



NavyWomen (WRANS-RAN) Qld

Sub-Section of the Naval Association of Australia

Volume XXVI #3 September 2026

Winter Happenings – June – August

ONE HUNDRED YEARS YOUNG

Doris Fay GOSDEN was born on 16 June 1926 in Adelaide, to Doris Elvira (KLAEBE) and Alexander Cyril GOSDEN.

On 5 July 1944, Fay enlisted as a Teleprinter Operator (Group III) and was assigned to HMAS Moreton. After serving at HMAS Magnetic (Townsville), she was discharged "engagement expired" from HMAS Torrens on 5 March 1946.

By 1949, Fay had married **William Gordon Woodforth ROYLE** and they made their home at Emma Street, Kalinga. Gordon died on 5 May 2009.

Fay Royle (nee Gosden) 1944-1946

This is a bit of our service history and our Mum's as well, as she was left at home while we did all the travelling for the war effort.

My sister, Joy, turned 18 in June 1943 and immediately joined up - she personally liked the navy uniform. In September she was called up and the girls who had enlisted at the same time were sent directly to Townsville at the communication Centre at Castle Hill.

After I turned 18 in the following June (1944), I was inducted into the Navy on 6 July and was sent to *HMAS Moreton* (Brisbane) as a Teleprinter Operator (like a computer type machine). We used to send messages all around Australia and see the screen to get messages back immediately.



At *Moreton* there was a huge Moreton Bay Fig tree and if we had gone to the movies in Queen Street, we would hurry back to base so we would be the first girls or boys there to say goodnight in private - a good hidey hole! One of our Regulating Wrans was Jess Maxwell - quite a bit older than us and very strict on the rules, and boy, we were so scared of her. After the war, Jess moved to Woolloowin where Gordon and I lived - we didn't have much to do with her, and she passed away early in life.

Some of the girls I joined up with were Monica Palmer, Daphne Hodgkinson, Stella Lord and lots more. Being shift workers, we had to live on the base because we did 24 and 48 hour shifts (4 hours on and 4 hours off, and during the night, 8 hours of duty). We had triple-decker bunks and in winter we used to leave most of our uniform on, our stockings rolled down and our shirts on, so that we then only had to put on the outer coats and shoes - saved a bit of time.

I was a Wran for only a few weeks when one of the girls died from kidney trouble, and they had a full funeral march for her in the city. It was strange because we didn't know her as she had been in hospital for quite a while. (Margaret Hall)

Postal **Address:**
Navy Women Qld
77/30 Meadowlands Road
CARINA Q 4152

Executive **Contacts:**
NWExecutive@nwqld.org.au

President:
Cath Leung
president@nwqld.org.au

Secretary:
Helen Yench
secretary@nwqld.org.au

Treasurer:
Jennifer Barrett
treasurer@nwqld.org.au

Vice	President
Liz	Grimes
Pat	Nuss
Lee	Deegan

Wellbeing **Officer:**
Wendy Griggs
Wellbeing@nwqld.org.au

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

Editor@nwqld.org.au

Meetings: **2026**
12 noon on the second
Sunday of each month,
The third Sunday in
May & July



The Australian Navy didn't have the expertise or equipment to man their own communication Branch, so we shared with the American Navy and the civilian workers. After 11 months, I was drafted to Townsville, which we thought was great as Joy was still there, and we were going to have a great time together. However, the Navy had different ideas, and she got a draft to *HMAS Leeuwin* (Perth). After three weeks together, she got leave and draft. She was supposed to travel by troop train, but Joy thought that was a bit much and so she hitched a ride with an American pilot.

I hadn't had as much luck, as I went to Townsville by troop train - via Longreach because of floods - so it took four days. Three girls who travelled with me were June Thomas (now Wolno), Pat Hebron (now Moloney) and Dawn Punter (now Walsh). We still see each other nearly every month at functions - in other words we are growing old together, which is great, sharing lots of memories and laughs over different things that happened.



Fay Royle; Dawn Walsh; June Wolno



1945 – ready to march to our Communications office.

