



Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee

War Nurses Memorial Park & Lions Remembrance Park, Bundaberg

July-November 2022

This project is jointly funded through Bundaberg District Women Veterans Inc and The Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program and is being delivered in partnership with Bundaberg Regional Council.



Australian Government



Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee

Bundaberg District Women Veterans took up an offer made through the Federal Member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt MP, 21 February 2022 to express interest in commemorating the 70th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by participating in a Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program.

President Jennifer Waldron and Commemorations Officer Angella Hillis CSC headed the team which also included Leone Wilson OAM, that would research all of the necessities for the program. The expression of Interest form was lodged 14 March.

Consultation with Bundaberg Regional Council became an integral part of planning with much of this being done 'in anticipation' of being invited to participate by the Hinkler Electorate Committee.

The invitation led to a flurry of grant writing for funding support from the Federal Government and further planning as we awaited the outcome. Planting sites had been decided and suitable trees selected. Approval of the grant came through just days prior to the 'order by' date to obtain the trees.

All of this work was undertaken at the same time as the planning involving the two team leaders, for our 55th Anniversary Reunion, for Anzac Day at the War Nurses, our annual Salute to Servicewomen Quiet Moment tribute and luncheon plus holding our association's Annual General Meeting.

A Service of Remembrance commemorating Vietnam War and Peace Operations' anniversaries would take place on the Sunday of the 55th Reunion, 17 July at War Nurses Memorial Park. Twenty three of the thirty three trees to be planted would be in this park therefore it was a great opportunity to invite our guests and visitors with us for the service, to join us for the ceremonial planting of the first tree in the project. Despite no forewarning, pleasingly, most remained to support the commemoration.



**THE QUEEN'S
PLATINUM
JUBILEE AUSTRALIA 2022**

*Platinum Jubilee
Tree Planting*

**Commemorative Tree Planting
Ceremony to commemorate the
Platinum Jubilee of
Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II**

**Held at War Nurses Memorial
Park, Bundaberg on Sunday
17th July 2022**

**The 'Jubilee Trees for War
Memorial Parks' is a project
proudly delivered by
Bundaberg District Women
Veterans Inc**




**Creating an enduring, living
legacy that will honour
The Queen's 70 years of service
to Australia and the
Commonwealth**

**The project will involve
planting 23 trees at War
Nurses Memorial Park,
commencing on
17th July 2022**

**The project will conclude on
11th November 2022 with 10
trees being planted at Lions
Remembrance Park**

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Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program and
completed in partnership with Bundaberg Regional Council*



At the conclusion of the Service of Remembrance the transition from the War Nurses Memorial Pa-villion and Australian Service Nurses Memorial Wall area to a site in the War Nurses Memorial Park that had been selected by council, was carried out by a workforce made up of members, visitors and guests.

Chairs, lectern, table, sound equipment were all rearranged, joining signage and portraits of the Queen, flags and bunting.



Following completion of the thirty minute exercise the MC, for both events, association president Jennifer Waldron, commenced the ceremonial event by addressing the gathering:

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Bundaberg District Women Veterans it is my honour to welcome you to the Commemorative Tree Planting Ceremony to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.



The gathering were asked to stand for the playing of the Royal Anthem of Australia.

Jennifer continued:

Our 'jubilee trees for war memorial parks' project will create an enduring, living legacy that will honour the Queens 70 years of service to Australia and the Commonwealth. Given The Queen's service during WWII and her role as Colonel in Chief of the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps, it is fitting that the two parks for our project are at Lions Remembrance Park, home of many WWII memorials and here at War Nurses Memorial Park.

We didn't have much time to submit a project, but we had a 'dream' just waiting for an opportunity; and so with the help from the parks staff at Bundaberg Regional Council – a fully designed plan was whipped into shape in a matter of days. The completed project will be a dream come true for

our group of proud women veterans, ensuring our treasured war memorial parks are presented in a fitting manner to the community, and reflecting their high esteem for our war nurses and the men and women who have served Australia.

