

Bundaberg 55th Anniversary Reunion

BUNDABERG DISTRICT

Women Veterans

Navy

Army

Air Force



15-17 July 2022



Reunion

*The real value of a Veterans' Reunion
is the bond of friendships
based on the Defence Family*

*May those Friendships remain
True and Enduring*

As we come together—

*We talk endlessly and laugh a lot
We smile at a camera, and hug a mate*

*Our thoughts go to others
No longer there
We remember to include them
Because we care*

We hope to see you again, at the next one.

Leone Wilson OAM

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Above: Angella Hillis CSC
vice president, commemorations officer,
reunion commemorative coordinator



Above — from left:
Leone Wilson OAM, patron and reunion booklet producer
Lorraine Houlihan, reunion photographer
Jennifer Waldron, president and reunion chair

Photographs are available to view and download via a link that can be found on our
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bundy.eswa>



1967—2022

Bundaberg Women Veterans— Celebrating 55 years with a Reunion Weekend

Sticking with tradition the reunion kicked off with a friendly Friday evening get together of members, their guests and our many visitors.



Members had decorated the venue, being the upstairs section of Rowers on the River, with memorabilia, touches of green and tributes to Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. A significant milestone added to the Bundaberg celebration.



The evening began with drinks, nibbles and a lot of chatter. Patrons arrived to be greeted by Sheona Webster-Gorrie and Sharon Barsby with the check-in register and by Lynne Pollock and Kay Littler manning the raffle and souvenir table.



Lorraine Houlihan from Sunshine Coast Serving & Ex-Serving Women's Association, had volunteered to be our photographer for the weekend. She arrived suitably armed with equipment that made mobile phones look really inadequate.

As members enjoyed a cuppa or a coldie, Lorraine took individual and group photographs against a special backdrop.



55th Anniversary



Meet 'n' Greet

Enjoy nibbles as you catch up with mates over a drink.

1700—1800 Hrs
In the bar area

Nibble Matters

- Mini Spinach & Feta Quiches (GF, V)
- Mini Mediterranean Quiches (GF, V)
- Battered Fish Bites
- Roast Pumpkin & Blue Cheese Tart (GF, V)
- Lamb Kofta Balls with Spiced Yoghurt (GF)

*Nibbles provided
Limited drinks
Available*

Enjoy two standard soft drink, beer or wine on us—collect your vouchers upon arrival.





Commemorations officer/vice president Angella Hillis CSC and president Jennifer Waldron grab a coffee realizing that whatever has not been done, 'tis now too late. Let the 55th Reunion begin...

Beverley AKA Barbara with Faye Chatham and John and Leone Wilson enjoying the bar area gathering, as were Jenny's mates from 'down south' with Shelagh Bennet.





Others gathered in the Dining Room.



Soon it was time for dinner.



Masks have their limitations!

PROGRAM
55th Anniversary
Welcome Dinner



Bundaberg District Women Veterans Inc



**55th Birthday Reunion
Welcome**

Enjoy two standard soft drink, beer or wine on us—
collect your vouchers upon arrival.

Roast Dinner

Relax at a table of your choice and enjoy dinner with friends.

MAINS

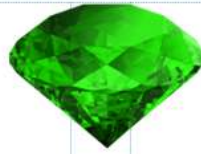
All served with roast potato, roast pumpkin and steamed vegetable.
Includes Dinner Roll.
All GF—alternate serve:

- Roast Pork with Crackle & Gravy
- Roast Beef & Gravy
- Roast Lamb with a Port Wine Sauce

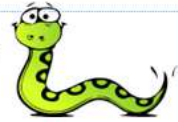
SWEETS

- Apple & Cinnamon Crumble with Custard (GF)
- Sticky Date Pudding with a rich Butterscotch Sauce
- Chef's Cheesecake of the Day (GF)

Self Serve Tea and Coffee



**55th Birthday Reunion
Welcome**



PROGRAM

- 1700 Hrs Meet & Greet cocktail time
Bar area
- 1800 Hrs Please move to Dining room and be seated
- Housekeeping announcements
- Welcome **Ms Helen Blackburn, MC**
- Grace **Mrs Gloria Kilpatrick**
- Meal service commences
- Special Event **Official Book Launch—
Mothers, Daughters, Wives, Volume Two
Ms Jennifer Waldron
Author/Compiler Volume One**
- Notices **Ms Jennifer Waldron, President**
- Raffle will be drawn periodically



Bundaberg District Women Veterans

Well the first task was to introduce the MC for the evening—Karen Keegan. Karen, one of Jenny's visiting mates, stepped up to fill the position due to a late apology from Helen Blackburn who had been bitten by the flu bug.



