be held at the WRANS memorial, just inside the main gate. Otherwise, it will be held in the Bonshaw Mess as we have been required to do on the last two occasions.

### 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.

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

The March 2025 edition included the following : The Naval Heritage Centre has been located on Spectacle Island for the past 50 years. By the end of the year the aim is to have the entire collection re-located to Banksmeadow, adjacent to the Sydney Airport.

The April 2025 edition including an article on the Melbourne Naval Centre then in 2016, it was changed to Melbourne Naval Committee Inc. In November 2024, they moved to the more contemporary facilities available at the **Box Hill RSL Club**. All active Navy Ex-Service Organisations based in Victoria were invited to utilise these facilities for their meetings and social activities.

All Newsletters are available on their site: <https://navyvic.net/newsarchive.html>

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

### Columboda Country - VETERANS RETREAT

<https://www.columboolacountry.com.au/>

Columboda Country is the ideal location to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday situations.

They are a comfortable 4 hours' drive west of Brisbane, just off the main Warrego Highway between Chinchilla and Miles. Cabins, cottages, caravan and camping facilities are all on offer.

E-MAIL: [columboola.country@bigpond.com](mailto:columboola.country@bigpond.com)

## Social corner

Contributions from around the Branch

### ANZAC Day Parade in Brisbane

As an ex-serving member of the Royal Australian Navy, **Rose van Dijk** from our Advocacy and Volunteering section marched in the ANZAC Day parade in Brisbane as part of the Navy Women Queensland, Naval Association of Australia sub-section.

Despite earlier downpours, thankfully, the weather held off for the march. The streets were filled with enthusiastic crowds, including many families with young children, waving and showing their support. The spirit of ANZAC Day was evident as the community came together to remember and commemorate the sacrifices made by service members, in times of conflict and in peacetime.

The event underscored the enduring legacy of ANZAC Day and the importance of honouring those who have served. The day was also an opportunity to reflect on the evolving role of women in the Navy.

Initially recruited during the Second World War due to a shortage of telegraphists, women now serve in almost every area of naval operations, both at sea on front-line warships and ashore. This evolution of women's roles also extends across the Australian Army, and Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).



Thank you Rose for a great coverage.

## First Director of WRANS dies

**Mrs Sheila Kenworthy (nee McClemons) C.M.G. O.B.E. — First Director of WRANS, Wartime Director of WRANS 1943-47 — died in a Perth Hospital in Western Australia on June 10.**

Ex-WRANS Association Secretary, Mrs D. Anderson, has praised the work of Mrs Kenworthy, formerly Chief Officer McClemons.

"The WRANS who served during the war owed a lot to Chief Officer McClemons' efficient leadership," Mrs Anderson said.

"She played a large part in paving the way for the position that women hold in the RAN at the present time."

Chief Officer McClemons figures prominently in a book "WRANS" which depicts her contribution during the war years.

In his introduction to the book, Rear Admiral Moore said that in his opinion the success of the WRANS had been largely due to Sheila McClemons.

"Her untiring interest in the welfare of every Wran, her kindness, and perhaps above all her sound common sense made her the ideal Director," he added.

Sheila Mary McClemons, daughter of a clergyman, grand-daughter of a magistrate, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws and a practitioner of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, joined the WRANS as a Writer in January 1943.

She had been prepared to see the war out in this capacity had she failed to qualify as an officer.

The chief of Naval Staff, VADM Michael Hudson, also paid tribute to her efforts.

"Sheila (McClemons) Kenworthy was a most remarkable woman and we all owe an enormous debt to her memory," he said.

"She made a magnificent contribution to the WRANS."

"That the role of women in the Navy has developed to the high level we have today is in no small way attributable to her efforts in promoting the potential of all women in the Navy."

### Sheila Mary McClemons CMG OBE

Birth 3 MAY 1909 • Claremont, WA, Australia

Marriage 1949 • Perth, WA, Australia

Death 10 JUN 1988 • Claremont, WA, Australia

Military - 11 Jan 1943 • Fremantle, WA

WRANS WR/479 ;

Officer Training Course 14Jan1943 ;

Third Officer (On Probation) 15Feb1943 ;

Third Officer 31May1943 ;

Second Officer 01Jul1943 ;

First Officer 24Nov1943 ;

Chief Officer WRANS 17Jan1945

Commission terminated 27Feb1947

Awards and Honours – 1951 OBE "for services as Director of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service"



A lawyer who graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1930. She joined the WRANS in 1943 and rose to the rank of Chief Officer (Commander) and was Director WRANS from 1944 to 1947.

An amazing achievement for a former WRANS officer who lead the way for today's women.

