



# ***Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld***

*Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia*

**Volume XXV #1**

**March 2025**

Summer Happenings – December 2024-February 2025

WRRAC Association Qld Inc

Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch

## **THE COUNCIL OF EXSERVICEWOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS QUEENSLAND**

### **INVITATION**

**TO ALL EXSERVICEWOMEN  
TO**

## **TRI-SERVICE LUNCH 2025**

**AND  
INTER-SERVICE SINGING COMPETITION**

**Saturday 12 April 2025  
1100 for 12pm**

**Geebung-Zillmere RSL,  
323 Newman Road, Geebung  
Members of our Associations \$20.00  
Non members \$45.00  
2 course lunch and cash bar**

**Lump sum payment via EFT through Associations only.**

**Deadline for payments and attendee advice: 1 April 2025**

**Individual payments will not be accepted**

**List of attendees, Special dietary requirements, and enquiries to:**

**Treasurer- Judy Prewett: [vera.vt@bigpond.com](mailto:vera.vt@bigpond.com) / 0419 877 594**

Redcliffe District Ex servicewomen's Club Inc

### **Postal Address:**

**Navy Women Qld  
112-114 Cocos Drive  
NINGI QLD 4511**

### **Executive Contacts:**

**[NWExecutive@nwqld.org.au](mailto:NWExecutive@nwqld.org.au)**

### **President:**

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0437 002 152  
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### **Secretary:**

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0419 877 594  
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### **Treasurer:**

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### **Vice Presidents:**

**Liz Grimes  
Pat Nuss  
Cath Leung**

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Lorrae Johnson  
[Editor@nwqld.org.au](mailto:Editor@nwqld.org.au)**

### **Meetings: 2025**

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

This event will be **subsidised by \$10 (50%) for financial members** of the Navy Women's Sub-Section.

Make sure your money is paid to the Treasurer directly or into the bank account (**Ref: Name/Tri-Service**) by **28 March 2025**, to ensure you are ready for this great event.

**Saturday 12 April 2025 at 11am for 12 noon start.  
Geebung RSL**



## Christmas Party – 1 December 2024

What a wonderful day we had for our last meeting for 2024. Mrs Santa (aka Barbara) and the elf (aka Cath) did a wonderful job of distributing the Secret Santa and the raffles. Everybody went away with a Secret Santa and, at least one raffle prize. The atmosphere was great, and the enjoyment was shared by all was obvious with the laughter and lots of talking with friends. Lots of photos taken to record the day. Our secretary, Judy, made a delicious cake for the day. Thank you, Judy, and BZ.



Barb & Judy



Judy & Margie



Thanks for another amazing cake



Secretary, President & Treasurer



Jennie & Pat



Barbara & Cathie



Rose & Diane



Sandy, Cathie & Wendy



Betty & Carmel



Liz & Rose



Bernie, Sandy & Marg



Robyn, Maxine & Klawdia



Kim & Margo



Anthea, Pat & Trish  
some people did not want their photo taken



Margaret, Robyn & Marie



Jackie & Sylvia

More photos on page 4



## Letter from our President

Hello everyone and I hope this finds you all well and enjoying life.

Our year has started and what a start it has been.

We commemorated the Banka Island Massacre which is particularly meaningful to me as my Mother was an Army Nurse during the war. Thankfully she was posted to Charters Towers and not overseas.

On the 10 February (the date that our Sub-Section held their first meeting and was started), we remember the tragic collision between HMAS Voyager and HMAS Melbourne, the men and all their families.

On the 1 March we commemorated the sinking of HMAS Perth in the Battle of Sundra Strait during WWII.

Navy Week began with a Ceremonial Sunset and Beat to Quarters in the City. All was going well until the heavens opened up. What parts remained dry after the first downpour, got soaked when we had to stand for the National Anthem. Everyone adjourned to the Town Hall for the Cocktail Party afterwards and we all looked like drowned rats. 😊 Clothes certainly become see-through when they're wet.

This year we are celebrating the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. We have the Victory in Europe Day on 8 May, the Battle of the Coral Sea 4 to 8 May and the Victory in the Pacific on 15 August. I attended these Services last year, and I totally recommend to everyone to attend these if you can. They affected everyone in our country back then, so we should remember not only victories, but remember those who never made it back home. Without their sacrifices we would not have the life we have today.

After attending the SCESSWA Meeting at Maroochydore with several of our Executive, we then had a lovely social lunch together. Always fun to catch up with our Army and Air Force Sisters. When I go up there, I make a point of going to see one of our "Treasurers" Vonnie Hitzke. Vonnie will turn 101 in July this year and is such a lovely lady. We have so many laughs together because she is amazing. Although she already knew Morse Code BEFORE trying to join up, because the Navy had already filled that intake, she ended up joining as a Supply Assistant and was in charge of "jocks & socks". Her words, not mine.