Karen provided the welcome and introduced Gloria Kilpatrick to say Grace prior to the service of a delicious roast main course meal.





Drawing of the Friday evening raffle was supervised by our Treasurer Sharon Barsby. There was a great range of prizes for the winners to select from, thanks to our wonderful donors.





The evening was all about talking to our visitors so the only other activity, officially launching our book, *Mothers Daughter, Wives—Volume Two—stories of Bundaberg District Women Veterans*, occurred following sweets. The launch was performed by President Jenny Waldron who had been the author/compiler of the first book released at our 50th anniversary celebrations. Jenny had produced a slide show comprising photos which are included in the book.

“I am the 4th choice to launch Volume 2 of Mothers Daughters Wives – The obvious 1st choice was Rear Admiral Wendy Malcom CSM who wrote the foreword; and she was very disappointed she couldn’t travel up to Bundy to do the honours; but too busy with Canberra stuff.. and our other 2 local MPs who were part of the 2017 book adventures were engaged elsewhere – so here I am – 4th choice Jenny...

Another reunion – another book! I thought we were done with our 50 years of history and stories we launched at our 50th reunion in 2017. But No; due to the marvellous feedback and success of our original book- it was decided we would compile another smaller book – with 5 years of association history and most importantly give the same opportunity to our newer members to have their stories published in a similar quality book. I know first- hand the work required to put together the book and I salute Leone and her team for what they have accomplished. The book provides a lasting record of our association’s recent history and our member’s service years; and will be a wonderful addition to Volume 1.

As Rear Admiral Malcom noted in her Foreword – It is so important that we remember those that forged the path for the women of today. And that applies to the current women of the ADF and the women who are part of our association.

It gives me great pleasure to officially launch Mothers Daughters Wives Volume 2, and I invite Leone Wilson OAM, compiler of Mothers Daughters Wives Volume 2 to say a few words.”

Leone Wilson thanked the many who contributed stories and the team of editorial readers plus compiler of Vol 1, Jenny for their assistance in making the second book possible.



We hope you have had an enjoyable evening and look forward to your company tomorrow.

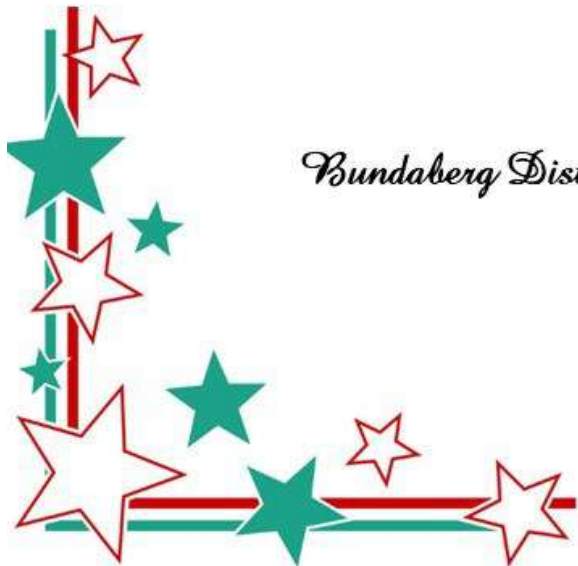
Sweet Dreams!

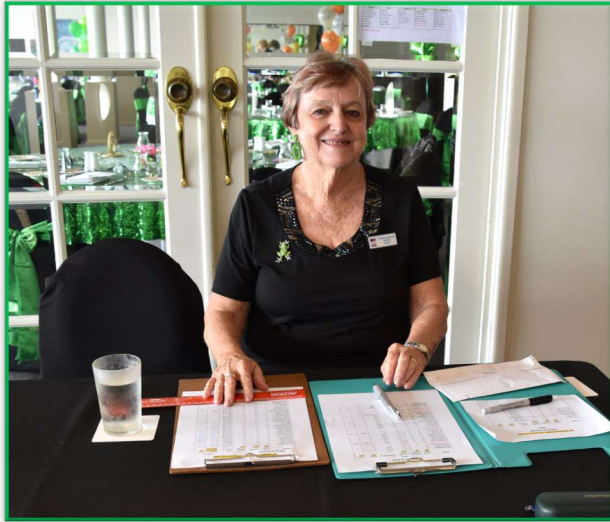


Program
55th Anniversary Luncheon



Bundaberg District Women Veterans Inc





Sheona Webster-Gorrie awaits the guests who joined us for the Saturday luncheon such as Hervey Bay. Around the corner with memorabilia and raffle tickets were Kay Littler and Lynne Pollock.



