



75 VICTORY

END OF WORLD WAR TWO

75th Anniversary 2020

VP75 BUNDABERG

***Bundaberg's Tribute to the
Women and Men of World War Two***

14 and 15 August 2020

Compiled by Leone Wilson OAM



For the Fallen was composed by British poet, Lawrence Binyon in 1914 whilst sitting on the cliffs of north Cornwall immediately following the retreat from Battle of Mons. The words of the poem about England's young during the First World War are just as appropriate to any war and the sacrifices of any nation's young men and women striving for freedom. The fourth verse has become the Ode of Remembrance.

FOR THE FALLEN

Lawrence Binyon

*With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit.
Fallen in the cause of the free.*

*Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.*

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.*

*But when our desires and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;*

*As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.*



VP75 Bundaberg

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Foreword



On Saturday, 15 August 2020, the service and sacrifice made by thousands of Australian's during the Second World War was commemorated in Bundaberg on the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific.

More than one million Australian men and women served in the Second World War against Germany and Italy in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, against Japan in south-east Asia and the Pacific, as well as on the home front.

The Second World War changed the course of our history and the lives of so many Australians forever in a myriad of ways.

It brought a foreign threat to Australia for the first time, with the Japanese bombing northern parts of the country.

It redefined many aspects of the economic, domestic and international relations landscape, and influenced social issues such as female employment and Indigenous service.

On the 75th anniversary, we came together as a community to pay tribute to the local servicemen and women who were among the more than 39,000 Australians who died, and around 30,000 were taken prisoner during the Second World War.

The service recognized the contributions of all who served and highlighted the role of nurses, including three from Bundaberg who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War: Sisters Pauline Hempstead, Pearl Mittelheuser and Joyce Wylie.

Three new plaques were dedicated during the service: one marking the 75th Anniversary and service of nurses, the second naming all Bundaberg/Burnett Nurses who served overseas during the Second World War and the third paying tribute to the men and women of the Australian Defence Forces who provided care and comfort.

It was wonderful to see some of our local Second World War veterans in attendance at the service of remembrance and it's great to be able to share the events of the day with those who couldn't attend, through this booklet.

Thank you once again to Jenny Waldron, Leone Wilson and Bundaberg District Women Veterans for organising the services to commemorate this important event in Australia's history.

Keith Pitt
Federal Member for Hinkler
Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia



BUNDABERG'S SURVIVING WW II VETERANS

From a list of 45 possibly still in Bundaberg we discovered that unfortunately some had recently passed away. Others had moved or could not be located.

Invitations were sent to all of the following.

Some were unable to come, some did not reply.

Some sent apologies, five attended the dinner and another attended a service.

We have no doubt there were other Bundaberg veterans unknown to us.



75
VICTORY

END OF WORLD WAR TWO
75th Anniversary 2020



WE HONOUR THEM ALL WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE

AGNEW, Ula
AXAM, Jean
BAINBRIDGE, Frederick
BENT, Albert
BISSETT, Donald
CHRISTOU, Joy
COUTTS, Shirley
DENTON, Ernest
EVANS, Alwyne
GLASS, William
HORNE, Elaine
HUGHES, Walter
LLOYD, Harold
MAYKIN, Philip
McGRANE, Mervyn
McNEE, Dossie
MILES, Keith
MORGENSEN, Gordon
MOONEY, Noel
PERSHOUSE, Donald
PETHRIDGE, Richard
REID, Colin
RICE, Alwyn
SAUNDERS, Mervyn
SIMMONS, Leslie
SPRATLEY, Thelma
VUICHOUD, Arnold
WILLIAMS, Olive
WOODWARD, Herbert



Victory in the Pacific—End of world War Two 75th Anniversary Bundaberg

THE TEAM

Bundaberg District Women Veterans

**LEFT: Jennifer Waldron, President
Host and MC for our events**



RIGHT:

**Angella Hillis CSC Commemorations Officer,
Leone Wilson OAM Honorary Secretary.**



BELOW:

**A few of the large number of members who worked toward delivering VP75 Bundaberg:
Sharon Barsby, Treasurer, Lynne Pollock, Jennifer Waldron and Jeannie Roberts**



We recognise the assistance provided toward this publication including funds from the Department of Veterans Affairs *Saluting Their Service Grant*, printing by the Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch and assembly by members of Bundaberg District Women Veterans.

All activities featured in the book contain recognition of the many sponsors and supporters and includes our thanks for their valuable support.

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of those events in 1945 has been a team effort involving our members, other ex service organisations and the Bundaberg community.

None of this may have been possible but for the service of the men and women who protected our nation during the threats of World War Two and provided the peace we now enjoy.

Leone E Wilson

**Leone Wilson OAM
Author and Compiler**



Introduction—Developing VP75 Bundaberg

World War One

Bundaberg & District Ex Servicewomen's Association undertook a number of major projects to enhance War Nurses Memorial Park during Anzac Centenary commemorations. Dedicated in 2014 was a bronze plaque listing of Bundaberg/Burnett Nurses with overseas service during World War One, and a further bronze plaque which identified the many other organisations in which nurses from Australia served, providing care and comfort to the wounded and sick service men.

A commitment was made to produce similar bronze plaques for World War Two, and have them dedicated at an appropriate anniversary.

World War Two

A suitable service to be held at War Nurses Memorial Park would be required to dedicate the new plaques and VP Day, 15 August 2020 was selected as the appropriate occasion for this to occur. Planning for the service and production of the plaques began in the second half of 2019.

The association, renamed Bundaberg Women Veterans in 2018, wished to also honour the women, other than nurses, who served at home and abroad during World War Two. It was some of these women who founded our association in 1967—we wanted to recognise their service. Lions Remembrance Park being the site of a memorial to Defence Force Women, installed by our association, was the logical place for this service.

This led to the organising of the *Sunset Service* on the eve of VP75, 14 August 2020.

The original plan was to hold a small service on 14th August attended mainly by our members plus possibly servicewomen from other Queensland associations and follow that with a Soiree at the Bundaberg Services Club.

Saturday's service at War Nurses would be larger with invitations to dignitaries from the military, all levels of government and ex service organisations plus health providers and the general community, followed by a luncheon on the Terrace also at Bundaberg Services Club.

Early in 2020 some of these plans moved sideways. It became obvious that the servicemen of

World War Two needed to be included and we invited the Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch to have input.

Along came Covid-19 and we were back at the drawing board again. Our venue was forced to restrict numbers, it went from 70 to 10 persons—and then closed down altogether.

Alternate venues were considered on Saturday and they too had uncertainties. The RSL Sub Branch then advised that they were unable to participate, and so:

- Lunch became a dinner. *The Victory Dinner*.
- The servicewomen's service became a service recognising both men and women and included all WW II related memorials in Lions Remembrance Park.
- The War Nurses service became the Bundaberg community's *Service of Remembrance* recognising the 75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific honouring all who served during the Second World War with the service of nurses honoured with two plaques. A third plaque marked the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Stay at home—stay Covid Safe slowed planning almost to a stop, but not a halt. So much had already been arranged it only needed an easing in restrictions to rekindle and restart plans.

This happened in early May and from then until the events were successfully held, the planning and actions became a 7 days a week activity.

Our driving force was the remaining Bundaberg World War Two veterans—we could not let them down.

This booklet, *VP75 Bundaberg* is to reach out to those who were not able to be at the events and is our way of showing that you were included in all activities and intends to provide a virtual experience of being there.

To all World War Two Veterans we will remember you and we thank you for your service.

This book is dedicated to you.

75th VP
Sunset Service

1945-2020
 75th Anniversary 2020



Lions Remembrance Park
1600 Hrs Friday 14 August 2020



Hosted by




SECOND WORLD WAR

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY
 RANNS Royal Australian Naval Nursing Service
 WRANS Women's Royal Australian Naval Service

AUSTRALIAN ARMY
 AANS Australian Army Nursing Service
 AAMWS Australian Army Medical Women's Service
 AWAS Australian Women's Army Service

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
 RAAFNS Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service
 WAAAF Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force

**AUSTRALIAN MERCHANT NAVY and
 AUSTRALIAN WOMENS LAND ARMY** plus
 Civilian support organisations and home-front volunteers

*We salute you and all who served in the name of
 Peace in World War Two*

Wreaths may be laid at any memorial applicable to WW II
 World War Two memorials are, from west to east:
 Prisoners of War
 Milne Bay and Kokoda
 AFC and RAAF
 Lions Remembrance Park - central plinth
 Naval Association of Australia
 Women of the Australian Defence Force
 47th Australian Infantry Battalion
 Rats of Tobruk—this memorial is positioned across a road therefore initial
 placement may be best at the central plinth for transfer later.



Please observe Covid-19 Safe regulations



Associate member, Pamela McNee

1600 Hrs Friday 14 August 2020

It didn't rain—but the ground was damp from
 when it had
 It wasn't too cold—but the wind was relentless
 from the north
 The sun was warm—but way too bright
 The marquee sheltered—but only from leaf and
 bird droppings
BUT
 everyone understood and nobody complained.