Murielle Ahern, another of our WWII WRANS, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special Morning Tea hosted by the CO of HMAS Moreton. Lorrae and I went to see her that afternoon and she is another amazing woman.

Our many social groups are out and enjoying their catch-ups with coffee n cake, brunches and lunches. These are a wonderful way to keep in touch with our service sisters.

The services at "Jack" every month have started again and are worth the trip into Southbank to attend. We all have a lovely catchup afterwards at The Ship Inn.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you down in Hobart for a wonderful reunion in mid-March.

Until next time, Cheers

Barb Jeffreys

President

0437 002 152

[president@nwqld.org.au](mailto: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



### Christmas Party continued . . .



Lorrae & Barb



Lee & Betty



Judy, Rose & Lorrae



Lorrae & Liz



Barbara & Cath



Christmas Pixie (Santa Helper)



Rose & Diane



Rose & Lorrae

### *Around the Traps* with Liz

Welcome to 2025. December saw us have our Christmas party with a great turnout. Then Christmas was on us and quickly following that, a New Year.

Our lunches and brunches are happening. Navy Week has been and gone starting with Beat to Quarters and Ceremonial Sunset, a service at Jack, culminating with HMAS Moreton annual Open Day at Fisherman Island and the cutting of the birthday cake. A number of Navy Women will be heading south for the National Reunion. Have a great time, Ladies



### Commemoration

#### *Jack Memorial Service & Navy Week 2025*

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 Navy 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 T-shirt with black jacket with white skirt/trousers. Medals and name badges may also be worn.

There were no services in December and January. The February service co-incided with Navy Week 2025 and HMAS Moreton hosted the service.



### BEAT TO QUARTERS & CEREMONIAL SUNSET

The Drummers beat their drums and the Brass blew their horns. It was time for the traditional and time-honoured Beat to Quarters and Ceremonial Sunset presented by the Royal Australian Navy Band (Queensland). The Band Master followed by the band marched onto the quadrangle and presented their drill to the public. And then it rained, not heavy, but it still was wet.

The general public scattered for cover but the invited guests bravely stayed in their seats watching the performance. Then the guard marched on, ready for "Sunset". "Five Minutes to Sunset, Sir" came the call. The crowd waited. "One minute to Sunset, Sir". The crowd stood. "Sunset, Sir", The National Anthem was played while the White Ensign was lowered. Another ceremony completed.



Slightly bedraggled, the guests moved into the City Hall for the Reception. Drinks and small eats were presented to the guests and then the speeches by The Lord Mayor, Adrian Schrimmer who welcomed the guests, then the Commanding Officer of HMAS Moreton, CMDR Rose Apikotoa and the Commanding Officer of HMAS Brisbane (III), CMDR Brendon Dobson. CMDR Apikotoa told the guests with a heavy heart that it was her last Beat to Quarters in Brisbane as she will be posted before the next one.



President Barb Jeffreys, Vice President Liz Grimes and CESWA President Wendy Griggs were in attendance for the ceremony. Still a little damp, the guests slowly departed the reception to return home and drier clothes.

## 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 shirts so we are easily identified amongst our sisters, and many reconnections have been made.



They held their final meeting for 2024 followed by a Christmas Lunch at Kawana Waters Surf Club. About forty ladies attended and every one had a "mug shot" taken as well as group photos of each service. However, the Naughty Elf and Jack misbehaved during the day – riding on decorations, drinking wine were some of their antics. It was a great day mingling with our sister services.



### C&C at Maroochy RSL

The first C&C for the Sunshine Coast ladies took place at the Maroochy RSL in January. At least thirty ladies attended and some stayed for lunch. There was lots of talk and just happy meeting each other for a New Year.

It was a great morning with ladies from the Caboolture/Bribie Island area, southern suburbs of Brisbane and, of course, the Sunshine Coast.



*Navy Women enjoying lunch in January*

6 Mar – was a Mini Golf Day but Cyclone Alfred sent the C&C indoors at the Maroochy RSL

1 May – C&C

5 Jun – Annual Lunch

3 Jul – Bus Trip – Christmas in July



*Visit to Vonnie Hitzke*

### SUNSHINE COAST EX-SERVICE AND SERVING WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC

Dress of the day:  
cruising attire

Prepare for the Luncheon  
Cruise of a lifetime



No passports, visas or  
vaccinations required

Guaranteed NO Sea  
sickness

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

The Maroochy RSL Events Centre, Memorial Ave,  
Maroochydore.

Boarding Date : Thursday 5 June 2025

Time: 11.30 for 12 Midday

Passage must be booked and paid for by 25 May 2025

No monies will be accepted on the day of boarding.

Cost: \$40.00 SCESWA Financial Association Member.

\$45.00 for Non Members.

A complimentary drink will be provided with each passage booked

Tea and coffee will be available for early arrivals at the Port.