There was a brew available and the bar was open so many began with a drink and a chat. Or they checked out the raffle table full of prizes mostly donated by members, plus some from Sunny Coast. There was also memorabilia on display plus a great view. Some posed for their photo, others located their table and then went off to explore all of the table centerpieces created by the Crafty Crew: Gloria Kilpatrick & Kate Erickson, Dot Carroll & Sheona Webster-Gorrie, Helen and Bailee Baldwin and Berris Bainbridge The ceiling was strung with Australian and green flags, repurposed from our VP75 bunting by Kay Littler. The room was beautifully set-up by Rowers' Rachel and staff who allowed us to add many extras.



55th Birthday Reunion
Luncheon

MENU
Alternate drop

MAIN
Served with seasonal vegetables

Grilled Barramundi
*Served with fresh garlic and ginger butter sauce (GF)
Great for those who go down to the sea*

Macadamia Crumbed Lamb Cutlets
*Drizzled with a lemon and mint dressing (GF)
Terrific for those that troop the terrain*

Pork Belly
*Rolled and stuffed with goats cheese, macadamia and thyme and served with a caramelised spiced soy and herb sauce (GF)
Tops for those who know that pigs can fly*

SWEETS

Bundaberg Royal Rum Liqueur Chocolate Tartlet

Eton Mess
layers of meringue, lemon curd and macadamia crumb (GF)

Vanilla Bean Crème Brulee (GF)

Self serve Tea and Coffee

55th Birthday Reunion
Luncheon

PROGRAM

1155
Please be seated
Housekeeping announcements

Welcome
Ms Jennifer Waldron, President

Loyal Toast
Ms Jennifer Waldron

Association Toast
Mrs Leone Wilson OAM, Patron

Absent Friends
Mrs Shirley Watson, Life Member

Grace
Mrs Jeannie Roberts

Meal service commences

Special Toast
Mr Russell Kilpatrick

Response
Ms Jennifer Waldron

Presentations
Mrs Angella Hillis CSC, Vice President

Thank you
Ms Jennifer Waldron

Raffle will be drawn periodically
*Enjoy two standard soft drink, beer or wine on us,
procure by voucher.*

Bundaberg District Women Veterans

Association president, Jenny Waldron began the program by introducing the ceremony:

Ladies and Gentlemen, we begin with a tribute to the fallen and our association founders. Our founders were the women of WWII, they wanted their own association like the men who had the RSL and their various unit associations— and we the current members could not be more thankful. Our association exists because of them and as we celebrate today and look to the future, may we never forget our past.

Association banners were paraded prior to the reciting of the Ode by Jenny.



The all-important welcome followed. This is where loud voices acknowledge the roll call

NAVY!

ARMY!

AIR FORCE!

And the groups represented:



Sunshine Coast!
Defence Servicewomen's RSL!

WRAAC!

WRAAF!

Hervey Bay!
& Bundy!

For the Loyal Toast Jenny had organised a film clip commemorating Queen Elizabeth II's reign of seventy years.

This was watched on the screen and then on Jenny's proposal, glasses were raised to the Queen of Australia.



Patron, Leone Wilson OAM was called upon to propose a toast the association:

To our founders who had a vision

To our predecessors who built the pathways

To our members who create our image

And to all who carry it forward

May the vision remain and the friendships stand tall

A toast to the association -

Bundaberg District Women Veterans

Shirley Watson proposed the toast to Absent Friends and Grace was said by Jeannie Roberts.

Serving of the meal, and drawing of the lucky door saw the return of noise to the room with almost 70 contributors ensuring the luncheon would be one of friendship and fun.



Reunions are about friends—meeting fellow service women, renewing friendships, making new friends. Being made to feel welcome in a room full of strangers. Easy! Right? Enter newie, Kim



Oh, all these people, but they will greet me; make me welcome. There are a couple over there.

Hello, my name is Kim!



Arh, oh, hi Kim—just watching Bold and Beautiful... Hang on, it won't take long name is Kim!



G'day, I am Kim—up for a chat?

Sorry, really busy telling garden club how to plant a rose....

Hello Kim, nice to meet you. I am Karen.. Oh.. Hang on.. I have to reply to this text...



Hello, I'm Kim!



Kim gives up and, mumbling about the mobile phones being so damn important, rather than greeting her, she goes to the 'Ladies'. On her return she walks past the engrossed trio:

Oh, I say.. Excuse me! Um, Kim! Stop! I say, do you know....?