Fred & Berris Bainbridge



Robyn & Ray Ellis



**Tony Bruce OAM,
John Rutledge,
Bill Buckley**



Merv McGrane, Noel & Betty Mooney



**Ron Walsh
Flag Orderly**

**Gail McKewen
Daughter of
Ex Service-
women's
foundation
member,
the late
Edith
McKewen
WAAAF**



75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Sunset Service

HOST: Bundaberg District Women Veterans Inc
MC: Ms Jennifer Waldron, President, Bundaberg District Women Veterans
PADRE: Major Melissa Millard, Salvation Army

1550 Assembly please come to order, those with chairs may take your seats

1600 Enter the Banner Parade Piper leading
(please be seated)

Welcome and Introduction MC

Prayer of Remembrance Padre

Poem Ms Helen Baldwin (former WRAAF)
Daughter of World War Two veteran, Fred Bainbridge

Prayer for those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice
Mr Trevor Williamson OAM
President, Wide Bay & Burnett District RSL

Commemorative Address
"Salute to Servicewomen and Servicemen of World War Two"
Mr Stephen Bennett MP, State Member for Burnett

Laying of Wreaths (The MC will call out all wreath layers)
Lament (will be played during the wreath laying ceremony)
Mr Kyle Myers, Piper, Bundaberg Caledonian Pipe Band

Tribute to the Fallen (please stand)
Ode Ms Dannielle Brearley (former RAN)
Last Post Mr Aaron Hunter, Bugler, Bundaberg Municipal Band
Minute's Silence
Rouse Bugler, Bundaberg Municipal Band

National Anthem (please be seated)

Closing Prayers and Benediction Padre

Thank you MC



ENTER THE BANNERS



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**Jennifer Waldron,
Association President**

Distinguished guests, veterans, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Jennifer Waldron, president of Bundaberg District Women Veterans who have the privilege of conducting this afternoon's service.

Spanning 6 years, the Second World War was the most destructive conflict in human history. The defeat of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Imperial, Militarist Japan – claimed 60 million lives; 6 million Jews were murdered in the holocaust. The world would never be the same again.

We were a country of just 7 million when war was declared in September 1939. 1 million Australians mobilized, including 70,000 women who did much, much more than the important task of nursing. We would over the six years that would ensue, send ½ million Australians overseas. 30 thousand would become Prisoners of War. 8

thousand would die in captivity, in the most brutal and unimaginable of circumstances. Almost 40 thousand would not return to their families; over 17 thousand lost their lives fighting the war against the Japanese in the Pacific.

These men and women gifted us our Freedom, they defended Australia and provided us with an enduring legacy of courage, sacrifice, endurance and mateship – a legacy that we all should aspire to uphold.

Good afternoon and a special welcome to World War Two veterans and their families. We also welcome our State and Local Government representatives and the Bundaberg veteran and general community to our sunset service on the 75th Anniversary of the Surrender of Japan, here at Lions Remembrance park; home to the WW II





Helen Baldwin, former WRAAF

Poem

Women of World War Two

Let the generations know
That women in uniform also guaranteed
their freedom

That their resolve was just as great
As the brave men who stood among us...

And with Victory...
Our hearts were just as full and beat just
as fast

That the tears fell just as hard...
For those we left behind

By an unknown Army nurse WWII

memorials listed on page 2 of your program. A poppy posie of remembrance has been placed at each of these memorials.

We pause today to remember the sacrifice, and to honour the service of all who served during The Second World War.

Prayer of Remembrance

There is no greater
love than this, that
someone should
Lay down their life
for their friends.

Their bodies are
buried in peace,
but their names
live forever

Let us remember before God, and commend to His sure keeping,
Those who have died for their country in war;
Those whom we know, and whose memory we treasure;
And all who loved and died in the service of humankind.

Amen



**Major Melissa Millard,
Salvation Army**

Prayer for those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice

Almighty God our heavenly Father,
In this special place of remembrance,
We praise your name for those who laid their lives
In the course of duty and in the cause of peace during the
Second World War.

We thank you for the spirit of sacrifice which inspired them,
And for all that was good in their lives.
And here this afternoon, as we remember them, we pray again
For the grace to follow their good example:
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



**Trevor Williamson OAM,
President WBB District
RSL (left)**

Commemorative Address



**Stephen Bennett MP,
State Member for
Burnett**

Distinguished guests, Veterans of the War in the Pacific, Ladies & gentlemen, boys & girls I am honoured to be with you today to honour those who served in Australia's hour of greatest need, 1942 to 1945.

Australians have served in other wars and other campaigns, but the victory in the Pacific where Australians faced a direct threat of invasion from a powerful enemy is a special event in our history.

Today we remember the 75th anniversary of Japan's acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender on the 14th of August 1945.

For Australians, it meant that the Second World War was finally over.

VP Day (15 August) was and still is a joyous occasion. It was on this day that then Prime Minister Ben Chifley uttered the immortal words: "The War is over."

Nearly 40,000 Australian serving personnel died, including 17,000 in the war against Japan.

The war against Japan began on the 7th of December, 1941 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbour and the Malayan Peninsula and it eventually reached our shores shortly after the fall of Singapore in February, 1942.

More than 80 raids were launched against northern Australia from Broome to Townsville, including 60 against Darwin alone.

Some 240 Australians died in that first Darwin attack of the 19th of February.

In May, three Japanese midget submarines raided Sydney Harbour and others had gone on to sink a number of merchant ships along Australia's east coast.

During their rapid southward advance, the Japanese had taken some 22,000 Australian prisoners; more than 8,000 of those men died in captivity.

In July, 1942, the fighting began on the Kokoda Track in the Australian-mandated territory of Papua.

By early 1943, the Japanese, having reached the limits of their advance in Asia and the Pacific, the tide began to turn against them.

Defeats in the Coral Sea and in Midway, those famous battles at Guadalcanal and in Papua, signalled the beginning of a long but inevitable road to an Allied victory.

Although women have serviced Australia since the Boer War, 1941 was the most important year for women in Australia's armed forces.

March saw the establishment of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF), while the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) and the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) were formed in April and August to cover shortages or to release men for overseas service.

The 66,000 Servicewomen who enlisted during the course of World War Two proved to be indispensable to Australia's war effort.

About 3,500 Australian Army nurses served either overseas or in Australia during World War Two. Those who served close to the battlefield experienced at first hand the discomforts of makeshift field hospitals, mud, dust, bad food, and lack of normal amenities, and the risks and horrors of war.

Many army nurses sacrificed their health and well-being in the service of Australia. Some sacrificed their lives.

We are free in no small way as a result of the events that bring us here today to commemorate the end of the Second World War in the Pacific.

I join with you in honouring those who gave their lives to bring our nation through the perils of the 1940s leading to victory in the Pacific.

To those who served, I salute you and give you my heartfelt thanks.



Wreath laying

Piper Kyle Myers

President Jenny related the following:

Pipe Bands Australia is co-ordinating a national piping and drumming commemoration at locations around Australia to remember and thank those who served in World War Two, those who paid the supreme sacrifice and those who returned to help forge post-war Australia. We are delighted that Lions Remembrance Park is one such location. Our Piper will be playing the VP75-Lest We Forget Lament during the wreath laying, written by Mark Saul to commemorate this special day and in remembrance of the Mildura Pipe Band that enlisted as a group, the only community pipe band to do so, and who were taken prisoners of war to Changi.

*Women Veterans,
Secretary, Leone Wilson OAM
Former WRAAF
ADF Personnel,
Warrant Officer
Monica Jean Roberts RAN
Women of the ADF Memorial*



*Dannielle Brearley, Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch
Pamela McNee, Bundaberg RSL Auxiliary
Trevor Williamson OAM Wide Bay & Burnett RSL District*



*David Batt MP Bundaberg
Deputy Mayor Bill Trevor
Stephen Bennett MP Burnett
Lions Remembrance Park Memorial,
also representing RAT's Memorial*



*Naval
Association of
Australia
Memorial*



**Major Millard
POW Memorial**

**Michael Walker
President
RAAF Assn
Bundaberg
AFC and RAAF
Memorial**



**Gail McKewen
Women of the
ADF Memorial**

The Ode

**Recited by
Dannielle
Brearley
former RAN**



Last Post Minute's Silence Rouse

**Bugler
Aaron Hunter**

National Anthem



Closing Prayer

We remember. God of justice and truth, help us to see past the suffering of this broken world, grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we remember those who served, in the Navy, Army and Air Force during the Second World War and in wars and conflicts since, we honour the past, as we put our faith in your future. You are the source of hope and life, now and forever. Amen

Benediction

Send us out into this dark world to be instruments of peace.

For whoever we meet and wherever we go,

may we be like a light house,
in the name of the Prince of Peace,
Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen



President Jenny Waldron

THANK YOU

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for attending our sunset service, the first time the Bundaberg Women Veterans have hosted such an event. Your attendance ensures the story of those who fought to secure our freedom and defended Australia during the Second World War is remembered and honoured.

Thank you to our official guests, our presiding clergy Major Millard, Stephen Bennett for his address and all who took part in the service this afternoon. Thanks also to Piper Kyle Myers from the Caledonian Pipe Band and Pipe Bands Australia for the special VP75 Lament. Thanks to Bugler Aaron Hunter from the Municipal Band and special thanks to the veterans who took part in the banner parade and all who assisted this afternoon.

