



Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld

Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia

Volume XXVI #1 March 2026

Summer Happenings – December to February 2026

ASSISTANCE DOGS



What is an Assistance Dog? They are specially trained dogs that help somebody with a disability. Assistance dogs must meet certain standards of the Australian Disability Laws and should follow International Training and Behaviour Standards. If a dog meets these standards, the owner (or handler) and the dog must have full access to public places.

When meeting an Assistance Dog, you shouldn't pat or call the dog without the permission of the owner. They are aids for their owner. Interference can cause distraction to the dogs or stress or embarrassment for the handler.

An Assistance Dog's specific jobs can vary from being a guide dog, hearing dog, mobility dog, psychiatric assistance dogs and medical alert dogs for post traumatic distress disorder (PTSD), anxiety or autism, episodic and serious medical emergencies. Each dog has their own speciality and will get special training. Although Assistance Dogs are permitted to be taken to public places and public transport, there are a few exceptions – if the dog has a infectious disease, if access would cause unreasonable difficulties or costs and if flight operators believe the dog could be a flight safety.

To obtain an Assistance Dog, applicants must meet specific requirements and go through an application process, home visits, training and matching and certification. Labradors and Golden Retrievers are common breeds for choosing Assistance Dogs because of their high intelligence and stability. Information on Assistance Dogs can be found on the website.

Violet, the dog pictured, is an Assistance Dog to a former RAAF lady who occasionally meets with the Sunny Coast ladies. Violet loves the ladies and has to go and greet each and everyone making sure they are "Okay. She then returns to her handler. Violet wears her Assistance Dog Coat and the owner/handler has to carry their ID card.



2026 Executive Committee



Lee (Vice President), Cath (President), Helen (Secretary), Pat (Vice President), Liz (Vice President), Jennifer (Treasurer)

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Meetings: 2026

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

Letter from our President

President's Report



Our new executive team has almost completed our transition. We still have a few issues to work on, our laptops, Facebook and applications for funding.

We had our second Executive Meeting on Thursday 2 April, our agenda. The agenda reflects not only ideas from the executive but also from members who have spoken with executive members. All your ideas are

valuable, and you are encouraged to voice your constructive opinions and contribute to the enjoyment of others.

We have applied for a grant from the Department of Social Services: Volunteer Grants. The purpose of the grant is to upgrade our current laptops and printer, all of which are out of warranty and need to be replaced. If we are successful, we would have funds in October to get update our hardware.

Our Facebook page will soon be up and running. New passwords, moderators and administrator roles will be in place soon. New members will soon be able to access the page and photos will be uploaded.

The CESWA Tri-Service luncheon and Singing Competition was as usual an outstanding success. Lots of raffles and the contest was of course won by our own songbirds, thanks to Wendy Dennis who penned the words to our song, to the tune of "Take Me Home Country Road". The Airforce were a hard act to follow, but the judges' decision was final.

We still need to fill the position of **Stores Officer**, as that position remains vacant. It is not an onerous task,

Stores Officer Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld Sub-Section Guidelines Administration of merchandising, ordering, and sales (liaising with the Secretary and Treasurer).

- take stores orders from Members, ensuring payment is received.
- coordinate the ordering and payment to the supplier, using the Sub-Section's Debit Card.
- keep records of supplies and deliveries
- deliver merchandise orders to Members.

ANZAC day is on April 25; I will be attending the service at St John's Church Northgate. Those requiring a buggy will have already contacted the Secretary to book their ride. TS Brisbane's cadets will carry our banner. After the city march members can gather as usual at the Ship Inn.

Congratulations to Liz for putting the newsletter together. It has not been easy as there were a few issues with her computer. However, she has done a great job in a short amount of time.

The coffee mornings are still a great opportunity to meet up with friends between meetings.

I am looking forward to the April General Meeting, the theme is Easter, with prizes for best bunny costume and best easter hat. If you want to chicken out, you can, there are prizes for chickens too.

Cheers Cath

LIFE Members



Judy Hunter

2001



Barbara Snowdon

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 2014-2026

Around the Traps with Liz

There was not a lot occurring over the Christmas break. January and February were also quiet. Activities, lunches and brunches were again resumed, catching up with gossip and what we did over the break. Jack resumed in February honouring the crew of HMAS Voyager.

Commemoration

Jack Memorial Service

On the last Thursday of each month the Naval Association of Australia (Queensland Section) (NAA(Q)) 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.

There was no Jack service in December and January. February's service acknowledged the crew HMAS Voyager and those who lost their lives.