When I was in Townsville, our Wrannery was next door to an Air Force Officers' camp, and one pilot took me for a spin in his plane over Magnetic Island. Of course, this was not allowed, and I would have been in deep trouble if caught.

Magnetic Island was a magical place for our days off and as the Wrannery was on the bay in Townsville, sometimes the boys used to bring small boats to take us for a row and that is where we used to meet them, outside the fence.

We had a big broad brimmed hat with a chin strap. Short socks for the heat. Shirt and skirt - we used to stand the skirt up and step into it, so stiff it would be with starch. We used to have to march to work and in Townsville the heat did nothing for all the starch we put into our khaki uniforms. Our winter rig was a navy double-breasted suit, white shirt and tie.

We had special words for things: meals - *scrans*, toilets - *heads*, showers - *ablution block*, Church Parade - *Divisions*. If you couldn't stand in the sun for Church or Parade, they used to call out "Catholics and Calathumpians ** (this word is not in the dictionary, so don't know who started it) fall out", and we would go behind a building and play cards. I used to faint if I stood in the one spot for too long (used to be the same in church as a teenager).

When I got leave, I had to go to Garbutt (Air Force base) and, being cyclone season, the weather was bad. It took four days for the plane to actually take off. My suitcase (Navy issue) was still at the Airport and I had no change of clothes - I could shower and that was all. When Joy met me at Archerfield Airport, she wouldn't touch me and she said I stank. I hadn't seen her for about 11 months, and she made me stand at the other end of the tram - she didn't want to associate with me. When we got home, she told Mum not to come near me till I had a shower - what a homecoming!!

We had parties in the street for VP and VE in Townsville and an English submarine and ship were in port that day. We were told to use the showers in the morning so the ships (English) could use them in the afternoon. Few did, and the longer the dancing went on, the more ripe the air became!!

Our duties were to send and receive messages from around Australia - the coding room was next door and sometimes at night we used to learn a bit about coding - it was interesting.

Finally on our last leave - Joy from *Leeuwin* and me from Townsville - we got our demobilization notice. Joy was on the top of the list, and I was on the bottom, so we got demobbed at the same time and went by troop train to Adelaide as that is where our grandparents lived. We had to get a medical clearance to be demobbed from the Navy, so we had to go to an Air Force camp at Bright (Brisbane). Of course, we had to give a urine sample, and I couldn't oblige, so after a while, Joy came to the next cubicle and said "What's wrong?" - "Here", she said, "give it to me", she obliged and no-one was any the wiser. It took about a month to do all the rigmarole and hand in all our navy gear and then we were off on our own. We had enlisted for two years or the duration of the war and 6 months. Some of the girls worked in the Navy office in Brisbane as civilians - the same job they were doing in the Navy.

Joy and I couldn't settle down to answering to Mum and Dad (even though we had to obey orders in the WRANS), so we put in for a job at Essendon airport as Teleprinter operators for the flight controllers. We were



there for about eight months before we decided to go back home, and that time it was okay. We did back-to-back shifts and were the only girls working with about 18 young men - didn't we have a ball!

<1945 Fay Gosden; Gwen Penwarden; Shirley Bowtell; Daphne Hodgkenson & Gay Wright.

Celebrating 100 Years: Doris Fay Royle Returns to HMAS Moreton

HMAS Moreton proudly welcomed back one of its earliest WWII members on 16 June, as former Wran (WR/2179) Doris Fay Royle (née Godson) celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family, friends and the Navy community.



Fay enlisted in 1944 at just 18, following her sister Joy into the WRANS. Posted to Moreton as a teleprinter operator, she worked alongside the American Navy at the Bank of New South Wales in Queen Street, completing demanding 48-hour shift rotations. Her later posting to Townsville brought me memorable experiences, including an unexpected training flight over Magnetic Island.

She vividly recalls the joy of Victory in the Pacific in 1945: "There were celebrations everywhere; dances, music, people in the streets."

After being discharged in 1946, Fay married **Gordon Royle** and raised four children. Today she is surrounded by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom joined her for this milestone event.

Commander Chris Unwin hosted a morning tea in her honour, noting, "To have someone here who was part of *Moreton* from the beginning makes this a very

special occasion."