A special thank you to the Women Veterans association members who have worked over many months under difficult COVID induced conditions to bring you the 1st of 3 special events to mark the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War 2. Thank you to Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch for providing the shelter and chairs and for printing our programs.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



Bundaberg Regional Council
Bundaberg Salvation Army
Bundaberg Caledonian Pipe Band, Piper Kyle Myers
Bundaberg Municipal Band, Bugler Aaron Hunter
Banner Bearers, Flag Orderly
Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch

Our Special Guests:

Major Melissa Millard, Bundaberg Salvation Army
Councillor Bill Trevor, Deputy Mayor, Bundaberg Regional Council
Mr David Batt MP, State Member for Bundaberg
Mr Stephen Bennett MP, State Member for Burnett
Mr Trevor Williamson OAM, President, Wide Bay Burnett District Branch,
representing State President, Returned & Services League of Australia
Presidents and members, Bundaberg Ex Service Organisations
Participants in the Sunset Service

Our association members

And all who have attended this service to pay tribute to the
Servicemen and Servicewomen of the Second World War

A special welcome and thank you for attending to

Bundaberg's
World War Two Veterans



Program
75th Anniversary Victory Dinner



Presented by: Bundaberg District Women Veterans Inc





Arrangement donated by Julie Crosbie, Julie's Enchanted Florist





75th Anniversary, End of World War Two

Victory Dinner

PROGRAM

1725 Please be seated. Housekeeping announcements

Ceremony Tribute to the fallen and World War Two Veterans

Welcome *Ms Jennifer Waldron,
President, Bundaberg District Women Veterans*

Loyal Toast *Ms Jennifer Waldron*

World War Two Toasts

Women of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Land Army

Mr John Wilson OAM, former RAAF

Men of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Merchant Navy

Mrs Faye Chatham, former WRAAF

Men and Women on the Homefront

Cr Bill Trevor,

Deputy Mayor, Bundaberg Regional Council

Grace *Mrs Ethel Bourke, former WRAAF*

1800 Meal service commences

Commemorative Address

"With Victory comes Peace"

*Mr Trevor Williamson OAM,
President, RSL Wide Bay Burnett District Branch*

Special Toast *Ms Jennifer Waldron*

Presentations

Thank you *Ms Jennifer Waldron*

Raffle will be drawn periodically



Helen Skippen, Con & Faye Chatham

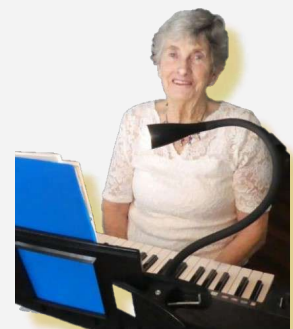


Shirley Watson & Lynne Pollock



Ethel Bourke, Deputy Mayor Bill Trevor

Joy Kachel



Dannielle Brearley, and Gloria Kilpatrick, receive banner parade instructions from Commemorations Officer Angella Hillis



INTRODUCTION

(Slightly briefed)

**Jennifer Waldron,
President**

Bundaberg District Women Veterans

My name is Jennifer Waldron, President of Bundaberg Women Veterans, our hosts for this evening; and I have the privilege and pleasure to also be your MC for our Victory Dinner.

Please ensure you all observe the COVID Safe rules as you enjoy your evening with Social distancing being key for us tonight with so many of us in the higher risk age group, (well 90% of us by looking around the room).

Unfortunately, the COVID requirements also mean we are limited to only kissing and canoodling with those we share a house with, no bursting into loud singing; which for some of us is a darn good thing and lastly, the dance floor is to only be gazed at longingly by those light on their toes, but not actually to be used for dancing. Please remain seated at your table whenever possible.

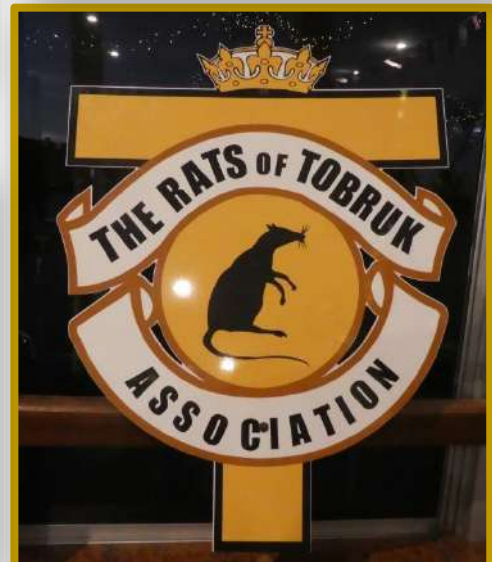
But let's not dwell on what we can't do, but on what we can do. It would have been very easy to say " it's just too darn hard to do anything in the current world of COVID 19" but to miss the opportunity to mark the 75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific and the end of the world war with our World War Two veterans would have been extremely sad and disappointing for everyone, not just us, to say the very least. After all, this may well be our last opportunity to do so in an official setting.

'Can Do' WW2 women veterans founded our Women Veterans association, so we were pretty determined to 'do something' to honour them and so we soldiered through uncertain times– and the results speak for themselves; with the Victory Dinner tonight, and our two commemorative services.

The banners were paraded through the dining room and bearers halted where they would be placed on display.

With President Jenny leading, two verses of the Ode to the Fallen were recited. Jenny was joined by Noel Mooney and Merv McGrane for the second verse.





This evening We salute the women and men who served during World War Two who won marvelous Victories, firstly in Europe and the Pacific. By way of introduction, and in true military style, I would now like to call the Roll for those veterans who are our Guests of Honour this evening; representing all of their generation who answered the call.



**QF268558 WARRANT OFFICER CLASS TWO
ULA MARJORIE AGNEW nee TURNER
1943-1946
AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ARMY SERVICE.
AUSTRALIA:
YERONGA, INDOOROOPIILLY, FRASERS Paddock**

Ula with son Philip

**QX61475 PRIVATE
FREDERICK PERCY BAINBRIDGE
1942-1946
26 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION.
RABAU, BOUGAINVILLE, PAPUA, NEW GUINEA**

Fred with wife Berris



**579197 CORPORAL
ALWYNE ERIC EVANS
1942-1953
ROYAL AIR FORCE.
UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY**

Eric



Noel Mooney and Merv McGrane with Ula and Fred

**151367 LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN
NOEL MOONEY**
1944-1946
8 SQUADRON,
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
PACIFIC, ATTAPE NEW GUINEA

**435173 WARRANT OFFICER
MERVYN MATTHEW MCGRANE**
1943-1946
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
Seconded to
ROYAL AIR FORCE
AIR COMMAND SOUTH EAST ASIA



WELCOME

Distinguished Guests, Veterans, sponsors and supporters, ladies and gentlemen. A very warm welcome everyone to our 75th Anniversary Victory Dinner – celebrating the Victory over Japan and the End of World War 2.

Apologies: We have apologies from Air Commodore Sue McCready CSC, Colonel Gabby Costigan MBE, Group Captain Kathleen Pyne, (these women were planning to be here as Official Guest, but COVID 19 restrictions have been placed upon them in recent weeks);

Hon Keith Pitt MP, Mr David Batt MP, Mr Stephen Bennett MP, Dr Brad Murphy, Alan Macgillivray; we have apologies from WW2 veterans Merv Saunders, Les Simmons, Jack Vuichoud, Herb Woodward.

I would now like to introduce Our Official Guests for this evening's Victory Dinner:

- Deputy Mayor Bundaberg Regional Council, Cr Bill Trevor
- Mr Trevor Williamson OAM, President RSL Wide Bay Burnett District Branch, and also representing President Qld RSL State Branch

We have veterans from various groups and of all ages, as well as members of the Bundaberg community here this evening, and I would just like to take this opportunity to introduce them to you: Representatives and members :

- Nashos and RAAF Association
- A large group from Drop In Centre including of course the Vietnam Veterans
- RSL Sub Branch, both members and staff
- Bundaberg Services Club is also represented tonight and of course
- We have our hosts for the Victory Dinner the Women Veterans

Perhaps we can gauge by a cheer – those of the Navy; the Army; the Air Force

Members of the community who have supported veterans were extended an invitation and we are delighted that the general community is represented by our guests who have joined us tonight. With us are medical folk Dr Michael Delany and Angella Lathouras and Dr Mohammed Hussein with Stephen Skippen a retired physio attending as a friend. Ross Driver who painted the War Nurses mural is here and also Trevor Green from the Moncrief Theatre who assisted with Raffle donations. To everyone not mentioned, visiting veterans, the family and friends of veterans, a very special welcome to you also.

To our WW2 veterans and their families; this night is your night; this is the night where all of us here tonight, can show our appreciation and admiration to you; the greatest Australian generation of men and women, who gifted us the country we grew up in, the country we call home and the freedoms we all love – you represent all of your generation this evening.

We know this gift was won at great cost and those sacrifices were honoured at our service held this afternoon and will be again tomorrow at the main commemorative service to be held at War Nurses Memorial Park. This evening is about Victory! So let's celebrate and enjoy ourselves. Joy Kachel will entertain us on the keyboards playing the wonderful music from the 40s during the evening and as you know we have physio, chiropractic and orthopedic services all covered here tonight; But please we don't want you to 'need' their help tonight – so don't get too excited sitting in your seats!!