Ordinary General Meetings

February saw the first Ordinary Meeting and the Annual General Meeting was held prior to the OGM. A new committee was elected. Meetings will continue to meet on the second Sunday of the month except May. Mother's Day is special to many families and being with loved ones is important.

Camaraderie

Over the past three months, Navy Women again met at various locations for 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: Brookwater Golf and Country Club

July: TBA

The Western Suburbs had their final lunch for 2025 in December with Secret Santa and the first lunch for 2026 was in February at Moselles.

Gold Coast Brunch

Gold Coast – Third Tuesday of the month – 10am

May: La Vintage Boutique

June: Cafe2

July: Xmas in July @ Fox N Hounds



The ladies from the Gold Coast continue to look for new and interesting places to meet for brunch whilst visiting favourite venues. Christmas theme with a secret Santa



Sunshine Coast - SCES&SWA

The Sunny Coast ladies had their Christmas lunch at Kawana Surf Club with a good turnout from all three services. A fun time was had by all. January saw the ladies meeting at Maroochydore for the first C&C for the year Approximately thirty ladies attended



December meeting – Christmas party

Women's Veterans Network Association

A group of female veterans met at Roma Street Café in February. Quilts for Valour presented quilts to some of the women.



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.



Feb 2026

Morayfield / Caboolture

On the second Monday of the month the ladies from Caboolture, Morayfield and other areas now meet at Club Tavern for lunch each month.

The Caboolture Sports Club at Morayfield is currently undergoing a massive renovation in the dining area, so the ladies are meeting at Club Tavern Caboolture (opposite the Caboolture Train Station).

Our Navy, Army and Air Force sisters will be meeting there until the renovations are finished. There is usually about twelve to fifteen ladies from the three services in attendance. All are very welcome.



Good turnout of the ladies at Caboolture on 16 Jan



Our Caboolture ladies Feb lunch at Club Tavern

Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence

Some of the ladies now meet at Landsborough at SMEYS, an organisation providing help to veterans. The ladies have morning tea and lunch and participate in canoeing and fishing or just chatting.

Unveiling of new Plinth at Maroochydore

On the 26 February, several ex-service women met at the Cotton Tree Memorial precinct for the unveiling of a new Plinth to acknowledge all Women who have served our country. Quite a few ladies attended the unveiling of the new plinth beside the current plaque on the ground. Local dignitaries were invited to witness the unveiling. The President of SCES&SA worked hard to get the plinth approved and finally erected in its location next to the original plaque which now lays beside the new plinth. After the ceremony, the ladies and dignitaries proceeded to the Maroochydore RSL for morning tea.



Left - Laraine Houghan, President Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women Association



Right - Liz Grimes, Vice President, Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Queensland Association



A big cheer from the Sunny Coast group at the unveiling of the new plinth, and below a more formal photo



New large plinth behind the original plaque.

Cadets with Pat Nuss

Cadets (ANC) – by assisting youths to become better citizens through support to the ANC.

For the past few years NW has supported the ANC by the 'Cash for Cans' initiative, encouraging our members to actively save their cans/bottles and have the collected monies transferred directly to the NW account. The amount of money from NW for this initiative has drastically decreased in the last couple of years and I welcome discussion about our support to Cadets later in the meeting.

Cadets offer an avenue for young teens to form friendships, learn new skills, see discipline at work and provides interests and alternatives to screen time and wandering their local areas.

A number of aged out cadets do join the Defence Force, especially the RAN when they leave school, so our support directly assists with recruitment.

New State Vice President Colin Edgar, who is still involved in the ANC and has been for many years, is taking over the Liaison role from me and I have transferred all information to him and informed the ANC at all levels of this change. I have enjoyed setting up the State ANC Liaison role but after nearly 4 years feel that Colin, with his ANC history and contacts, can take Liaison to a higher level. He has some initiatives which we hope will be beneficial to both the ANC and NAA.

As VP NW, I will still be in contact with Colin regarding our support to cadets, to ensure our donations go to cadet units who are not otherwise supported by RAN/NAA and/or have a need for a donation.

Please contact me if you would like more information.

Pat Nuss

NAA(Q) Vice President

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

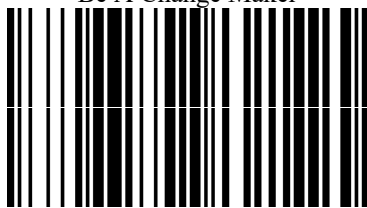
Service, Courage, Respect, Integrity and Excellence

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.