Following the disbandment of the WRANS, Sheila returned to practicing law with Hardwick, Slattery & Gibson. In 1949, she married Frank Morrison Kenworthy, chief engineer of the Metropolitan Water Supply Board.



# Merchandise for Sale to Financial Members only

Stores@nwqld.org.au

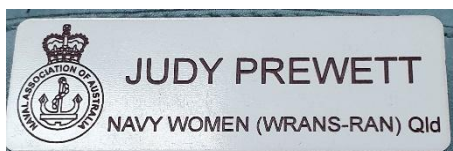
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld has a 'uniform' so that we can present a uniform appearance when gathered as a group.

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:  
Judy Prewett on 0419 877 594 or 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 2025** – subject to changes

| Date      | Event  | Notes  |
|-----------|--|--|
| 8 Jun     | Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL   | <b>CANCELLED as Executive NOT available</b>                  |
| 26 Jun    | Service @ Jack Southbank   | Timor Leste Ships  |
| 5-6 Jul   | Reserve Forces Day Wondai  |  |
| 13 Jul    | Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL   |  |
| 31 Jul    | Service @ Jack Southbank   | Gulf War 1 & 2   |
| 26 Jul    | Korean Veterans Day  |  |
| 10 Aug    | Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL  |  |
| Aug       | Victory in Pacific Day 15Aug1945   | South-Eastern District RSL New Farm                          |
| 18 Aug    | Vietnam Veterans Day   |  |
| 28 Aug    | Service @ Jack Southbank   | Seafarers  |
| 3 Sep     | Battle of Australia Commemoration  |  |
| 10 Sep    | CESWA Commemoration to Service Women of Aust   | Women's Memorial Pine Rivers Kallangur <b>Formal Uniform</b> |
| 14 Sep    | Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL   |  |
| 13 Sep    | NAA Golden Rivet 2025  | CSI Ipswich – Hosted by NAA State <b>Black Shirts</b>        |
| 25 Sep    | Service @ Jack Southbank   | Vietnam HMAS Vendetta  |
| 13 Oct    | Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL  | <b>Breast Cancer Fundraising WEAR PINK</b>                   |
| October   | Hervey Bay Birthday weekend  |  |
| 31 Oct    | Service @ Jack Southbank   | HMAS Sydney II –   |
| 1 Nov     | Navy Women Annual Reunion Luncheon   | Geebung RSL Club   |
| 9 Nov     | Navy Women Qld OGM   |  |
| 11 Nov    | Remembrance Day Service  |  |
| 20 Nov    | NAA(Q) State Council meeting   |  |
| 27 Nov    | Service @ Jack Southbank   | Navy Women – All Navy Women                                  |
| 30 Nov    | <b>Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL</b>   | <b>Xmas Party</b> closest to 1 <sup>st</sup> December        |
|           | <b>Summer Break</b>  |  |
| 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<br>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   |  |
| 9 Mar     | Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL   |  |
| 7-8 Mar   | NAA State Conference –   | Delegates attend – everyone invited                          |
| 14-16 Mar | WRANS-RAN National Reunion – Tasmania  |  |
| 27 Mar    | Service @ Jack Southbank   | HMAS Yarra (ii) - Focus – Rankin & Taylor                    |
| 12 Apr    | CESWA Tri-Service Luncheon Geebung RSL   | Singing Competition  |
| 13 Apr    | Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL   | Easter Bonnet  |
| 18 Apr    | <b>Good Friday</b>   | <b>Happy Easter</b>  |
| 25 Apr    | ANZAC Day<br>0600 Service at St John's Church <b>Northgate</b><br>Corvettes Assoc Service <b>Newstead</b><br>0930 Parade in <b>Brisbane City</b> | Formal Uniform   |
| May       | Victory in Europe Service 08May1945  | South-Eastern District RSL New Farm                          |
| 18 May    | Navy Women Qld OGM   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday due to Mother's Day date              |
| 29 May    | Service @ Jack Southbank   | ANMEF 1914 - Navy & Military Expedition                      |
| 5 Jun     | Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assoc Inc Luncheon Maroochydore  | Civilian dress with name tags                                |

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 Suburb Lunch  
Morayfield / Caboolture  
Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence  
Gold Coast Brunch  
Bribie Island Lunch  
Jack Memorial  
Bribie Island RSL Social Cafe  
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) \*\***

**December is 30 November**

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



13 April

### 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**

## September Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for next newsletter is 31 August 2025.

Please send your stories and photos to:

[Editor@nwqld.org.au](mailto:Editor@nwqld.org.au) and include

[Treasurer@NWqld.org.au](mailto:Treasurer@NWqld.org.au)

[Newslette@NWQld.org.au](mailto: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.