TOASTS

Ladies and Gentlemen, those able, please rise for the Loyal Toast *"The Queen"*



During the second world war from September 1939 to August 1945, many thousands of Australian women served in the Navy, Army, Air Force and the Land Army.

There are many stories that can be told by these ladies and many more about them of their heroism, their diligence, their hard work and humorous adventures.

There were also sacrifices. The shooting of 21 Australian Army Nurses by the Japanese on Banka Island on the 16th of February 1942. Sister Vivian Bullwinkel was the sole survivor of that massacre; and the sinking of the Hospital Ship *Centaur* off the Queensland coast by a Japanese submarine on the 14th of May 1943. Of the 12 AANS nurses on board only Sister Ellen Savage survived. Many nurses died as Prisoners of War. Three AANS nurses from Bundaberg did not return home.

the RAN Nursing Service also had overseas service as did a large number of medical orderlies of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service. A number of members of the Australian Army Womens Service served in New Guinea.

With the bulk of servicemen involved in conflict areas around the world it was left to the women of the Womens Royal Australian Naval Service, the Australian Army Womens Service and the Womens Australian Auxiliary Air Force to fill the vacancies within Australia in numerous military trades from clerical and catering to aircraft and vehicle mechanics, plotting and signals. Members of the Australian Womens Land Army provided the very much needed farm labour workforce.

The servicewomen were passionate about their job and the mateships formed proved



**Toast to the women of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Land Army
John Wilson OAM, former RAAF**

Many nurses serving in the RAAF Nursing Service and

life-long. Bundaberg & District Ex Servicewomen's Association's history *Mothers Daughters Wives* records many stories.

Alice McArthur (nee Wedemeyer) was born in Gayndah and joined the AWAS becoming an ambulance driver. Part of the story Alice relates: "Our role in the Australian Defence Force was to meet all transport bringing back wounded and sick troops. The Air Force planes landed at Archerfield and Amberley. We sat waiting for the planes to appear in the sky day and night. We also met the hospital ships, including the *Oranje*, with the first Prisoners of War (POWs) coming home. Some of the POWs had to be flown off the ships via the flying fox, and from the dock they were put into the back of our ambulances and transported to the various hospitals, depending on how sick they were. Some were so sick they were deemed 'not for public viewing' and we took them up to 42 General Hospital US Army

at Stuartholme, the old Catholic Convent School, north of Mt Gravatt - in the bush it was. They were there for some weeks and when they were strong enough, only the drivers who took them up

there were allowed to transport them to Greenslopes; and I was one of those drivers."

Ladies & gentlemen, please raise your glass in a toast to

the Australian Servicewomen of World War Two, that their contribution never be forgotten.

Australian World War Two Servicewomen!



**Toast to the men of the
Navy, Army, Air Force and Merchant Navy
Faye Chatham, former WRAAF**

Being the daughter of parents who both served during the war; my father who was in the Army and a Rat of Tobruk and my Mum who passed away this week and would have been 96 in September served in the WAAAFs, it is my honour to propose this toast this evening –

The following is based on a poem written by 11 year old Jodie Johnson in 1966

Who Are These Men?

Who are these men who marched so proud,
Who quietly weep, eyes closed, head bowed?
These are the men who once were boys,
Who missed out on youth and all its joys.

Who are these men with aged faces,
Who silently count the empty spaces,
These are the men who gave their all,
Who fought for their country, for freedom, for all.
These are the men who saw young men die.
The price of peace is always high.

Who are these men who in midst of pain,
Whispered comfort to those they would not see again?
These are the men who held tomorrow,
Who brought back our future with blood, tears and sorrow.

Who are these men who promised to keep,
Alive in their hearts the ones God holds asleep?
These are the men to whom I promise again,
Veteran, my friends –
I WILL REMEMBER THEM.

*Ladies and Gentleman, those who are able, please rise and join me in a
Toast to the men of World War Two—
The World War Two Men of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Merchant Navy*



**Toast to the
Men and Women on the Homefront
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bill Trevor**

Bill began with an off the cuff address:
"I will paint you a picture..."

and his description brought the 1940's homefront to life
as he told of the families separated by war;

Bill then presented a poem written by H Cary. We
acknowledge the permission by H Cary, through
Gladstone RSL Sub Branch to use the poem which is
copyright H Cary.

ODE TO THE PEOPLE AT HOME.

They were our parents and our grand-parents,
They were our spouses, children, and other kin,
They were our friends, and people we did not know,
They were those who could not go.
They saw us depart with heavy hearts,
They waited at home with love and hope,
Knowing that some of us would not stay whole,
Knowing that some of us would not return,
They bore their hurts in silence.

While they prayed each day that a telegram would not come,
They did not sit idle or bereft,
They went on the farms to grow the crops,
They went into the factories, they drove the trucks,
They provided the home defences and support,
They knitted and cooked, and made the comforts to send,
They sent us the news from home with tender love,
They endured the rationing done for us,
They were our reason to continue on.

They all rejoiced at our return,
Though some with anguish and sadness
Of kin left in other lands.

They were the people of Australia
They were the people of New Zealand
They kept us and our countries strong.

We who went, and we who are left,
We thank them.



GRACE

**Ethel
Bourke**

**Mick Harvey,
Mick Walker**

Formalities were then paused for the service of the main course.
Time to meet some who were in attendance:



Colleen & Neville Dawson



Eric Evans with son Clive Evans

Sue (Veska) Ericsson, Cheryl Wright, Hilda Reichle, Pam Scott



**Ron Walsh &
Dannielle Brearley**



Russell & Gloria Kilpatrick



David Scott & Lenny Reichle



Con & Faye Chatham



Bill & Jude Binder

Steve & Helen Skippen



Shirley Watson



Pamela McNee





Ethel Bourke, Kerry Clements, Dot Carroll



Nic & Jamie Waddington



Rod & Shirley Parker



Angella & Bill Hillis



Sharon Barsby & Lynne Pollock



John & Leone Wilson



Michael Delaney & Angela Lathurous

Michael Meldrum & Lyn Freeman



Trevor Green & Helen Blackburn



Ula Agnew & Dannielle Brearley



Michael Delaney & Merv McGrane



President Jenny, MC:

Ladies and Gentlemen it is my pleasure to introduce Mr Trevor Williamson OAM who will deliver this evening's Commemorative Address "With Victory comes Peace".

Trevor joined the Australian Regular Army in 1964 at the age of 17 years having followed other family members into the military. In 1967/68 he served in South Vietnam with the 2nd Transport Platoon Royal Australian Army Service Corps. During a career spanning twenty years, one of the more interesting appointments was to oversee the commencement of the Army Transport Museum at Seymour where his voluntary team restored many historical vehicles.

In 1982 he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal, OAM (Military Division) for services to the Royal Australian Corp of Transport. He says the medal presentation ceremony was one of the most memorable occasions as it was presented by Queen Elizabeth II at Parliament House in Brisbane during her visit to open the Commonwealth Games.

During the Commonwealth Games Trevor was responsible for controlling the Transport fleet which transported the athletes to the various venues.

Retiring from the Army in 1984, Trevor joined Brambles Transport Group where he spent twenty years working in senior management for Cleanaway Queensland.

Trevor is a Director of RSL Queensland Board and has been a member of the Wide Bay Burnett District Board for the past 5 years, he is currently the District President.

I first met Trevor in 1980 when I was assigned to work at the Army Transport Museum while waiting for my drivers' course to commence. I helped with cleaning and maintenance on the old military vehicles being restored and I remember the experience of driving an old Blitz (similar to the one my Great Aunt drove during the war) at a parade and the bizarre starting procedure for the old Studebaker trucks. He made an impression then, and he still does. Please welcome Trevor to the stage.

**Commemorative Address
"With Victory comes Peace"
Trevor Williamson OAM
President, RSL Wide Bay & Burnett
District Branch**

When we think back to the end of WW2, we remember those now famous photographs showing the jubilation, and thousands of people dancing in the streets. Just like the celebrations three months earlier in Europe, it was Australia's turn to celebrate victory.

Australia entered World War II on 3 September 1939 with over 993,000 serving in the armed forces – a far greater number than in WW1. For the first time, Australians were conscripted into active service. Over 27,000 Australians were killed and a further 23,000 wounded with 30,000 men and women taken prisoner of war with many suffering great atrocities at the hands of the Japanese.

Australians were involved in campaigns against Germany and Italy in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, as well as against Japan in south-east Asia and other parts of the Pacific closer to home.

At the time of VP Day, Australian forces were engaged in campaigns across the Pacific – in places such as New Guinea, Bougainville, New Britain, Borneo, and in the Philippines - and Australian prisoners of war were spread throughout Asia.

For the first time Australia was directly under threat and there was a very real fear of being invaded by Japanese forces. The attacks by the Midget Submarines on Sydney Harbour, the bombing of Darwin and later the bombing of Townsville, have left an indelible imprint in our memories.

The battles for Papua (New Guinea) are well documented and it is the Kokoda Track Campaign which many consider "The Battle which saved Australia". The Battle of Kokoda was a four-month struggle which began with the Japanese landing in Papua in July 1942. It was to be one of the most difficult operations by Australian troops in World War II with progress hampered by the difficult terrain, short supplies and tropical diseases.