One of *Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld Sub-Section* of the NAA's beloved WWII *National Treasures*, Fay Royle has been a loyal member of the Sub-Section for many decades. She first joined on 12 July 1976, becoming an active part of the organisation as either a social or full member, and later served three years on the committee. In July 2017, Fay was awarded her 15-year Long Service Certificate, recognising her enduring commitment and contribution to Navy Women Queensland.

Affectionately regarded as one of *Moreton's* treasured WWII members, Fay said that returning to the place where she once served meant the world to her.

Fay with Navy Women. Secretary Helen Yench, President Cathy Leung, Assistant Secretary Judy Prewett and Wellbeing Officer Wendy Griggs.



"Once Navy, always Navy"

** The term "Calathumpian" is a slang term used in Australian English, often to refer to someone who is nonconformist or holds a belief of any kind without adhering to a specific religion or political party. It originated in the 19th century and has evolved to describe individuals who do not conform to traditional beliefs or ideologies.

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.

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: Lorae Johnson (database)
Team 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 2,500 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.

We are looking for a Webmaster to help us set up the webpage, as information on where our Navy sisters have been laid to rest.

Lorae Johnson (nee Owens)

WransWhereWeRest@gmail.com



Community

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

The SCESWA holds 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.

June was the Annual Birthday Luncheon held at the Maroochydore RSL. It was a great turnout, and some were lucky enough to win raffle prizes.



June Annual Birthday Lunch



The Hostess Committee

<< Anne was presented with a Certificate for 30 years of membership of the Naval Association of Australia - Anne and Kevin with Pat Ringold (NAA State President) in middle.

Letter from our President

Winter came softly and left early this year, with barely enough cold weather to claim the season. Although some members welcome the warmer conditions, others enjoy the traditional chill of June, July and August. I am firmly in the latter group and was disappointed—even during an August visit to Canberra, I could have left my heavy coat at home.

Member Welfare and Support

Several members have faced serious illnesses, broken bones and long, difficult recoveries, while others are still struggling. Please continue to keep in touch with shipmates who are unwell and let our Wellbeing Officer know when you have visited and how long you spent with them. We report only the total number of visits and hours—not members' names—to the State Executive. These records also support our funding applications.

Our Secretary, Helen, has experienced poor health for some time, and our Assistant Secretary, Judy Prewett, has stepped in wherever needed. Her support is greatly appreciated. We wish Helen a full recovery and look forward to her return to full health.

Events and Representation

Celebrations for the Navy's 125 years of service continued throughout the



winter months, Navy Women attended several events. Rose Van Dijk attended a cocktail party at HMAS Brisbane.

Jennifer Barrett attended the Recognition of Reserve Forces Dinner, and I attended the Reserve Forces Recognition Parade in King George Square.

Fay Royel turned 100, and her birthday was celebrated at HMAS Moreton with family and invited guests.

Christmas in July

Christmas in July was a great success. Everyone got in the spirit of the event, splendidly adorned with Xmas bling. Geebung RSL provided a great two-course meal. And of course, Mrs. Santa was there to hand out the gifts.

Monthly Meetings and Camaraderie

After each meeting we share conversation and laughter over a cuppa and a healthy afternoon tea. Sandwiches and fruit are available and are very welcome. It is important that we not only get the business of Navy Women done but also have time to talk and check in with everyone. Despite retirement we all have very busy lives, family.

Thank you all for your service.

Cathy Leung

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

Anne Walker



Liz Grimes 2021



Margie Dean 2026

High Tea – 27 June 2026

Ria Wong - Brisbane Domestic Violence Service Micah Projects

Ria Wong, based in Brisbane City, is currently a DFV Services Cluster Lead at Micah Projects.

Ria holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice, cross major in Human Services. Ria commenced her career in Queensland Corrective Services, working in frontline and operational roles as well as project and policy positions across the state of Queensland. Ria has since undertaken roles across the Specialist DFV sector including Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre's Integrated Response Manager, and leadership positions at Brisbane Domestic Violence Service. Ria also worked alongside a diverse group of stakeholders as Integration Manager for the former Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to implement the Brisbane DFV High Risk Team. Ria has been a national lead facilitator of Griffith University's MATE Bystander program and as a consultant subject matter expert to inform national service design and project implementation.

The Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Association (CESWA) held a High Tea at the Geebung RSL Club, and donated \$1,500.00 to the Brisbane Domestic Violence Services





Christmas in July

Our Sub-Section held a “Christmas in July” at our July meeting. It was a great turnout, and everyone *had been* ‘good’ so we all received a Secret Santa from Mrs. Clause (aka Barbara Snowdown). Geebung RSL put on a great lunch.

Everyone dressed in their Christmas regalia. Looking forward to the December Christmas Party

Around the Traps with Liz

We are now in the second half of the year. Where has the first half of the year gone? I managed to attend some of the activities during the past three months and then, would you believe, I had a fall at home and ended up in hospital for two weeks. I broke my upper arm (humeral head fracture) and a tear in the rotator cuff. I am now home doing the newsletter one handed. I did manage to get out and about before my fall. Numbers were down at some meetings due to sickness, travelling and personal reasons. I have managed to go to a couple of activities.

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 welcome.

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.

JUNE - TIMOR LESTE

Tamara Sloper-Harding OAM's life has been defined by service—to her nation, to vulnerable communities, and to the people around her. She joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1987 through the Australian

Defence Force Academy, completing her training at HMAS Creswell the following year. Her early career as an Administration Officer saw her working across personnel management, community support, public relations and media, including sea service in HMAS Stalwart and HMAS Tobruk. After qualifying as an Intelligence Officer, she undertook demanding operational postings at Maritime Headquarters, Headquarters Australian Theatre, and on deployment in USS Coronado, Bougainville and Papua New Guinea.

In 1999, on the day of her wedding to Army officer Adrian Harding, Tamara received the call that would send her to Timor Leste as part of the INTERFET peacekeeping force under General Peter Cosgrove. The suffering she witnessed during the Timorese struggle for independence ignited a lifelong humanitarian commitment. She worked

directly with orphanages and schools, coordinating food and aid deliveries—a mission she has continued ever since.

After nearly 19 years of service, Tamara transferred to the RAN Reserve as a Lieutenant Commander. Together with Adrian, now an Army Reserve Lieutenant Colonel, she has raised four children while deepening her dedication to community leadership.

She founded and chairs Pittwater Friends of Soibada Inc., and serves on the boards of Carry on Victoria, Women Veterans United, Furlough House, and the RAN Old Salts. Locally, she contributes to Rotary, Mater Maria Catholic College, Maria Regina School, the Northern Beaches Social Justice Network, the Avalon RSL Sub-Branch and the Catholic Parish of Pittwater.

Her extraordinary service has been recognised with numerous honors, including Pittwater Woman of the Year, the Rotary International Service Award, and the Medal of the Order of Australia for her work supporting the communities of Timor Leste and Pittwater.

JULY – GULF WAR

Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik's research has been pivotal in understanding Gulf War Illness (GWI), also known as Gulf War Syndrome (GWS). Her team's discovery of faulty cell function in veterans suffering from GWI is a significant step forward in the understanding of this complex illness. The research, published in PLOS ONE, reveals that the defective transient receptor potential ion channels in GWI veterans are responsible for the health problems experienced due to their exposure to hazardous agents during the Gulf War. This discovery offers hope for new treatments and a better understanding of the condition, which has long been challenging for sufferers to recognize and accept.



AUGUST - FAREAST STRATEGIC RESERVE – (FESR)

Michelle and Dee Bianchi provided the address. The Ladies' father, Rudi Bianchi, as the President of the FESR in Queensland and other members of the Far East Strategic Reserve were the reason that we have JACK, the Naval Memorial Brisbane, today.



Camaraderie

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

All Navy Women are welcome to attend for a few good laughs and lunch.

Western Suburbs Lunch

first Tuesday of the Month @ 11am

Contact Lorrae Johnson

6 October – Wounded Heroes, Bundamba

3 November – Emerald Café, Brassall



June – Brookwater Country Club and Golf Club



July – Lotus Café



August -

Gold Coast Brunch

Third Tuesday of the month – 10am

Contact Sylvia Manners

The ladies from the Gold Coast continue to look for new and interesting places to meet for brunch whilst visiting favorite venues. Six of the ladies went on a cruise proudly wearing their navy shirts.