The Annual Luncheon at Maroochy RSL is on the first Thursday of June 2025. It is an amazing day with our sister services, raffles and a guest speaker. Come dressed for a Cruise on **SS Sunny Coast**. Arrival time – 10am

Navy Women Qld sub-section will subsidise \$10 for all our financial members. All payments to Navy Women's bank account with **Name SCESWA** by **20 May 2025**.

### Redcliffe District Exservicewomen's Club

Invites all exservicewomen and currently serving servicewomen

To a luncheon to celebrate  
our 55th anniversary



When: 1130 for 1200 Friday 23rd May 2025

Where: Redcliffe Leagues Club,  
Cnr Klinger and Ashmole Roads, REDCLIFFE

Cost: \$48 for non-members

Redcliffe District Exservicewomen's Club will hold their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon on 23 May 2025.

Navy Women Qld sub-section will subsidise \$10 for all our financial members. All payments to Navy Women's bank account with **Name Redcliffe** by **24 April 2025**.



### ***Camaraderie***

All Navy Women (with friends, family and/or grandchildren) are always welcome to join the lunches, brunches gatherings. It is a chance to meet other sisters.

### ***Western Suburbs Lunch***

**Western Suburbs** – first Saturday of the Month – 11am



In December, we had our Christmas party, including pudding and ice cream, at Jim's Café which is located in the Veterans Centre. It serves freshly brewed Coffee4Heroes blend and a selection of fresh meals and snacks. They offer Veteran deductions on sighting your DVA card, including donated bread, fruit and vegies as well as a frozen meat and meals. This Café is inside the Wounded Heroes building. <https://www.woundedheroes.org.au/> Wounded Heroes' mission is to provide comprehensive support to veterans, current members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and their families by offering immediate assistance to address financial, emotional, and personal challenges.



In February, we had lunch at Chapters Book Shop, Cafe and Wine Bar, at Karalee.

### **Western Suburbs future venues:**

Mar 1 – Karalee Café & Book  
Apr 5 – Moselles  
May 3 – Ripley  
Jun 7 - Jim's Café – to be confirmed  
Contact Lorrae Johnson

### **Gold Coast future venues:**

Mar – South Sharks, Cnr Olsen & Musgrave Ave, S'port  
Apr – La Vintage Boutique, 1 Kurilpa St, Worongary  
May – Cafe 7, 42 The Esplanade, Paradise Point  
Jun – Southport Surf Club, Mainbeach  
Jul – XMAS in July, Fox N Hounds, Wongawallen  
Aug – Helensvale Bowls, Helensvale  
Sep – Georges Café, Sanctuary Cove  
Oct – CSI Club, Southport  
Nov – Café 63  
Dec – Cafe 7, 42 The Esplanade, Paradise Point  
*Secret Santa*  
Contact Sylvia Manners

### ***Gold Coast Brunch***

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



The Gold Coast Ladies ended the year with a Secret Santa and lunch at Café 7. The menu was either High Tea or normal lunch. We then had Secret Santa. There were oohs and aahs as everyone opened their presents. We wished each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year until our next meeting.



The ladies with a couple of grandchildren, met in January at Café 360. Thank you for the wonderfully decorated paddy cakes – they were truly amazing and of, so tasty.



In February we met at a quaint little café, The Willow Tree, at Ormeau. We stand out in the black shirts with our logo.



Hello beautiful ladies from Hervey Bay - Sue & Judy



## Community

### *Bribie Island Ex-Service Women Luncheon*

**Bribie Island Ex-Service Women Luncheon**—  
Fourth Monday of the month at the Bribie Island RSL Social  
Café - Contact Anita Cooper - 0402246408 or  
[anitacooper35@gmail.com](mailto:anitacooper35@gmail.com).



The Bribie Island group met for the first time in February. It was a pleasant day sitting outside with the water spray overhead. Just over 20 Ladies travelled from Sunshine Coast, Caboolture, Morayfield, the southern suburbs and, of course, Bribie Island, had a good time catching up after no meetings in December and January. A few faces were absent – holidaying or unwell.

### *Morayfield / Caboolture*

*Second Monday of each month*

The ladies attended the last luncheon for the year at the Caboolture Sports Club at Morayfield. The lunch was represented by the three services.



*December 2024*

The group met again for the first time in January 2025 and again in February with the usual number of attendees.



*January 2025*



*February 2025*

We are usually placed well away from the rest of the diners as we intend to enjoy ourselves and, apparently, we are a **little noisy**. We must be a happy bunch.

### *Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence*

*Second Wednesday @ 11am of each month at The Local at Beerwah which is owned by a Navy lady.*



The final lunch for 2024 was held in December with the usual ladies in attendance.



The first meeting for 2025 was held in January followed by the get-together in February.