At the Battle of Milne Bay a second Japanese attempt to land in Papua (New Guinea) was defeated and at the Battle of Buna-Gona, which ended in January 1943, the Japanese army in Papua (New Guinea) was finally destroyed.

Today, we are grateful to the men and women who served in WW2 to protect this great country and our way of life.

Before the outbreak of war in 1939, the majority of women stayed at home or worked as domestics. As the war progressed the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) was established. More than 24,000 women joined marking the first time women were permitted to serve in the military. While it was initially thought women would be confined to roles such as typists and cooks, AWAS members served in army ordnance, artillery, intelligence and signals corps.

They carried out welding, machine repair, operating tractors and other large engines. They made uniforms, weapons and ammunition. They helped build trucks, tanks and airplanes. They carried out clerical and manual work, maintaining transport and equipment crucial to the war effort and driving everything from cars to amphibious vehicles. As the situation became more desperate, some women were called on to serve overseas, particularly in New Guinea. They worked on observation posts and as anti-aircraft gunners, drivers, mechanics, and radio operators.

Women also stepped into agricultural jobs. A volunteer force called the Australian Women's

Land Army was established in July 1942. Women worked on farms - ploughing, harvesting, milking cows. They were essential in keeping up the food supply of Australia. As agricultural labourers were seconded to serve in the military.

When WWII ended, the government took an entirely new approach to migration. The near invasion of Australia by the Japanese caused Prime Minister Ben Chifley to rethink ideal population numbers and state, 'We must populate Australia as rapidly as we can before someone else decides to populate it for us'.

The Assisted Passage Migration Scheme, was launched in 1945 as part of the Populate or Perish Policy. The scheme offered British subjects subsidised passage to Australia and the promise of job opportunities and affordable housing once here. These new arrivals were known as 'Ten Pound Poms', named after the price of their fare.

Between 1945 and 1965 more than two million migrants came to Australia. Hundreds of thousands of displaced Europeans, including for the first time large numbers of Jews. The Commonwealth Government paid most of their fare to get to Australia. In return they had to stay in Australia for at least two years and work in whatever jobs the Government gave them.

Most migrants arrived by ship, disembarking in major cities such as Melbourne and Sydney. From there they were immediately taken to migration hostels in rural areas, often in former military barracks such as the Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre. The intention was that migrants only stay four to six weeks until they could be resettled near their workplace.

All assisted migrants aged over 16 had to work. Regardless of qualifications men were classified as labourers and women as domestics.

Some found work on the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme, others in factories and others did the hard and dirty jobs in heavy industry. Skilled migrants found it hard to find work to suit their training and qualifications and had to accept what work was available.

At times, however, work was difficult to find

and some stayed for months if not years. However, many of the migrants who settled in Queensland took up jobs in the cane fields and the tropical fruit industry in Queensland. Many of you who are sitting here tonight may well know some of those families.

In reflection the war changed the way the defence forces accepted women. Progressively over the last 75 years we have seen women take up more roles in the 3 Defence services. Today we have women flying fighter jets, actively commanding front line soldiers in the field and commanding our ships at sea.

It would be great if I could stand here this evening and say that Australia will not in the future be involved in armed conflict throughout the world. However, as history records over the last 75 years we have seen conflicts such as Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan which has put the men and women of our Defence force in harm's way. It could be well said that the generation who fought in the second world war helped to shape the nation we are today.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

President Jenny, MC:

Ladies and Gentleman, waiters will now serve port and a chocolate in preparation for our final toast of the evening which will commence very shortly. Please hold off on tasting the port 'til then.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please turn your attention to the TV screens at the side of the room to view a short video tribute from the Australian War Memorial – Victory and Peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen, those able please stand for a toast to the Victory they won for us and the Peace they secured.



"To Victory and Peace"



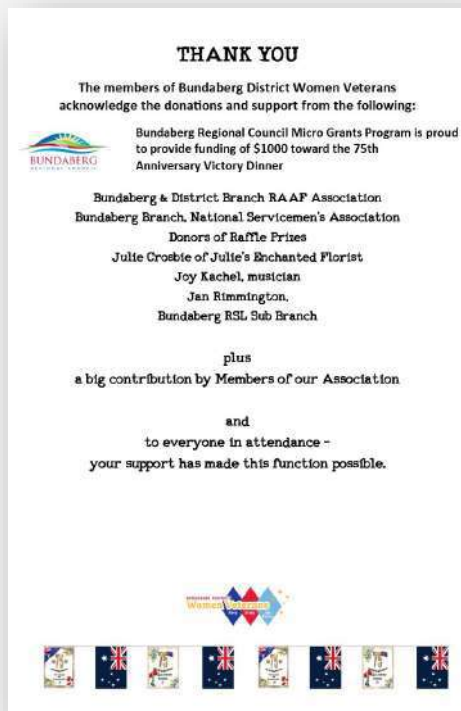
Trevor Williamson OAM, Bill Trevor, Betty & Noel Mooney, Jennifer Waldron, Merv McGrane, Fred Bainbridge, and Ula Agnew



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

113022





MC:

Thank you all for attending, especially our WW2 veterans and families, our official guests, Cr Bill Trevor and Trevor Williamson OAM, and all who participated in this evening's program.

Thanks to Rachel and staff at Rowers for your wonderful assistance and to those organisations and individuals who made donations to assist in covering costs for the event a very special thank you, frankly we would have been struggling without you, a list of major supporters and donors is on the rear page of your program. I would like to acknowledge the BRC micro grant funding of \$1000 towards the Victory Dinner, and the financial contribution from the Nashos and RAAFA and a late contribution from Aim Hearing which is greatly appreciated. Some business donors missed the cut off date for printing of the program – but their support is noted on the Raffle Prize lists on your tables; and we thank our wonderful business community for their support to veterans and this special dinner event. RSL Sub Branch provided some equipment, memorabilia and kindly printed our programs.

Thank you, Mick Harvey, for providing transport for some of our WW2 veterans, to Jan Rimmington for the table centerpieces and Joy Kachel for entertaining us this evening. Thanks also to Helen Blackburn and Trevor

Green for their efforts in sourcing raffle prize donations from local businesses; who are operating under difficult conditions at present.

Thanks also to my fellow women veteran members Angella, Lynne, Sharon, Kay, Pamela, Leone and all their helpers who assisted in all sorts of ways to present the Victory Dinner this evening.

Of course the biggest thanks go to you all - everyone here tonight; without your support, this Dinner just would not have gone ahead. Thank you so much for attending and supporting our raffle.

Bundaberg veterans and community have risen to the challenge of 'venturing out at night during COVID 19' and I could not be more proud of our collective group: A small victory in itself to have so many of us from the different groups all here in the one room. But we are all here for the same purpose – to Salute our WW2 veterans and to Celebrate their Victory. And salute them I hope we have.

Ladies and gentlemen that concludes our 75th Anniversary Victory Dinner

THANK YOU to

- ♦ 1770 Reef Great Barrier Reef Eco Tours
- ♦ Avenell Brothers
- ♦ Cha Cha Chocolates
- ♦ Chippendalls
- ♦ Friendly Society Chemist
- ♦ Kalki Moon
- ♦ Macadamias Australia
- ♦ Malouf Pharmacy, North Bundaberg
- ♦ Moncrieff—Bundaberg Regional Council
- ♦ Shoe Fringe
- ♦ Tinaberries
- ♦ Warners Fine Jewellery
- ♦ AIM Hearing
- ♦ Julie's Enchanted Florist
- ♦ Bundaberg Regional Council—Mini Grant
- ♦ Bundaberg & District RAAF Association
- ♦ Bundaberg Branch, National Servicemen's Association
- ♦ Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch
- ♦ Bundaberg Rowers on the River
- ♦ Jan Rimmington
- ♦ Joy Kachel

PLUS MANY MEMBERS FOR
DONATIONS AND WORK
& ex service organisations and community support



Please pass on our special greetings and very best wishes on Saturday as the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II is celebrated in Bundaberg.

I vividly remember watching the Post Office flag run up to signal the end of World War II as I was waiting for a bus bringing in a friend from Sharon to join me for the school holidays.

Then 50 years later I was so honoured to be guest speaker at the re-dedication of the War Nurses' Memorial opposite the Hospital.

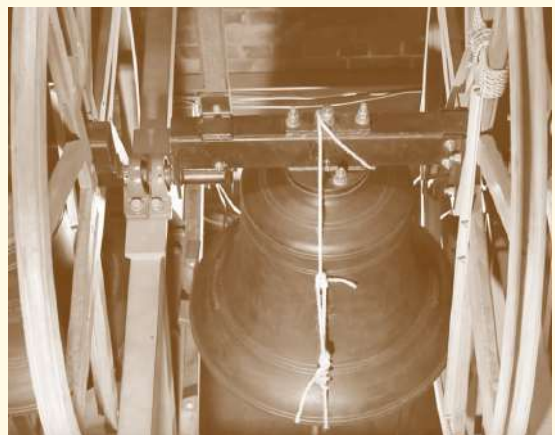
Shirley McIvor OAM

*Daughter of an original Anzac,
Lt George Jamieson, MC and Butler Medal,
(Shirley & Trevor McIvor, Toowoomba)*

Publicity provided to BUNDABERG NOW including description from Christ Church Anglican Church bell-ringer Russell Cobb:

The Peace Bell, the heaviest of the six bells in the War Memorial Bell Tower at Christ Church Anglican Church, will be rung at 9.30 am, Saturday 15th August to mark the 75th anniversary of the declaration of peace by then Prime Minister of Australia Ben Chifley who, on 15 August 1945, at 0930 said "...the war is over." The bell will be rung 75 times in recognition of the 75th anniversary. Each ring will consist of a loud bright ring followed by a muffled sombre echo, reminding us that peace came at a great cost to many men and women and their families.