15 September – Café Tahbella

20 October – The Ship Inn, Southbank

17 November – La Vintage Boutique

15 December – Tallangatta Golf Club



June – Café 2, Coomera



Christmas in July – Fox & Hound



August – Kurrawa Surf Club

Community

Women's Veteran National Association - WVNA



Sunshine Coast Coffee



At the Town Hall tour

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.



June 2026



July 2026

August 2026

Morayfield / Caboolture

Second Monday of each month

The ladies from Caboolture, Morayfield and other areas meet regularly at Club Tavern Caboolture (until renovations are completed at the Caboolture Sports Club, Morayfield) for lunch each month. The club was 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. Numbers were down in August but those who attended enjoyed each other's company



June 2026



July 2026



August 2026

Glasshouse Country Women United by Defence

Second Wednesday of each month at 11am at

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

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.

Shirley Thompson (nee Buckley) POTTER

Birth 30 Dec 1923 • Paddington, New South Wales,
Death 12 May 2026 • Claremont, Western Australian,
 Enlisted: 7 Jun 1944 • Sydney, New South Wales,
 WRANS WR/2108; Wran Coder;
 Discharged DEE 07Nov1945

Wilma Kathleen (nee Andersen) BARLET WR4323

Birth: 25 Jul 1933 • Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Death: Allora, Queensland, Australia
Enlisted: 27 Oct 1952 • Sydney, New South Wales, as a Rec SBA (Probationary)
Discharged: On Marriage 30Apr1955 as a Wran SBA

Margaret (nee Thomson) PATTERSON

Birth 26 Aug 1934 • Quairading, Western Australia,
Death 29 Mar 2026 • Fremantle, Western Australia,
 Enlisted: 20 May 1961 • Fremantle, Western Australia,
 WRANS 85313; RWRSA 20May1961; WRSA(V)
 20Nov1961; A/LWRREG 21Sep1962; LWRREG
 21Mar1963; A/POWRREG 05Feb1965; Discharged DEE
 19May1965

Beverly (nee Marshall) RESOR

Birth 13 Oct 1943 • Fremantle, Western Australia,
Death 24 Mar 2026
 Enlisted: 11 Nov 1961 • Fremantle, Western Australia,
 WRANS 85378; RWRSTD 11Nov1961; WRSTD
 11May1962; A/LWRSTD 01May1964; LWRSTD
 01Nov1964; A/POWRSTD 12May1967; Discharged DEE
 03Nov1967

Maxine (nee Marshall) STEEGSTRA

Birth 13 Oct 1943 • Fremantle, Western Australia,
Death 24 Jan 2026 • Western Australia,
 Enlisted: 24 Mar 1962 • Fremantle, Western Australia,
 WRANS R85447; RWRSTD 24Mar1962; WRSTD(G)
 24Sep1962; A/LWRSTD 14May1965; LWRSTD 14Nov1965
 ; Discharged DEE 23Mar1966

Julie Anne (nee Alders) McCOSKER

Birth 9 Aug 1949 • Canley Vale, New South Wales,
Death 8 Jul 2026 • Goulburn, New South Wales,
 Enlisted: 30 Sep 1968 • Sydney, New South Wales,
 WRANS W103678; RWRMTD 30Sep1969; WRMTD
 30Mar1970.....Discharged as POWR

Marlene Penny (nee Womal) STEWART

Birth: 22 Mar 1951 • Bowen, Queensland, Australia
Death: 22 Aug 2026
 Enlisted 28Sep1970 as a RWRRO. (Class 121)
 Her husband, **Colin Douglas Stewart** R95980 (1951–2025)
 died last year on 30Jul2025.

Anne Theresa (nee Conway) McDERMOTT

Birth 6 Apr 1955
Death 19 May 2026
 Enlisted; 9 Apr 1974 W117025 LWRWTR

Janet (nee Culhane) FAZAKERLEY

Birth 6 Oct 1961 • Corowa, New South Wales,
Death 21 Jul 2026
 Enlisted: 4 Sep 1979 Wran Medic (SBA)

Teri-Lee Ross LEUT

Birth 1980
Death 19 Jul 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.