War Nurses Memorial Park will see 23 trees planted to partner the trees planted at the memorial end of the park in 2014. Both sides of the southern section of the park will be planted with Blueberry Ash Prima Donna – the same pink flowering tree that frames the memorial section. Here at the playground and picnic area – two Weeping Lilly Pillys will be planted and at the centre of the access road – in place of the palms will be planted a Signature Tree – with the rather plain common name of Bumpy Ash.

At Lions Remembrance Park 10 trees will be planted, providing a parade of Hard and Eumundi Quandong trees to complement the war memorials that reside in the park, with the feature tree at this park being a Moreton Bay Fig; with a tree planting event to take place at Lions Remembrance Park on 11 November to mark the completion of the project. Permanent commemorative signage will be installed at both parks once the project has been completed.

Bundaberg District Women Veterans are honoured on behalf of all servicewomen and servicemen of the Bundaberg region to participate in the nation-wide tree planting program, and have distinct pride in delivering a lasting commemorative legacy of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee for the community of Bundaberg.

Jennifer than invited Keith Pitt MP, Federal Member for Hinkler to say a few words. Keith began by recognising those present and a general thank you for attending, plus a thanks to Jennifer.



He went on to say:

The Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee Program commemorates Her Majesty, The Queen's 70 years of service to the Commonwealth and Australia which is a significant milestone.

The Queen holds the record of the longest reign of a British monarch and is the second-longest reigning monarch in history behind French King Louis XIV (14th) who reigned for 72 years and 110 days.

For many of us here today, The Queen is the only monarch we have known.

Before becoming Queen, she served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British Army, during the Second World War – joining when she turned 18 and training as a mechanic. She was also the first female of the Royal family to be an active duty member of the British Armed Forces.

Although there isn't an official count, the Queen is believed to have planted more than 1600 trees throughout her 70 years. The Queen has visited Australia 16 times and on many of these visits has planted trees at community events and ceremonies, so this program is a fitting way to commemorate the Jubilee.

Not only will projects like today's create a long-lasting legacy it will serve to honour the memory of the Queen and her service.

A similar tree planting program has been undertaken in the United Kingdom and there is an interactive map you can see where all the tree plantings are located. Australia will have its own interactive map where this event today will be available to see – along with all tree planting events held around the country. Other local projects will include plantings at Bundaberg Christian College and Bundaberg South State School.

Finally I want to share with you a quote by Nelson Henderson which I think it particularly fitting for today:

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

I hope all of the trees planted in honour of the Queen's Jubilee will flourish to provide shade for our future generations and leave a legacy as important as she has.

Mr Pitt then sought our indulgence as he repeated the Oath that he has made:

I, Keith John Pitt, do swear that I will well and truly serve the people of Australia and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Australia. So help me God!



Jennifer introduced the ceremonial tree planting, inviting Keith Pitt MP, Deputy Mayor, Bundaberg Region, Bill Trevor OAM and patron of Bundaberg District Women Veterans, Leone Wilson OAM to plant the first tree—a *Watershousia Floribunda* (Weeping Lily Pilly).

Major Melissa Millard, Bundaberg Salvation Army provided a Blessing:

Creator of life and sustainer of seed and soil, of tree and flower, you have created this world and all that lives in it. It is to you that we come in this prayer of dedication and blessing, for you are the giver of life and the sustainer of all that lives. We come to you to dedicate this tree in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We ask that you continue to hold her in your generous grace. We give you thanks for her life and leadership. May this tree, and those that will be planted in her honour, remind us of the Queen and her quest for peace throughout the

Commonwealth. May this tree be strong to bear witness to your abundant love and grace. We ask for your blessing upon this tree, that life might dwell and bear witness to our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.



The Australian National Anthem followed. President Jennifer thanked those in attendance:

This project is jointly funded through Bundaberg District Women Veterans and The Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program, and I thank the government for providing funding support.

I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful support provided by Bundaberg Regional Council Parks staff Carla and Cody; their technical assistance has been invaluable.