*February photo missing!!*

Violet, Toni's assistant dog, was there and greeted each person waiting for a pat. After going around to everybody, Violet was a good girl and sat with her handler.

All Ex-Service ladies are welcome

### *RSL Defence Servicewomen's Sub Branch*

The RSL Defence Servicewomen's Sub Branch was formed in Brisbane in 1946 by returned servicewomen who had served in WWII. The Sub Branch supported the needs of servicewomen throughout its history and proudly participated in a range of commemorative events.

Meetings are held at 10:30am on the 1st Tuesday in Month, except November, when it is the Monday before.



### *Christmas Party at Sunny Bank RSL*

They are now a Chapter of the Sunnybank RSL Sub-Branch, as they do not have the members to be a Sub-Branch.

This is an RSL Sub-Branch for women only and they need your assistance. If you are not a member of the RSL, please consider joining them and keeping Lorrae company.

If you are not happy with your Sub Branch, please consider transferring to them and getting involved.

<https://www.rslsouthqueensland.org/branches/rsldsw/>



### Extracts from Navy News

*Cyclone Tracy – 50 Years On*

<https://www.navynewspaper.defence.gov.au/navy-news/december-5-2024/flipbook/8/>

Navy Canteens renamed *The Navy's Anchorage (TNA)*

<https://www.navynewspaper.defence.gov.au/navy-news/december-5-2024/flipbook/16/>

*Trailblazer waltzes into 100 years – Morning Tea for Mrs Murielle Ahern for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at HMAS Moreton.*

<https://www.navynewspaper.defence.gov.au/navy-news/february-6-2025/flipbook/6/>



### Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Murielle

After our Reunion Luncheon in November the CO of HMAS Moreton CMDR Rose Apikotoa reached out for details to organise a special Morning Tea for Murielle Ahern to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As the Secretary, I was extended an invitation to this morning Tea which I had the privilege of attending.

Murielle was in good spirits and enjoyed every minute of the morning telling stories of her time in the WRANS and even asking Commander Apikotoa if they took 100-year-old Recruits. Murielle stated on many occasions during the morning that it was the best time of her life.

Her daughters Jo and Siobhan attended taking care of their Mum and making sure she did not miss a thing.



Murielle was spoilt with Flowers, Gifts and a Cake. Special greetings from King Charles III, the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Premier David Crisafulli, Minister for Veterans Affairs Matt Keogh and GG Qld Janette Young, and GG of Australia Samatha Mostyn.

Channel 7 and Channel 10 news covered the event.

It was an absolute pleasure to be asked to attend this special occasion.

Judy P

The President selected an arrangement of flowers on behalf of the Navy Women's Sub Section to take to Murielle in the afternoon.



### Thank you

Thank you for the lovely tribute and remembrance of mum's special day. Commander Rose Apikotoa really went out of her way to celebrate mum's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and the contribution she, and other women of her generation, and those following, have made, to opening the doors for women to have a career in the Navy.

It's also important for Siobhan and I to acknowledge the contributions you and all the women in Navy Women's Qld made, for current generations.

This is such an important of Australian history/herstory and I'm delighted Lorrae is writing another work on this, because it matters and we need to keep telling the world about how we women contribute and make the difference to our nation's, families, neighbourhoods and globally.

Regards, Jo

### Word from the State Office – NAA(Q)

The President is saddened by the thought of closing sub sections *due to no volunteers to maintain office jobs*, or a lack of membership numbers.

(Navy Women Qld are looking for volunteers for 2026 – we will need a Secretary and a Newsletter Editor.)

NAA(Q) want to encourage everyone to come and join them at the Ship Inn on the last Thursday every month.



Next “End of Life” presentation - Ipswich to be confirmed

**Key Rings** - Ian Holthouse from West Australia:  
\$7.50 - BSB 064-430 Account 0090 0859.

Please send your orders to be sent to State Secretary with your receipt –  
Secretary@navalassocqld.org.au

**CYCLONE TRACY DARWIN 1974**  
**CALLING ALL ADF PERSONNEL**  
**IF YOU HELPED IN ANYWAY**

**REGISTER WITH US TODAY**

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





## NAA Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld Sub-Section AGM on 9 February 2025

All members who nominated were elected unopposed. We will need **members** to step up in 2026 to take on some roles – *Secretary/Membership Register; Assistant Secretary; Stores Officer, Newsletter Editor and Delegate* Judy **WILL BE** standing down at the end of the year.