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.

Pat Nuss is still having issues with her eyes.

Maxine Dryer is still recovering from her fall earlier this year

Another person on the sick list was Pat Reiken

I had a fall in mid-August, broke my upper arm (humeral head fracture) and a tear in the rotator cuff. I spent a week in Caboolture hospital and another in Kilcoy rehabilitation. I am having ongoing treatment. This newsletter has been done one handed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone spending time in Sickbay or Hospital. Get well soon.

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/>

'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".

Article for NWQ Newsletter August/September

Remember if you are heading for hospital or are sick at home, we won't know unless you tell us. To continue social connectedness, try to attend lunches/brunches, morning teas, games days, events whenever possible. It is too easy not to bother and become isolated.

And remember to advise the secretary if your personal circumstances and contact details for yourself or your next of kin change. We can't keep connected with you if we don't have your correct contact details. Eg. Birthday cards are sent out to those having special birthdays (with 0 or 5 on the end), but many of them are returned with Not At This Address on them – check with the secretary if you are in doubt about the details on our files for you.

End of Life Seminar

Things To Do Before You Go. This is coming up on 22 October at Geebung RSL, sponsored by NAA Qld. It will answer some of the questions about dying that you really need to consider. Also, will explain how to provide helpful info for your NOK:

- What info does your NOK need?
- Where do you keep your list of passwords?
- Who needs to be informed of your demise?
Business/personal

- **Check your Medicare bank details**

Medicare has over \$270 million in unpaid benefits waiting to be paid to almost one million people. Older people with unpaid benefits are owed an average of \$430 each.

Medicare can't pay your benefits if you haven't provided valid bank details. This can happen if you changed bank accounts or moved to a different bank.

Check that your Medicare bank details are up to date by:

- signing in to your Medicare online account through MyGov or the MyGov app
- calling Medicare on 132 011
- visiting a service centre.

Even if you think your details are correct, it's worth checking that Medicare has your current bank account recorded.

Once your bank details are updated, any Medicare benefits owed to you will be paid to your nominated bank account within a few days.

- **National Carers Week runs from 11 to 17 October.** It celebrates the more than 3 million Australians who provide care and support to a family member or friend.

This year's theme is 'Care for a Carer: Making Carers Visible'. It encourages Australians to notice and support the unpaid carers in their lives. Anyone can be a Carer, including children, parents, partners, relatives and friends who support someone close to them.

This National Carers Week, take time to recognise the carers in your family, workplace and community. You can attend an event, post on social media or remind carers to look after their own health and wellbeing.

If you're a Carer, support is available through Carer Gateway. You can access free services, including counselling, financial support and planned or emergency respite. You can also connect with other carers and get support when you need it.

Call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737, Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, or visit the [Carer Gateway website](#).

- **Scams Awareness Week 2026 (24 to 28 August)** reminded us that every scam affects a real person and has real consequences.

To help protect yourself and the people who matter to you, it can be worthwhile to take a few moments to refresh your scams knowledge and awareness.

One of the more common scams circulating at the moment is a bank impersonation scam. Typically, it's where a scammer is trying to trick you into transferring money or sharing sensitive information.

How to protect yourself

Stop.

Pause before responding to an unexpected phone call, text or email claiming to be from your bank. Never share your password, one-time passcodes, card details or personal information.

Think.

Scammers can make phone numbers, text messages and emails appear genuine, so don't rely on the number displayed on your phone or the sender's name alone.

Protect.

If something doesn't feel right, end the call, delete the message or block the number. Contact Bendigo Bank if you're unsure, using the phone number obtained from one of our official platforms.

If you receive a text claiming to be from your bank that includes a link, don't click it.

Wendy Griggs
Wellbeing Officer
0412 017 123

**PAT AND JENNIE'S SOUTH PACIFIC
CRUISE, 2026
CARNIVAL PACIFIC ENCOUNTER**

The best description of our trip is "The Best Laid Schemes o' Mice an' Men" which is a quote from the 1785 poem 'To a Mouse' by Scottish poet, Robert Burns.