Thanks to Angella, Leone and Sharon who

have greatly assisted me in getting the project to the start line today; and a special thankyou to our women veterans, including my mates who travelled from Victoria and NSW for the weekend, who have all been put to work making bunting and helping setup for this morning's event.

Thankyou everyone for attending this historic event this morning and that concludes our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting Ceremony.

Jennifer then reminded everyone of the Platinum Jubilee mugs for sale and invited everyone to join us for Morning Tea at Rowers on the River. Most reunion visitors, many members and guests took up the offer and spent a very pleasant hour or so relaxing with a cuppa.



The Queen's Jubilee theme was repeated with bunting decorating the venue, as it had done since the first event of the reunion. The 55th anniversary 'emerald' reunion began on Friday 15th and throughout the weekend, the green theme was partnered by the Queen theme.



Bunting, flags and portraits of Her Majesty were on display for the Friday welcome function, the reunion luncheon on Saturday, the tree planting and the morning tea on Sunday.



Coupled with the Loyal Toast was the screening of a video organised by President Jennifer, of Queen Elizabeth II's 70 year reign on the big screen.



Following the three days involving five activities, two of which were Jubilee specific, the ceremonial planting and the morning tea, came a period of organising the park signage and for council, the planting of remaining trees.



Commemorative mugs that were on sale throughout the reunion and beyond, proved to be very popular and these assisted with our fundraising efforts.

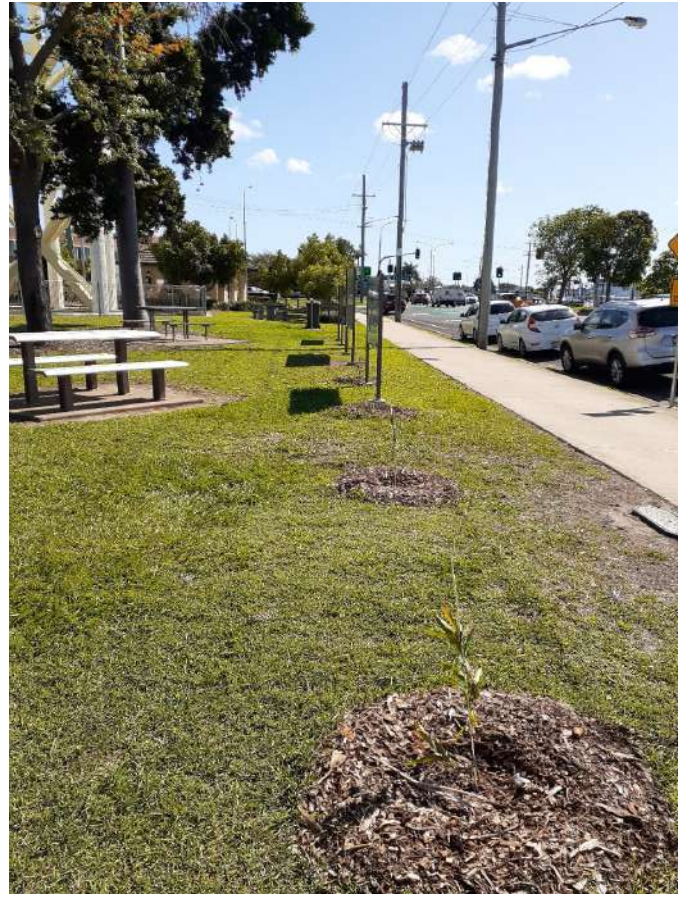
On 9 September 2022, Queen Elizabeth II's reign came to an end with her sad passing. The legacy of the special tree plantings in two war memorial parks took on an added significance.

Spring rain was considerable however by the end of October, most of the trees had been planted and the signs completed and installed. This occurred just prior to a visit to Bundaberg by the Governor of Queensland.

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland and Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD visited War Nurses Memorial Park where Her Excellency laid a wreath at the Australian Service Nurses Memorial Wall.