A Service of Remembrance for all who served during World War Two, organised by Bundaberg Women Veterans, will be held at War Nurses Memorial Park and will also commence at 0930. Covid-19 restrictions will permit up to 100 persons to attend the service. All attendees will be requested to practice Covid Safe measures including social distancing.'

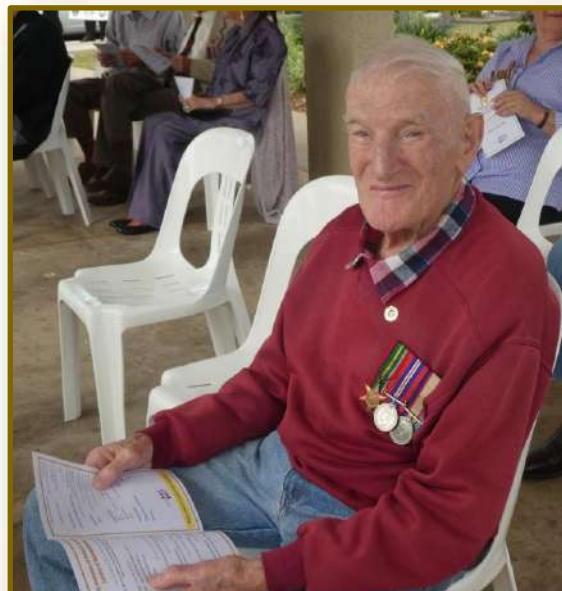




Fred Bainbridge with wife Berris, grand-daughter Bailee, and daughter Helen



Merv McGrane & Noel Mooney



Les Simmons



Glenda Everton-Brocklesby & Shirley Watson



Lynne Pollock & Kay Littler



75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Service of Remembrance

Host: Bundaberg District Women Veterans Inc

MC: Ms Jennifer Waldron, President Bundaberg District Women Veterans
PADRE: Major Melissa Millard, Salvation Army

- 0925 Please take your seats
- 0930 Enter the Banner Parade Piper leading (please be seated)
- Welcome and Introduction MC
- Commemorative Prayers Padre
- Reading Ms Helen Baldwin
former WRAAF
Daughter of World War Two veteran, Fred Bainbridge
- Prayer for those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice
Mr Trevor Williamson OAM
President, RSL Wide Bay Burnett District Branch
- Commemorative Addresses
"75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific"
Hon Keith Pitt MP
Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia,
Federal Member for Hinkler
- "War Nurses of the Second World War"
Captain Nicole Blackley
Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps
- Plaque Unveiling and Introduction
75th Anniversary of the end of WW II—Australia's War Nurses
Hon Keith Pitt MP

- Roll of Honour WW II nurses Cr Jack Dempsey
Mayor, Bundaberg Regional Council
- Comfort and Care WW II Mr David Batt MP
State Member for Bundaberg
- Plaque Dedication Padre
- Honour Roll, Bundaberg WW II Nurses Miss Bailee Baldwin
Student, Shalom Catholic College
Granddaughter of World War Two veteran, Fred Bainbridge
- Laying of Wreaths (The MC will call out all wreath layers)
- Lament (will be played during the wreath laying ceremony)
Mr Adam Johnston
Piper, Bundaberg Caledonian Pipe Band
- Tribute to the Fallen (please stand)
- Ode Captain Nicole Blackley
- Last Post Mr Aaron Hunter, Bugler, Bundaberg Municipal Band
- Minute's Silence
- Rouse Bugler, Bundaberg Municipal Band
- National Anthem (please be seated)
- Closing Prayers and Benediction Padre
- Thank you MC



Please observe Covid-19 Safe regulations

**Ladies and Gentlemen, those who are able
please stand for entry of the World War Two
banners "**

"Piper March in the Banners"



WELCOME

Distinguished Guests, Veterans,
Nurses, Ladies and Gentlemen.
My name is Jennifer Waldron,
president of Bundaberg District
Women Veterans who have the

privilege of con-
ducting this morn-
ing's service of Re-
membrance here
at War Nurses Me-
morial Park on the 75th Anni-
versary of Victory in the Pacific.
VP Day signifies the end of a
time in our nation's history
when Australia was vulnerable
to invasion and when our free-
dom was threatened.



Today we remember the
men and women who
served during the Sec-
ond World War and
commemorate those
who did not return to
their families. These
men and women gifted
us our Freedom, they
defended Australia and
provided us with an en-
during legacy of cour-
age, sacrifice, endurance
and mateship – a legacy

that we all should aspire to up-
hold.

Good morning, and a special
welcome to World War Two
veterans and their families. We
also welcome our National,
State and Local Government
representatives, our nurses,
veterans and members of the
Bundaberg community.

I now invite Major Melissa Millard to deliver the Commemorative Prayer



**O God, our ruler and guide,
In whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation,
We give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land
And for those who laid down their lives to defend them
during the Second World War:**

**We pray that we and all the people of Australia,
Gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice,
May have grace to live in a spirit of justice,
Of generosity, and of peace:**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. Amen**

This morning's reading will be delivered by Air Force veteran and daughter of WW2 veteran Fred Bainbridge who is here this morning, Mrs Helen Baldwin

*This morning's reading is from the Gospel of **JOHN**
chapter **15** verses **12** and **13***

Jesus said, "this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life
for one's friends."**



The prayer for those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice will be delivered by Mr Trevor Williamson OAM, President RSL Wide Bay Burnett District Branch, also representing RSL Qld State president



**God of love and freedom, we bring our thanks this day
For the peace and security we enjoy,
Which was won for us through the courage and devotion
Of those who gave their lives during the Second World War.**

**We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain,
But that their spirit may live on in us and in the generations to come.
That the freedom, justice and humanity which they sought to pre-serve**

May be seen and known in all the nations upon earth.

**This we pray in the name of the one who
Gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The first of our two commemorative addresses this morning will be delivered by the Hon Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia, and Federal Member for Hinkler



COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS *"75th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific"*

Thank you for the invitation to join you here today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific.

On August 15, 1945, Prime Minister Ben Chifley told Australians in a national broadcast:

"Fellow citizens, the war is over.

"The Japanese Government has accepted the terms of surrender imposed by the Allied Nations and hostilities will now cease. The reply by the Japanese Government to the note sent by Britain, the United Nations, the USSR and China, has been received and accepted by the Allied Nations.

"At this moment let us offer thanks to God.

"Let us remember those whose lives were given that we may enjoy this glorious moment and may look forward to a peace which they have won for us."

This news was met with widespread celebrations, with people congregating in the streets,

relieved that the war was finally over.

However, like all theatres of war, it came at a cost to thousands of Australian servicemen and women who died fighting for our country.

It's that sacrifice – the ultimate sacrifice – we pay tribute to today.

The Second World War was a significant event in Australia's history.

Not only did conflict come to our shores for the first time, the changes to immigration policy after the war ended, and the post-war recovery efforts, helped shape Australia as we know it today.

Almost one million Australians served in the armed forces – a significant number considering the population was around 7 million at the time.

More than 39,000 Australians died during the Second World War.

Over 17,000 of them lost their lives fighting in the war against Japan.

Some 30,000 Australian servicemen and women were made prisoners of war.

Almost every Australian community has seen its young men and women go off to war to help defend our country.

Our war memorials and rolls of honour carry their names and we honour their service, whether they served on home soil or in foreign lands.

Without the sacrifice of each and every soldier – since the First World War through to those deployed overseas today – our lives would be vastly different.

Today, almost 12,000 Second World War veterans are still with us, and I'm pleased to see some of our veterans here today with their families.

During the Second World War our servicemen and women fought in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, as well as in south-east Asia and the Pacific, and on the home front.

And while Victory in Europe was declared in May 1945, fighting in the Pacific region continued until August 1945.

The Japanese bombed northern parts of Australia – Darwin and Broome – and attacked Sydney Harbour with midget submarines.

During the last years of the war with Japan, thousands of Australian men and women served in Australia's largest military campaigns in the islands north of Australia: on the mainland of Papua New Guinea and its islands of Bougainville and New Britain, and in Borneo.

In late 1944, the Australians took over former American bases in northern New Guinea, on Bougainville and on New Britain and the troops were determined to defeat the large numbers of Japanese forces which remained there.

The Japanese refused to con-

cede defeat and they continued to fight the Australians in long and bloody battles.

In 1945, Australian forces launched three military actions against Japanese-held Borneo: at Tarakan, at Labuan-Brunei Bay and at Balikpapan. These were the biggest and final Australian campaigns of World War II.

Throughout the Second World War, Australian women came into their own in the war efforts, and took on critical roles that shaped not just our war efforts but Australian society in the years following the war.