On Saturday 1st August, Jennie and I arrived at the Cruise Terminal where Jennie had prearranged to be met by Bruno, terminal staff, who took all our bags (two cases and two large bags of towels) to the bag drop. He then escorted us straight through to check in for those needing assistance. We were shortly onboard and having lunch in The Pantry buffet by 1300. Most of the passengers were 'more mature' Australians, many with walking canes, walkers or mobility scooters.

On our second day at sea, we attended a Military Member group. There were about 100 ex-service members and families in attendance. It was professionally presented with all major conflicts commemorated. We recited The Ode after which everyone was able to share any experience or story. Two other NAA members from different subsections were also there. I asked for the microphone and gave a short overview of the JACK Commemoration Services, inviting any to attend.

Tuesday 4th August, the ship anchored off Norfolk Island's oil wharf. As we had visited the island twice before we decided not to go ashore. Sadly, a power outage affected those who went ashore.

After two more Sea Days, playing Mexican Trains, Cribbage and attending several fun Trivia sessions, we arrived off Tonga on Friday 7th August. We were looking forward to catching up with Deb Allen, daughter of NW QLD member Kathy Allen. We had gift bags of chocolate and Tim Tams for Deb, Anna (taxi driver) and Deb's friend Peter plus of course the donated towels, collars and leads. THEN, an announcement throughout the ship! The ship would NOT be berthing at Nuku'Alofa, Tonga due to strong winds and choppy seas! We were so annoyed, we both lay down and slept for two hours! Jennie had been in contact with Deb and Kathy earlier in the morning, and Deb was very saddened for the islanders who had set up stalls with local foods and souvenirs. We had no choice but to bring everything home!

To fill in the day, the ship sailed North along the Eastern side of the Tongan Islands, then returned South before heading East for Fiji. We berthed at Suva on Sunday 9th August where we had booked a short city bus tour. Shops are closed on Sundays, but we visited a local market where families set out their produce for sale. The next day we were supposed to anchor off Dravuni Island, South of Fiji, but that too was too choppy to send tenders ashore.

So off we sailed East again and instead anchored off Mystery Island, part of Vanuatu on Tuesday 11th August.

The mystery is – that no one lives on Mystery Island. Islanders come over on boats from a nearby island when a ship is due in. We went ashore briefly, were amazed by the clear aqua water and white sand and listened to local singers.

Wednesday 12th August, we anchored off Port Vila, Vanuatu. In December 2024 a severe earthquake killed 14 people and severely damaged many buildings as well as the cruise ship wharf and access road. We took the tender ashore to a large park and found our tour bus and had a memorable 90-minute tour of Port Vila. Our driver was actually a Chemical Engineer born on an adjacent island and attended the British School in Port Vila. He was very knowledgeable and gave us an interesting overview of the island's history and current status.

We enjoyed two more Sea Days where I caught up with my Killer Sudoku skills, read and attended various Trivia sessions. The staff onboard are all very nice and spoke beautiful English. They were mainly young people from over 50 countries. All were very helpful and had interesting stories. Sharon, who worked in The Pantry buffet was born in Zimbabwe and well educated. But she and her husband and two children moved to South Africa for a better life. Sharon works 8 months onboard a ship, while her husband looks after the children. She then has two months off before heading to another ship anywhere in the world. They can't attain South African citizenship and benefits until they can buy a house there.

We enjoyed the cruise and look forward to another South Pacific trip in July next year, The food was good and we dined in all three restaurants during the cruise, using The Pantry for breakfast and lunch. Thankfully, neither of us put on much weight!

We arrived back in Brisbane on Saturday 15th August. We were two of the few passengers who declared food items, so were directed to Customs and thankfully the Immigration Officers helped me carry all our bags through the process, as there are no trolleys available.

Donations:

I have posted off three parcels containing all the collars and most of the leads to Pru, who lives in Tonga and is in Sydney visiting family. I can off-load the chocolates and Tim Tams to Kathy who is coming up in October, and I will take all the towels and spare leads to the RSPCA in Wacol.