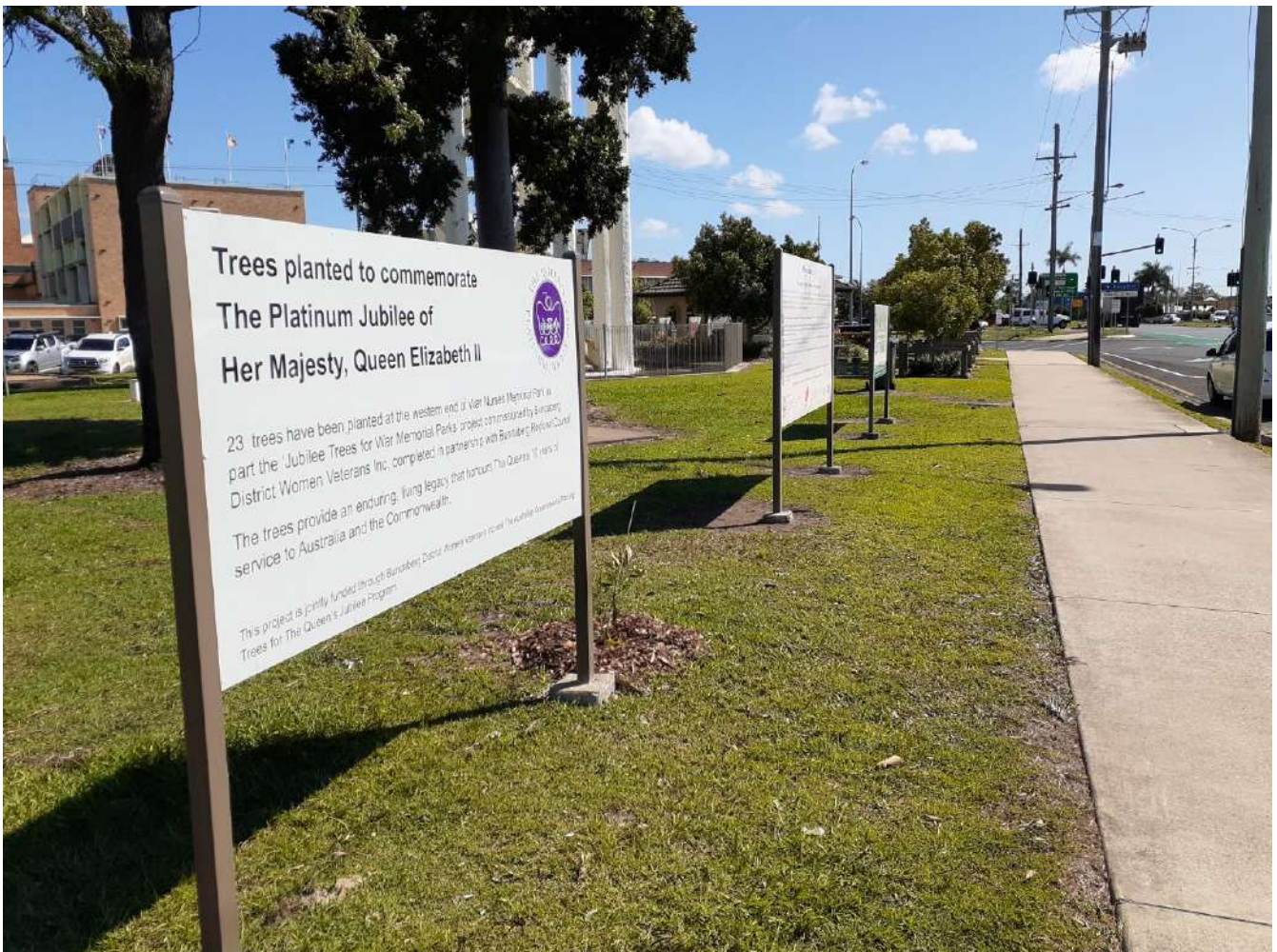
President Jennifer Waldron explained the history and elements of the War Nurses Memorial Park, including the latest addition of trees honouring the Queen's 70 year reign.