As you will know, they served as nurses overseas – which you will hear more about later – as well as in auxiliary services in Australia and overseas.

But labour shortages forced the government to allow women to take a more active role in war work, leading to the establishment of Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force and the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service.

The Australian Women's Army Service was established with the aim of releasing men from certain military duties in base units in Australia for assign-

ment with fighting units overseas.

Outside the armed services, the Women's Land Army was established to encourage women to work in rural industries.

Women in urban areas took up employment in industries that previously had been entirely held by men, such as munitions production, and they played a vital role in keeping the economy going through uncertain times.

The war with Japan came to a sudden end 75 years ago, with many Commonwealth officials expecting it to continue into 1946.

Demobilisation started in October 1945 and by the end of 1946 more than half a million men and women had returned to civilian life.

Concerns about post-war unemployment were unfounded with many discharged servicemen finding jobs and the unemployment figure remained very low for a number of years.

It was in 1948-49 when post-war reconstruction really gained momentum in Australia.

There was an expansion in secondary industries, with the number of factories almost dou-

bling since pre-war years.

The first all-Australian car, the Holden, was launched in November 1948 and is considered a symbol of post-war reconstruction.

A large range of public works were being constructed by state and Commonwealth Governments, including the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, and this too continued for the next decade.

And in 1948 and 1949, there were significant changes to Australia's population with the arrival of the ten pound Pom's and refugees from European countries arriving in large numbers.

What followed was two decades of population growth, with it almost doubling in size by 1970.

Without the service of the veterans we are here to remember today, our country would look very different.

Each and every serviceman and woman who enlisted to serve our nation deserves our thanks, and I'm honoured to be able to give my thanks today to our Second World War veterans.

Thank you. Thank you for your service.



A tribute to War Nurses of the Second World War will be delivered by Army Nursing Officer, Captain Nicole Blackley



COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

“War Nurses of the Second World War”

Help us at all times to have patience with the unreasonable, sympathy with the fearful, and care for the uncomplaining. Give us skill, but make us gentle. Give us efficiency, but make us kind. Help us to be firm, but understanding.

This is an excerpt from the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps prayer and creates a beautiful image of the character and qualities of a military nurse. The inception of war nurses began in 1898 in support of the Boer war, and is very strong today.

The outbreak of hostilities in 1939 placed the Australian Army Nursing Service on active footing again and volunteers and reservists were appointed into nursing roles. On January 9th 1940, the first contingent of nurses embarked on their duty to the Middle East. By the end of 1940 there were five General Hospitals, and 3 Casualty clearing stations established in thea-

tres over seas, and base hospitals back in Australia as the National Support Base.

AANS served overseas in England, Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Greece, Crete, Syria, Ceylon, Malaya, New Guinea, New Britain and the Solomons, as well as at home in Australia. Australian Army nurses also served onboard hospital ships and sea ambulances.

Two of these Hospital ships, Manunda and Centaur were destroyed by the Japanese. The Manunda was bombed in Darwin Harbour with the death of one nurse and one serious injury of another. The Centaur was struck south of Moreton Island by a torpedo. Of the 12 nurses on board, there was only 1 survivor. Both of these hospital ships were clearly marked as hospitals and should have been considered non combatants. Another vessel, the Vyner Brooke, carrying nurses and civilians being evacuated from Singapore was also bombed and this vessel, received the greatest nursing casualties. There 65 nurses were on board, but only 24 returned to Australia.

LT Agnes (Betty) Jeffrey was one of these survivors. She began Nursing as a career in 1935 and trained at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. LT Jeffrey joined the AANS shortly after she graduated and was posted to the 2/10th Australian General Hospital in Malaya in 1941. In February 1942, after the bombing of the Vyner Brooke, she became incarcerated in a pris-

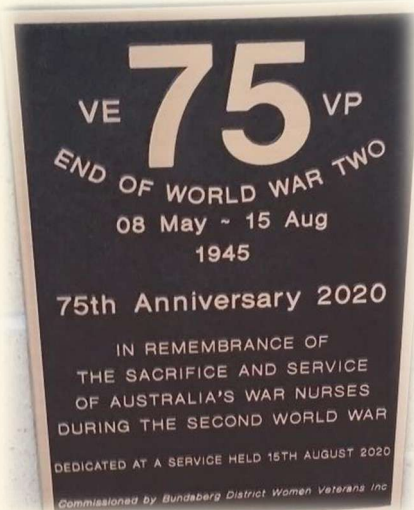
oner of war camp in Sumatra, and held there for three and a half years, before repatriation to Australia. After a period of recovery in hospital, she and fellow survivor of the Banka Island massacre, Vivian Bullwinkel established a fund for a Nursing Memorial Centre in Victoria. LT Jeffrey was awarded an Order of Australia medal for ongoing support and care for her fellow veterans through Ex Prisoner of War Associations.

Whilst in the prisoner of war camp, LT Jeffrey kept a very secret diary, detailing her experiences in Sumatra, which later became the publication ‘White Coolies’. She was one of the women in the camp Orchestra who would sing in an attempt to remain connected and supported by each other in the camps. This orchestra inspired the production of the 1997 movie Paradise Road.

During this war, 3500 Australian Army nurses served their country in an austere battlefield of makeshift hospitals, dirt, dust and the risk and horror of war. A total of 71 members of the AANS lost their lives. 53 of these deaths were battle casualties. Of those who returned home to Australia, many could not continue their nursing career due to the physical and psychological injuries they experienced as a result of their service.

Pro Humanitate

This morning we will be unveiling and dedicating three commemorative plaques. I would now like to invite Hon Keith Pitt MP to introduce the 75th Anniversary of End of World War Two plaque

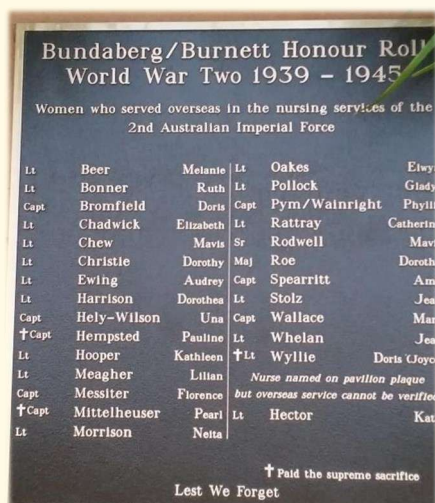


This morning we honour and recognize the sacrifices and outstanding contribution of Australian Nurses during the Second World War with the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War Two commemorative plaque, which is positioned on the memorial wall facing the pavilion.

The plaque reads:

In remembrance of the sacrifice and service of Australia's war nurses during the second world war and records the dates of Victory in Europe on 8 May 1945 and Victory in the Pacific on 15 August 1945

The Honour Roll of Bundaberg Burnett World War Two Nurses will be introduced by Cr Jack Dempsey Mayor, Bundaberg Regional Council



The World War Two honour roll recognizes those nurses who served overseas and at sometime called the Bundaberg and Burnett region home. Some were born here, some grew up here, others underwent their training at our hospitals prior to enlistment.

There are the names of 27 women listed on the roll, 3 who died at the hands of the Japanese.

The Honour Roll is located in the commemorative garden on the Takalvan St side of the memorial park

I call upon Mr David Batt MP, State Member for Bundaberg to introduce the Comfort and Care World War Two plaque



The World War Two Service of Care and Comfort plaque is dedicated to the women and men who served as nurses, doctors, medical orderlies, sick bay attendants, ambulance drivers or as other medical aid providers of the Australian Defence Force providing care and comfort overseas on the battlefield or within Australia for returning wounded and prisoners of war.

The plaque lists the women's services, nursing services, medical corps and the Volunteer Aid Detachments under each of the 3 Services: Navy, Army and Air Force.

We especially remember the service of the many who were from the Bundaberg/Burnett region.

The plaque is located in the commemorative garden on the Bourbong Street side of the memorial park.

Behind the Nurses Honour Roll

In 1995, at the service to re-dedicate the War Nurses Memorial Pavilion and Park questions arose about nurses not included on the marble plaque housed within the Pavilion. This began a search by our association to identify WW I and WW II nurses with Bundaberg/Burnett connections.

Former Bundabergian, Shirley McIvor, co-author of *Salute the Brave—a pictorial record of Queensland Memorials* combed publications such as Rupert Goodman's *Queensland Nurses* and the result combined with details included in a booklet recording the history of Lady Chelmsford Hospital compiled by Barbara Taylor and Carolyn Kennedy, provided the association with a starting list. Valuable input was also received from Ray Phillips and Angella Lathouras plus some families.

Over time, access to electronic records assisted with the process of elimination and in the lead up to the Centenary of Anzac which saw Bundaberg & District Ex Servicewomen's Association undertake a large upgrade of War Nurses Memorial Park, research efforts were increased resulting in the dedication of a World War One Honour Roll on 24 September 2014.

The association continued its undertaking to produce a similar Honour Roll for nurses of World War Two and during 2019 received a donation from Gail McKewen, daughter of a foundation member, Edith McKewen (AWAS), enabling procurement of National Archives records to refine the data collected.