So, even the best of plans can go awry when the weather is involved!! Thank you to all the members who donated collars, leads and towels. It was a great effort by everyone. Well done and I know the Tongan islanders appreciate the support.

Jennie and Pat

Merchandise for Sale to Financial Members only

Stores@nwqld.org.au

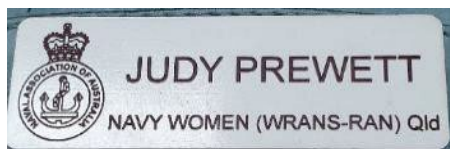
Navy Women (WRANS-RAN) Qld has a 'uniform' so that we can present a uniform appearance when gathered as a group.

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:
on 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 2026/2027 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date	Event	Notes
29 Oct	Service @ JACK Southbank	HMAS Sydney II –
7 Nov	Navy Women Annual Reunion Luncheon	Geebung RSL Club
8 Nov	Navy Women Qld OGM	Geebung RSL
11 Nov	Remembrance Day Service	
26 Nov	Service @ JACK Southbank	ADF RESERVE FORCES
29 Nov	Navy Women Qld XMAS PARTY/SECRET SANTA	Geebung RSL XMAS PARTY
2027		
Feb 14	Navy Women AGM & OGM	Geebung RSL First Meeting for 2027
Feb 25	Service @ JACK Southbank	RAN Navy Week Hosted by HMAS Moreton:
Feb	Voyager (II)	St Mary's - Kangaroo Point
Mar	HMAS Perth and the USS Houston were lost during the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942	
Mar 20	CESWA Tri-Service Luncheon Geebung RSL	Singing Competition Details in January 2027
Mar 25	Service @ JACK Southbank	TBA
Mar 26	GOOD FRIDAY	Happy Easter
Apr 9-10	NAA AGM	Date & Venue TBC
Apr 11	Navy Women OGM	Geebung RSL
Apr 25	ANZAC Day 0600 Service at St John's Church Northgate Corvettes Assoc Service Newstead 0930 Parade in Brisbane City	Formal Uniform
May	Victory in Europe Service 08May1945	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
May 16	Navy Women OGM	3 rd Sunday 16 th May
May 27	Service @ JACK Southbank	TBA
Jun	Sunshine Coast Ex-Service and Serving Women's Assoc Inc Luncheon Maroochydore	Civilian dress with name tags Date TBC
Jun 13	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
Jun 24	Service @JACK Southbank	TIMOR- LESTE
Jul	Reserve Forces Day Wondai	Date TBA
Jul 2-4	WRANS-RAN National Reunion	CANBERRA
Jul 18	Navy Women Qld OGM Geebung RSL	
Jul 26	Service @ JACK Southbank	GULF WAR - KUWAIT
Jul 27	Korean Veterans Day	
Aug 8	Navy Women Qld GM Geebung RSL	
Aug 15	Victory in Pacific Day 15Aug1945	South-Eastern District RSL New Farm
Aug 8	Navy Women OGM	Geebung RSL
Aug	Vietnam Veterans Day	TBA
Aug 26	Service @ JACK Southbank	TBA
Sept 12	Navy Women OGM	Geebung RSL
Sept 30	Service @ JACK Southbank	Peacekeepers
Oct 10	Navy Women OGM	Pink Day
Oct 28	Service @ JACK Southbank	Vietnam - Gunline
Nov 6	Navy Women Reunion Luncheon	Geebung RSL
Nov 14	Navy Women OGM	Geebung RSL
Nov 25	Service @ JACK Southbank	HMAS Sydney II
Nov 28	Navy Women XMAS /SECRET SANTA Lunch	Geebung RSL XMAS PARTY

First Tuesday of each month	Western Suburb Lunch
Second Monday 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
Last Thursday of each month	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) ****

July is third Sunday

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



Email us your Updates & details of Payment

Amount paid:

Date paid:

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

Event:

Special Diet:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

Please advise if your next of kin details change.

Bank Details:

Bank of Queensland

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

BSB No: **124 002**

Account No: **22446885**

Reference: **Surname reason/event**

December Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for next newsletter is 30 November 2026.

Please send your stories and photos to:

Editor@nwqld.org.au and include

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.