The positions are all outlined in the back pages of the Sub-Section Guidelines

<https://nwqld.org.au/pdfs/guidelines.pdf>

POSITION	NOMINEE
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>BARBARA JEFFREYS</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>ELIZABETH GRIMES</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>CATH LEUNG</b>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>PATRICIA NUSS</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>JUDY PREWETT</b>
<b>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</b>	<b>JUDY PREWETT</b>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>LORRAE JOHNSON</b>
<b>AUDITOR</b>	<b>ACNC</b>
<b>STORES OFFICER</b>	<b>JUDY PREWETT</b>
<b>FLAG CUSTODIAN</b>	<b>ELIZABETH GRIMES</b>
<b>WELLBEING OFFICER</b>	<b>CATH LEUNG</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	<b>LORRAE JOHNSON</b>
<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	<b>ELIZABETH GRIMES</b>
<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS - SOCIAL GATHERINGS</b>	<b>ANITA COOPER</b>
	<b>ELIZABETH GRIMES</b>
	<b>LORRAE JOHNSON</b>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>ROSE van DIJK</b>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>BERNIE FRANKLIN</b>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>MARGIE DEAN</b>
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>KAYE MORGAN</b>
<b>NAA STATE DELEGATE 1</b>	<b>LORRAE JOHNSON</b>
<b>NAA STATE DELEGATE 2</b>	<b>JUDY PREWETT</b>
<b>CESWA DELEGATE 1</b>	<b>MARGIE GADD</b>
<b>CESWA DELEGATE 2</b>	<b>JUDY PREWETT</b>

**Avoidance of scams** – issues that can cause great stress and financial damage. DO NOT click on links or carry out any requests in an email, unless you are absolutely certain that it is genuine, and you have checked with the sender.

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



Grandchildren on Gold Coast

## Bus Trips being Planned - 2025

The Public Relations - Social Gatherings members are looking at two bus trips this year, subsidised by the Navy Women funds. The bus will be a 24 seater, so we need at least 20 people to commit.

It is planned that the cost to our members and their carers will be **\$10 each** and **non-members will be \$50**. These were recommended in the Treasurer's AGM report.

If you are interested in the first bus trip, please make a \$10 payment into the bank account. All payments to Navy Women's bank account with **Name Bus1** by **24 April 2025**.

The money will be refunded or credited (your choice) if the trip does not go ahead.

### Bus Trip 1 – Wednesday 28 May 2025

- Pick up at Geebung RSL
- Noosa Ferry Cruise - up river – full Commentary - <https://www.noosaferry.com/ferry-cruise/>
- Lunch at **Cooray RSL Sub-Branch**
- Pit stop - Ginger Factory – on way home

### Bus Trip 2 - September / October – in the planning

- Australia Zoo for Veterans Day with food at own costs – (drop off only)
- Lunch at **Maleny RSL Sub-Branch** – subsidised
- Walk around the Maleny Village
- Bus home (with pick up from Australia Zoo)

(I was thinking this could run in conjunction with the Veterans Free Day at Australia Zoo, providing \$10 return travel to the Zoo, if required.)

## Wrans Vic Newsletter

### CHANGES TO ROYAL SYMBOLS ACROSS DEFENCE.

On the 13 November 2024 the Australian Defence Force issued guidance relating to "CHANGES TO ROYAL SYMBOLS ACROSS DEFENCE". Defence recently received formal advice from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) regarding the changes to Royal Symbols. PM&C advised that, in line with the United Kingdom Government's approach, Australian Government Departments will update the Royal symbols in use in accordance with Symbols of the State Guidance. This follows Buckingham Palace advice of changes to the Royal symbols used to represent used to represent King Charles III. These changes include the change from the Cypher used by Queen Elizabeth II (E II R with St Edward's Crown) to His Majesty's Cypher (C III R with Tudor Crown). Obviously changing the Royal symbols across Defence will be a significant undertaking and no timeframe for any changes has been directed by Government at this time. This approach follows the precedent from Queen Elizabeth II's reign, where the changeover to the St Edward's crown was made over ten years. Therefore, both the Tudor and St Edward's Crowns remain valid Royals.



Royal Cypher of Queen Elizabeth II



Royal Cypher of King Charles III



Roses for the Gold Coast Ladies



## ***Bangka Island Massacre***

The Bangka Island massacre (also spelled Banka Island massacre) was the killing of unarmed Australian nurses and wounded Allied soldiers on Bangka Island, east of Sumatra in the Indonesian archipelago on 16 February 1942. Shortly after the outbreak of World War II in the Pacific troops of the Imperial Japanese Army murdered 22 Australian Army nurses, 60 Australian and British soldiers, and crew members from the Vyner Brooke. The group were the only survivors from their steamship which had been sunk by Japanese bombers just after the defeat of Singapore. After surrendering to local Japanese forces on Bangka Island, which was then part of the Dutch East Indies, the group and its wounded were taken to a beach where they were killed by being bayoneted and machine gunned in the surf. Only South Australian nurse Sister Lieutenant Vivian Bullwinkel, American Eric Germann and Royal Navy Stoker Ernest Lloyd survived.