Continuing the Remembrance

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION ON THE WW2 HONOUR ROLL PLAQUE FOR WAR NURSES:

- ADF nurse/medical service eligible for the Returned from Active Service Badge.
- Bundaberg/Burnett links (trained Bundaberg included)
- Link to be prior to enlisting;
- Area for Bundaberg/Burnett: loosely bounded by Woodgate Beach, Childers region, Biggenden, Gayndah, Eidsvold, Mt Perry, Gin Gin, Yandaran, Moore Park Beach.



Lt	Beer	Melanie	Lt	Oakes	Elwyn
Lt	Bonner	Ruth	Lt	Pollock	Gladys
Capt	Bromfield	Doris	Capt	Pym/Wainright	Phyllis
Lt	Chadwick	Elizabeth	Lt	Rattray	Catherine
Lt	Chew	Mavis	Sr	Rodwell	Mavis
Lt	Christie	Dorothy	Maj	Roe	Dorothy
Lt	Ewing	Audrey	Capt	Spearritt	Amy
Lt	Harrison	Dorothea	Lt	Stolz	Jean
Capt	Hely-Wilson	Una	Capt	Wallace	Mary
† Capt	Hempsted	Pauline	Lt	Whelan	Jean
Lt	Hooper	Kathleen	† Lt	Wyllie	Doris (Joyce)
Lt	Meagher	Lilian			
Capt	Messiter	Florence			
† Capt	Mittelheuser	Pearl			
Lt	Morrison	Neita			
			Lt	Hector	Katie

Nurse named on pavilion plaque but overseas service cannot be verified.

Names of nurses meeting the above criteria for service beyond World War Two are invited from the reader. The details may be forwarded to the Secretary, Bundaberg District Women Veterans, PO Box 397 Bundaberg Q 4670 or electronically: secretary@bundywomenveterans.org.au



DEDICATION

Let us now dedicate these World War Two commemorative plaques to the memory of those who died for their country

and whose names are recorded here.

For those whom we knew,
for those whose memory we treasure
and who lived and died in the service of their country.

ROLL CALL

To symbolize the passing of the Anzac Spirit and the Legacy forged by our World War Two veterans to our younger generations, I would now ask Miss Bailee Baldwin, Student, Shalom Catholic College, and Granddaughter of WW2 veteran Fred Bainbridge, to call the Honour Roll of Bundaberg Burnett nurses who paid the supreme sacrifice during World War Two.



REMEMBERING OUR
WAR NURSES



Capt Pauline Hempsted



Capt Pearl Mittelheuser

Extract, with permission,
from painting by Ross Driver
©



Lt Doris Joyce Wylie

Sister Pauline Hempsted

Sister Pearl Mittelheuser

Sister Joyce Wylie

WREATH LAYING

Ladies and Gentlemen The wreaths will be paraded through the WW2 War Nurses Pavilion and may be placed on either side of the memorial wall.

Piper Adam Johnston



Pipe Bands Australia is co-ordinating a national piping and drumming commemoration at locations around Australia to remember and thank those who served in World War Two, those who paid the supreme sacrifice and those who returned to help forge post-war Australia. We are delighted that War Nurses Memorial Park is one such location.

Our Piper will be playing the VP75-Lest We Forget Lament during the wreath laying, written by Mark Saul to commemorate this special day and in remembrance of the Mildura Pipe Band that enlisted as a group, the only community pipe band to do so, and who were taken prisoners of war to Changi.



Captain Nicole Blackley and Lieutenant Commander Angella Hillis CSC, RAN Rtd on behalf of current and former servicewomen of Bundaberg District

Bundaberg Mayor Councillor Jack Dempsey and Hon. Keith Pitt MP Hinkler



**Trevor Williamson OAM, President Wide Bay & Burnett RSL
Dannielle Brearley, Secretary Bundaberg RSL
David Batt MP Bundaberg**





**John Wilson OAM,
RAAF Association**



**Madalyn Millard
Major Melissa Millard
Salvation Army
(John Wilson)**



**Pamela McNee,
RSL Women's Auxiliary
Ian Reick
Bundaberg Services Club**



TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN



.....PLEASE STAND

**Flag Orderly
Ron Walsh**



**THE ODE
Captain Nicole
Blackley**



**LAST POST and
ROUSE
Bugler Aaron Hunter**

NATIONAL ANTHEM



CLOSING PRAYERS and BENEDICTION



Lord of love, we bring our thanks for the peace and security we enjoy,
we remember those who in times of war sacrificed so much.

Make us a people who are desperate for peace,
and hurry the day when people do not lift sword against each other.
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who gave his life for the world.
Amen

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage,
hold fast that which is good, render to no man evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted.
Honour all people, love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.



THANK YOU

Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for your attendance at our Service of Remembrance.

Your attendance this morning ensures that the story of sacrifice and service of all who served during the Second World War is remembered and honoured by those of us who owe so much to that great generation of men and women.

I would just like mention a couple of long time supporter groups of the services held here, not in attendance this morning.

Firstly, our nurses and hospital representatives who are obviously busy elsewhere and for the first time in 25 years the navy cadets will not provide a guard for a service conducted at War Nurses Memorial Park, no one was here for Anzac Day and this is the last planned service for 2020. We hope they both will be back for Anzac Day next year.

Thankyou to our official guests, to our presiding clergy Major Melissa Millard, Hon Keith Pitt MP and Captain Nicole Blackley for their addresses, also Piper Adam Johnston from the Caledonian Pipe Band and Pipe Bands Australia for the special VP75 Lament.

Thanks to Bugler Aaron Hunter from the Municipal Band and those who participated in today's service, including the banner bearers, flag orderly and my fellow women veterans who have assisted this morning.

A special thank you to Leone Wilson OAM and Angella Hillis CSC for their work in planning today's service; which has been a mighty challenge under the COVID 19 induced conditions.

As the ranks of our World War Two veterans continue to diminish, let us all be determined to maintain this special day and to reflect upon the freedoms they gave us and strive to uphold the values that they fought so hard for.

Bundaberg District Women Veterans have been honoured to host this morning's Service of Remembrance.

Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch invites everyone to a morning tea at the Veterans Support Centre, which will commence following this service.

Thank you once again for attending and good morning.

Thank you to our SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Department of Veterans' Affairs—
Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grant
Bundaberg Salvation Army
Bundaberg Caledonian Pipe Band
Bundaberg Municipal Band
Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch
Bundaberg Regional Council
Christ Church Anglican Church

Plus
Participating guests as named in the program
Banner Bearers and Flag Orderly
Our Association Members

Also
To you all for attending this service to pay
tribute to the those who served during
the Second World War

A special welcome and thank you
for attending to

***Bundaberg's
World War Two Veterans***





L-R: Bundaberg RSL President Graham Crowden and wife Teresa, Mayor Jack Dempsey, Helen Baldwin (former WRAAF), Dannielle Brearley (former RAN), Liz Williamson, David Batt MP, Trevor Williamson OAM Wide Bay Burnett RSL President.



Raymond



Captain Nicole Blackley



Berris & Fred Bainbridge with granddaughter Bailee Baldwin



**Mr David Batt MP Bundaberg,
President Jennifer Waldron,
Hon Keith Pitt MP Hinkler**



Liz and Trevor Williamson OAM



**Representatives EMQ
Fire & Rescue Bundaberg**



Angella Hillis CSC



***Trevor Williamson OAM, Bailee Baldwin, Jack Dempsey, Jennifer Waldron
Angela Lathouras, Merv McGrane, Dannielle Brearley***





RSL
Bundaberg Sub Branch

The Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch

*Invites you to join them
For a*

Celebrating Peace Morning Tea

*To
Commemorate the*

75th Anniversary of the Victory in the Pacific

At the

Veterans Support Centre

71 Takalvan Street - Bundaberg

Saturday 15th August 2020 approx. 10.30am

(Following the ceremony at the War Nurses)

R.S.V.P. 7th August

Phone: 49109595 or 0418983415

Transport available by contacting the above numbers

CELEBRATING PEACE MORNING TEA





The Morning Tea was hosted by the Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch and included a display of World War Two memorabilia. Ray Phillips also provided a screening of historic film.

President Graham Crowden welcomed the gathering of dignitaries, veterans and family, speaking of the significance of the event and congratulating Bundaberg District Women Veterans on their efforts in ensuring the anniversary was marked and World War Two Veterans honoured.

Plates of tempting delights were provided by the Bundaberg RSL Women's Auxiliary and a 75th Anniversary cake was cut by the World War Two Veterans.

The morning tea marked the conclusion of two days of activity. Notably Fred Bainbridge who turned 96 years of age just 2 days earlier, Noel Mooney 95, and Merv McGrane 95 attended all events accompanied by wives Berris Bainbridge and Betty Mooney, and Ula Agnew, just one month short of 99 managed to attend two.





***Jan Rimmington and
Hon Keith Pitt MP***





Merv McGrane and Noel Mooney



Fred and Berris Bainbridge



Ula Agnew and Trevor Williamson OAM



Ula Agnew with son Philip and Linda Rimmington



Jennifer Waldron, Trevor Williamson OAM, Stephen Bennett MP





**AHS ORANJE
and World War Two display**





Members of Bundaberg RSL Women's Auxiliary





Cutting the *Celebrating Peace VP Day75* cake