Care Wellbeing with Wendy Griggs

On Wednesday last, the Veterans Health Week Activity was greatly enjoyed by those who attended. Our numbers fell well short of what was expected, resulting in a lot of lovely food being packed up and taken home.

Big thank you to Pat MacKay who tutored the Mahjong table. The Yahtzee table scored and shook the dice, and Phyllis learned to play dominos. The dominos game was pretty raucous; a quick game is a good game. Plenty of prizes and lots of laughter. It was unfortunate that many were sick or unable to come. Now our emails and phone contacts are up and if you cannot attend, please let us know as soon as possible.

Sick List

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.

Dawn Walsh's funeral was held on 9 March.

Rae Onger had a fall and hurt her hip.

Max Dryer is in Sunny Bank Hospital after a fall

Ray Sandford, the Welfare Advocate from NAA, has advised that there is a spot available for their "end of life" seminar and perhaps Navy Women might like to host a seminar. How do we feel about hosting such a seminar?

At our meetings, we throw yourselves into the fun and use your imagination for costumes and bonnets.

Wendy Griggs

Wellbeing Officer

Wellbeing@NWQld.org.au

Vales

We have received 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

Edna Dawn (nee Punter) WALSH WR/2855

Birth 05 OCT 1926 Rockhampton, Q
Death 22 FEB 2026
Enlisted 02Apr1945 Brisbane, Q
Discharged 26Apr1946 as Wran Teleprinter Operator

Maxine (nee Marshall) STEEGSTRA R85447

Birth 13 OCT 1943 • Fremantle, WA
Death 24 JAN 2026 • WA
Enlisted 24 Mar 1962 • Fremantle, WA
Discharged 23Mar1966 as LWRSTD

Beverly (nee Marshall) RESOR 85378

Birth 13 OCT 1943 • Fremantle, WA,
Death 24 MAR 2026
Enlisted 11 Nov 1961 • Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia WRANS 85378. Discharged 03Nov1967: A/POWRSTD

Ronda Irene (nee Neilsen) ROSE W117727

Birth 26 JAN 1957
Death 13 APR 2026
Enlisted: 10 Nov 1974 Brisbane, Q
Discharged as a CPOWTR

Joan GILBERT

Honorary Member for Life
Birth 7 Apr 1942
Death 22 Apr 2026

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.



Joan Gilbert



Dawn Walsh

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



Merchandise for Sale to Financial Members only

Stores@nwqld.org.au

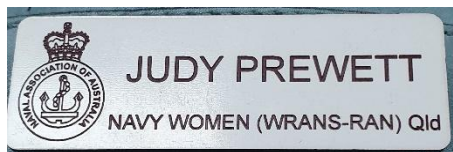
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld has a 'uniform' so that we can present a uniform appearance when gathered as a group.

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:
email Stores@nwqld.org.au

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

Calendar of Events 2026 – subject to changes

Date	Event	Notes
May	Victory in Europe Service 08May1945	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
10 May	Navy Women Qld OGM	3 rd Sunday due to Mother's Day date
29 May	Service @ Jack Southbank	TBA
5 Jun	Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assoc Inc Luncheon Maroochydhore	Civilian dress with name tags
8 Jun	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
26 Jun	Service @ Jack Southbank	TBA
5-6 Jul	Reserve Forces Day Wondai	
13 Jul	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
31 Jul	Service @ Jack Southbank	TBA
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 Formal Uniform
14 Sep	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
19 Sep	NAA Golden Rivet 2026	Goodna RSL
25 Sep	Service @ Jack Southbank	TBA
13 Oct	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Breast Cancer Fundraising WEAR PINK
October	Hervey Bay Birthday weekend	TBA
31 Oct	Service @ Jack Southbank	TBA
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	TBA
30 Nov	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	Xmas Party closest to 1 st December
	Summer Break	
Feb	Service @ Jack Southbank	Honouring HMAS Voyager (II) Lost Crew
8 Feb	Navy Women Qld AGM & OGM Geebung RSL	Geebung RSL - First meeting for 2027
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 Tuesday of each month	Western Suburb Lunch	
Second Month of each month	Caboolture Ex-Servicewomen's Lunch	
Second Wednesday of each month	Caboolture Ex-Servicewomen's Lunch	
Third Tuesday of each month	Gold Coast Brunch	
Fourth Monday of each month	Bribie Island Lunch	Bribie Island RSL Social Cafe
Last Thursday of each month	Jack Memorial	Ship Inn, South Bank

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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) ****



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**

June Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for next newsletter is 31 May 2026.

Please send your stories and photos to:

Editor@nwqld.org.au and include

Newsletter@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.