For almost 80 years, details that the Japanese troops raped the Australian nurses before they were murdered were suppressed. It was never reported at the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal in 1947 or included in subsequent post-war re-tellings of the massacre. Evidence that the Australian women had suffered violent sexual assault before their deaths was only reported in 2019 after being uncovered by research. **Lt Bullwinkel** said she was told by the Australian government to never speak about what happened on Bangka.



On 12 February 1942 the royal yacht of Sarawak Vyner Brooke left Singapore just before the city fell to the Imperial Japanese Army. The ship carried many injured service personnel and 65 nurses of the Australian Army Nursing Service from the 2/13th Australian General Hospital, as well as civilian men, women and children.[1] The ship was bombed by Japanese aircraft and sank.[1] Two nurses were killed in the bombing; the rest were scattered among the rescue boats to wash up on different parts of Bangka Island. About 100 survivors reunited near Radji Beach at Bangka Island in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), including 22 of the original 65 nurses. Once it was discovered the Japanese held the island, an officer of the Vyner Brooke went to surrender the group to the authorities in Muntok.[1] While he was away army matron Irene Melville Drummond, the most senior of the nurses, suggested the civilian women and children should leave for Muntok, which they did.[2] The nurses stayed to care for the wounded. They set up a shelter with a large Red Cross sign on it.

At mid-morning the ship's officer returned with about 20 Japanese soldiers. They ordered all the wounded men capable of walking to travel around a headland. The men were lined up and the Japanese set up machine guns. Stoker Lloyd realising what was going to happen ran into the sea as did a few others. The Japanese then began shooting at the escaping men. They were all killed apart from Lloyd who despite being shot managed to get away. He lost consciousness and later was washed up on the other side of the beach.



After the nurses had heard a quick succession of shots, the Japanese soldiers came back, sat down in front of the women and cleaned their bayonets and rifles.[1]

Evidence collected by historian Lynette Silver, broadcaster Tess Lawrence and biographer Barbara Angell, found that most of the nurses were then raped by these Japanese before they were murdered. Although Bullwinkel survived, she was not permitted to speak about the rapes after the war because she had been "gagged" by the Australian government. According to the Australian government, the perpetrators of the massacre remain unknown and "escaped any punishment for their crime".[3] After being violently sexually assaulted, a Japanese officer ordered the 22 nurses and one civilian woman to walk into the surf.[1] A machine gun was set up on the beach; the women were machine-gunned when they were about waist deep in the sea. All but Bullwinkel were killed.[1] Wounded soldiers left on stretchers were then bayoneted and killed.[1]

When Lloyd regained consciousness, he made his way back to the scene of the massacre and discovered the bodies of those who had been shot.

Bullwinkel, who had been shot in the diaphragm, lay motionless in the water until the Japanese left. She crawled into the bush and lay unconscious for several days. When she awoke, she encountered Private Patrick Kingsley, a wounded British soldier from the ship who had survived being bayoneted by the Japanese soldiers. She dressed his wounds and her own and met Stoker Lloyd. They both agreed it would be better to surrender as they couldn't survive much longer in such harsh condition. Twelve days later Bullwinkel and Kingsley surrendered to the Japanese. Kingsley died before reaching a POW camp, but Bullwinkel spent three years in one.[4]

Lloyd surrendered after them and spent the rest of the war as a POW. When his camp was liberated, he ensured that the authorities knew of the surviving nurses and kept looking for them. This was instrumental in them being found as the Japanese denied any knowledge of them and their camp was deep in the jungle.

Bullwinkel survived the war and gave evidence of the massacre at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal) in 1947.[4]

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangka\\_Island\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangka_Island_massacre)

The **Defence Services Nurses RSL Sub Branch** hold their Annual Military Memorial Church Service to commemorate the Bangka Island Massacre of 21 nurses in WWII. This service is always held at St Augustine's Anglican Memorial Church, Hamilton, with an afternoon tea in the Church Hall.

The service usually falls on the Sunday after our AGM, and occasionally falls on the same day, as it did this year.

When our members are able to attend, they usually wear their more formal outfit, including medals and hat.

### **Lest We Forget**

*<Vivian's uniform that she was wearing is on display at the AWM, showing the bullet hole and torn buttons.*



## Care *Wellbeing* with Cathy Leung

The Wellbeing Activities Survey received over 35 responses.

Based on feedback, Anita, Liz, and Lorrae will plan and promote bus trips. Details are forthcoming. I am organizing a movie day at Chermside, which had the highest survey score. I'll review Event Cinemas' morning sessions for suitable films. Activities will generally take place on Wednesdays.

In our April meeting, we will have a Bingo competition with four games. Cards cost \$1 per game; prizes are \$25 each. The "Money or the Box" raffle will also run, subsidizing afternoon tea costs with remaining funds from the Welfare Fund.