War Nurses Memorial Park

Top left: **Tree planting Bourbong Street side**; top right: **tree planting Takalvan Street side**
Below: **Signage (double sided, Takalvan Street side)**





Lion's Remembrance Park
New tree plantings are those with protective stakes





REMEMBRANCE DAY 11 NOVEMBER 2022

Lion's Remembrance Park

Concluding the project of honouring Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with planting of trees was a ceremony involving association members, guests Cr Jack Dempsey, Mayor of Bundaberg Region and Alan Williams, secretary, Bundaberg Lions Club.

Following a welcome and short address by association president Jennifer Waldron, a wreath was laid at the Women of the Australian Defence Force Memorial by Olive Paterson. Shirley Watson recited the poem by John McCrae, *In Flanders Fields* and Dannielle Brearley recited the Ode.



The gathering then moved a short distance to begin the tree ceremony.

After an official welcome and the playing of the Royal Anthem of Australia, President Jennifer Waldron addressed those assembled:

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Before becoming Queen, she served with the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women's branch of the British Army, during the Second World War – joining when she turned 18 and training as a mechanic. She was also the first female of the Royal family to be an active-duty member of the British Armed Forces.

The completed project will be a dream come true for our group of proud women veterans, ensuring our treasured war memorial parks are presented in a fitting manner to the community, and reflecting their high esteem for our war nurses and the men and women who have served Australia.

23 trees have been planted at the western end of War Nurses Memorial Park adding to the trees we planted at the memorial end of the park in 2014 during the Centenary of Anzac.

Here at Lions Remembrance Park 10 trees have been planted, providing a parade of Quandong trees to complement the war memorials that reside here. Permanent commemorative signage has been installed at both parks.

Bundaberg District Women Veterans are honoured on behalf of all servicewomen and servicemen of the Bundaberg region to participate in the nation-wide tree planting program, and have pride in delivering a lasting commemorative legacy of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee for the community of Bundaberg.

President Jennifer then invited Mayor Jack Dempsey, Bundaberg Regional Council, Alan Williams representing Bundaberg Lions Club and Leone Wilson OAM, Patron Bundaberg District Women Veterans to undertake the ceremonial planting of the final tree to mark the conclusion of the Jubilee Trees for War Memorial Parks project.





The National Anthem followed. The ceremony concluded with a thank-you from the president:

This project is jointly funded through Bundaberg District Women Veterans and The Australian Government's Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program, and I thank the government for providing funding support.

I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful support provided by Bundaberg Regional Council Parks staff Carla and Cody; their technical assistance has been invaluable.

Thanks to Angella, Leone and Sharon who have greatly assisted me in getting the project completed; and a special thankyou to our women veterans and everyone who help both at July event and helping setup for this morning's event.

Thankyou everyone for attending this historic event this morning and that concludes our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting Ceremony.

Mayor Jack Dempsey took the opportunity to thank both Bundaberg District Women Veterans and Bundaberg Lions Club for the contributions made to the community of Bundaberg .

Members moved to the association's club room, the Lodge, for morning tea.





At 1100 Hrs those at the lodge joined the rest of Australia in pausing to remember the fallen of all wars on the 104th anniversary of Armistice Day.

A rose was laid at the tri-service flags by Vice President Angella Hillis CSC and the Ode was recited by Dannielle Brearley.

Acknowledgements

Project Manager:

Jennifer Waldron

Commemoration Coordinator:

Angella Hillis CSC

Advisory and practical assistance with trees:

Bundaberg Regional Council Parks and Garden Staff

Photographers:

Queensland Government House Staff, Lorraine Houlihan, Shirley Watson, Olive Paterson, John Wilson OAM, Leone Wilson OAM

Jubilee memorabilia:

Sharon Barsby

Public Address operation:

Sharon Barsby

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Bundaberg District Women Veterans Inc

Planting Trees for the Queen's Jubilee:

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Hinkler Electorate

Program grant funding:-

Australian Government

History recording:

Leone Wilson OAM