Check our Facebook page for information on the latest RSL courses.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/118436646770769>

### Australian War Widows Queensland



Australian  
War Widows  
Incorporated

Founded in 1947, AWWQ supports war widows in Queensland by offering friendship and assistance. As a not-for-profit

public benevolent institution with deductible gift recipient status, AWWQ welcomes members who are Gold Card holders recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) due to the death of their spouse from war-related causes.

AWWQ has 26 Sub Branches and Social Groups throughout Queensland.

- Facebook Page

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

- [Benefits-Book-Final-Version-2024.pdf](#)

- <https://www.warwidowsqld.org.au/>

No doubt if you have lost a partner AWWQ will reach out to you. If you did not need their help then, you may need it now. I encourage you to look at the Benefits Book to see what help they offer.

### Legacy

Another organisation that provides comfort and support is Legacy. Many of our members can attest to the assistance they received during their upbringing. Legacy is a renowned Australian charity, established in 1923, founded on a promise made between servicemen to "look after the missus and the kids."

Today, Legacy's scope has expanded significantly. The organisation supports families of Australian Defence Force personnel who have lost their lives or their health due to service. Legacy offers programs and services designed to provide social, financial, and developmental support. These services are tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals and their circumstances.

Their work focuses on addressing all requirements as comprehensively as possible, extending support to young



families and children, elderly and vulnerable widows, as well as dependants with disabilities.

If former defence personnel do not qualify as war widows, Legacy may still be able to help. Legacy is always looking for volunteers, so if you are looking for a worthy cause to invest in, Legacy could be it. Or you can donate – contact link below.

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



### 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)

### DVA News – VETAFFAIRS

<https://mailchi.mp/dva.gov.au/vetaffairs-autumn-5727440?>

#### Veterans' Home Care Program

Access to Veteran's Home Care (VHC) is via the VHC Assessment Agency, which will confirm eligibility and conduct an assessment to determine the level of care needed.

#### Veteran Support Services -

##### DVA Household Services From Start to Finish

If you are a Veteran under DTCA / MRCA and looking to apply for House Hold Services or if you have already received your Determination Letter and need support getting services in place : check out this site:

<https://veteransupportservices.com.au/>

##### National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-2035

On 20 February, the Albanese Government and the National Suicide Prevention Office have released their Strategy. It has been many years in the making and it was a day of celebrating an important milestone for veterans, families and the broader Australian community

<https://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/national-suicide-prevention-strategy>

#### Call The Hands

The Naval Historical Society of Australia's mission is to record, preserve and promote the knowledge, understanding and awareness of naval history of Australia at all levels of the national community.

The bi-monthly newsletters make interesting reading.

<https://navyhistory.au/research/newsletters-call-the-hands/>

If you have surplus ships crests you would like to donate, please consider the Society and email them at [office@navyhistory.au](mailto:office@navyhistory.au) The Society will cover the freight cost.



### Advocate training

The learning/training pathway for Compensation Advocates is now a lot simpler with the introduction of a Combined Level 1 Advocacy Pathway by the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) and this new learning pathway (introduced 1 July 2024) does not require finding an accredited mentor for training purposes.

So, this course provides a basic understanding of advocacy (Wellbeing and Compensation) within a support capacity and is also a prerequisite for the advocacy pathway should members wish to continue on to become an Advocate.

<https://web.atdp.org.au/>

### Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld Sub-Section must meet ongoing obligations to retain registration. We must notify ACNC each time a Responsible Person (a committee or board member or trustee) commences or resigns from a position. An annual general meeting (AGM) is a good way to be accountable to your members.

What does charity registration with the ACNC mean for donors?

When a charity registers with the ACNC, it confirms the organisation is legitimate, operates legally and manages funds responsibly. Donors can verify a charity's status on the ACNC Charity Register, and this helps instil confidence that their donations will be used appropriately.



<https://www.acnc.gov.au/charity/charities>

>>>> If you are a widow, and would like to join Anita and a small group of widows at Bribie Island RSL Club for lunch, contact Anita 0402246408 or [anitacooper35@gmail.com](mailto:anitacooper35@gmail.com) >>>>

### PROJECT – “WRANS – Where We Rest”

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);

The Project was commenced in January 2024, and to date, we have over 2,000 names of Navy Service Women in the database, resting in various countries, and many with dates or places of death without any idea of where they are resting.

#### Assistance required:



If you know where any of our sisters are resting, would you please take a photo of their headstones or plaque, with this symbol blue-tac onto it, (then we cannot be accused of breaching copyright with our photos) and email the photo/s to:

Lorrae Johnson (nee Owens)  
[WransWhereWeRest@gmail.com](mailto:WransWhereWeRest@gmail.com)



### Birthday Cards:

During 2024, our President has been posting Birthday Cards, as well as Get Well and Bereavement cards. If you have not received a card, perhaps it is because you never signed the Privacy clause on the application form.

In 2016, when I joined, I was not interested in being involved. In 2018, when I was elected as your Treasurer, I never considered this could have any effect. Without a signature here, the Sub-Section is not permitted to send you any Cards, nor should the Sub-Section be sending you emails on any activities.

If you want to be included, please sign this form and return it to the [Secretary@nwqld.org.au](mailto:Secretary@nwqld.org.au)

### Privacy

The Association is committed to the privacy of your personal information supplied on this form. The Membership Register is held and administered by the National membership Registrar who may be contacted at the address at the bottom of this form.

The Association collects your Naval and personal information to provide source data to assess the needs for veterans' support and other activities in the veteran community. The Association does provide outside agencies statistics and general information on its membership. The Association will not provide your personal data to other organizations without your prior consent.

### Use and disclosure of personal information:

I consent to the information provided in this application being used to keep me up to date on activities of the Naval Association at National, State and sub section level. The information may also be used to generate statistics and to provide source material to assist in claims on behalf of members and other activities in the veteran community.

Applicant's Signature: ..... Date: ..... / ..... / 20 .....

Application's Printed Name: .....

**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

### **New Members – Welcome Aboard**

No new applications this quarter

### **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.

**Olwyn Else Banks (nee Crouch)** WR/2146 passed away on 19Jan2025. She celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 16 Jan, and had a party on 18 Jan. Olwyn served as a Driver from 17Jul1944-21Mar1946. (Discharged Engagement Expired).

**Rita COLMAN (nee COULTON)** WR/2863 01Mar1927 – 29Nov2024 Gladstone. She served 30Apr1945-09May1946

**Kerrie Anne O'HAGAN (nee ALDER)** R122941 Died 28Jan2025 in NSW.

**Laraine BAMENT (nee MANSELL)** died 30Jan2025. She enlisted on 01Nov1981.

**Robyn Ann (Bonnie) McVEAN** R107310 08Sep1951 – 25Feb1925 Brisbane. She enlisted on 07Nov1969.

**Barbara Joy POWELL (nee TOWNSEND)** WR4352/R84352 11Aug1933 – 22Feb2025 in WA. She served 13Apr1953-09Mar1956.

*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.*

**The Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Support (Simplification and Harmonisation) Act 2025** was passed on 13 February 2025 and comes into effect from 1 July 2026.

Once it comes into effect, the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA)* and *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence related claims) Act 1988 (DRCA)* will close to new compensation claims and DVA will consider claims after that date under an improved Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA).

The VETS Act does not change the existing arrangements for income support payments such as the Energy Supplement (ES), income Support Supplement (ISS), Service Pension (SP). >>

**Cadets** with Pat Nuss

The Australian Navy Cadet Units are always looking for volunteers to assist.

Please contact me if you would like any 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.

This year, we donated \$250 each to four Training Ships: TS Diamantina ; TS Walrus ; NTS Gympie NTS Vengeance

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 then you may realise, so please, always feel welcome to join any of our groups.

>> Veterans with Qualifying Service will also continue to be eligible for the Gold Card at age 70. Existing Disability Compensation Payments will not be affected and will continue uninterrupted under the grandparenting arrangements.

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about/royal-commission/veterans-legislation-reform>



# Merchandise for Sale to Financial Members only

Stores@nwqld.org.au

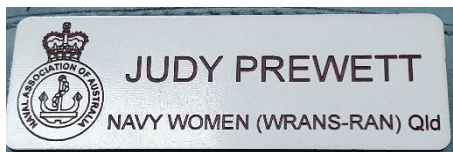
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld has a 'uniform' so that we can present a uniform appearance when gathered as a group.

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 ^^



## 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.



**POLO SHIRTS** with EMBROIDERY on right side



**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



## Calendar of Events 2025 – subject to changes

Date	Event	Notes
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 0600 Service at St John's Church <b>Northgate</b> Corvettes Assoc Service <b>Newstead</b> 0930 Parade in <b>Brisbane City</b>	Formal Uniform  Ship Inn after March
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
8 Jun	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
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
Jul	CESWA Annual Church Service	Formal Uniform
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
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
7 Dec	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Xmas Party <b>First Sunday...</b>
	<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 Hosted by HMAS Moreton:
Feb	Voyager (II)	St Mary's - Kangaroo Point

First Saturday of each month  
Third Tuesday of each month  
Fourth Monday of each month  
Last Thursday of each month

Western Suburb Lunch  
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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

Arrive by 11am to socialise with your sisters before the meeting - stay afterwards for lunch/afternoon tea, subsidised by our Raffles & Welfare.



### Email us your Updates & details of Payment

Event: .....

Special Diet: .....

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

Amount paid: .....

Date paid: .....

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**

Refence: **Surname reason/event**

## June Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for next newsletter is 31 May 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)

## FEEs for 2025 are due

### 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 2024

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>



## 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.