Kim glances behind to where they were pointing.....



OH! That is nothing, it is only a fax coming in!

Well done Army!!



Before we could recover from that episode, Jenny Waldron was on stage, congratulating the Army for their presentation—hey Navy! We did it! Then something unusual happened...initially, Jenny thanked the Emerald Crafty group for their great work, and then she announced that as the table setting themes were introduced, the occupants would need to sing their song—the surprising thing was Jenny led the singing! There had certainly been something in the water on her table.

Frog pond sang - a frog went walking on a summers day, ahumm, ahumm

Jungle - In the jungle the mighty jungle the lion sleeps tonight....



Emerald Mine- Hi Ho Hi Ho its off to work we go Hi Ho Hi



Emerald City- We are off to see the Wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz

Emerald Isle- When Irish eyes are smiling...



...and there were more listeners and more laughter than there were singers!





Following the light entertainment, was a special toast. Russell Kilpatrick was called upon to propose this toast to Servicewomen. But first.....the 55th Anniversary Port was served.

“ To Servicewomen!”



Jenny Waldron then proposed another toast: *“ To Servicemen!”*

Recognition of the work of our members is carried out at this time of year and for 2022 it was a special award to our hard working treasurer, Sharon Barsby.

AWARD OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Making the announcement was Chair of the Awards Sub-committee, Angela Hillis CSC. Angella called upon Patron Leone Wilson OAM to come forward to make a presentation, and then announced the award would go to an unsuspecting Sharon Barsby. Angella then read the following brief citation:



Sharon Barsby joined the association in 2012 and her work began soon after contributing greatly to the major project, Remembering Our War Nurses which peaked in 2014. In 2017 she worked tirelessly for Salute to Servicewomen, a project culminating in a series of events held over 10 days. Sharon received the association's Excellence Award for these two projects.



Sharon was elected to committee in 2016 becoming treasurer, a position she still holds. Association fundraising activities have benefited greatly through Sharon's innovative introductions for promoting ticket selling, for streamlining raffle drawing and from the introduction of a variety of memorabilia which both promotes the association or one of the association events whilst assisting in a major way to the required funding. Sharon fulfills to role of honorary treasurer with efficiency and honesty.

Sharon has taken on the task of booking agent for association events and this brings her into close contact with members. She has handled this task with great understanding, extending to being help-

ful and quietly competent. She has introduced systems that have made the booking process easy for members.

Sharon's work goes well beyond treasurer. Her technical assistance with all types of association equipment, including electronic has been essential to the success of community events held by the association, her service has been exceptional and her input to association management is valued by members as being fair and well considered. Her popularity among members is without question.



**Congratulations
Sharon!**

It always seems to be more important that your table wins a prize in the raffle, than winning yourself—and this becomes a competitive issue. Creating such fun is thanks to the many donors, our members plus a few contributions from the Sunny Coast and of course some wise shopping by our treasurer.

There were many prizes, and that equals many winners. Photographer Lorraine was busy recording the happy faces.



It was a wonderful celebration with great friendship and we received some very nice compliments from our guests.

Thank you to everyone for making the day special.

But of course the reunion was not over yet and president Jenny closed the day's activity with a reminder of what was to come.

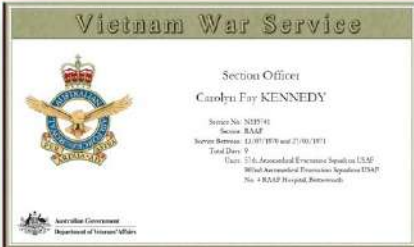
THANK YOU

55

The members of Bundaberg District Women Veterans welcome our visitors and guests to today's celebration. Thank you for joining us.

Special thanks to those of you who have travelled from afar; we are aware that quite a few are spending the weekend or more in our city and we hope you enjoy good hospitality during your visit. Travel home safely and do come back.

The management committee also recognizes, with thanks, the wonderful effort made by our own members in presenting the special touches that you will see in the venue, and to the many members who have donated to the raffle.



- Thank you to our SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
 - Bundaberg Salvation Army
 - Bundaberg Caledonian Pipe Band Piper, Adam Johnston
 - Bugler, Aaron Hunter
 - Flag Orderly, Kim Hiscox *Plus*
 - Our special guests and speakers
 - Vietnam Veterans
 - Veterans of Peace Operations
 - Visiting Women ... Veterans



Service of Remembrance



60th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and 75 years of Australian Peace Operations



PROGRAM

9.00 am Sunday 17th July 2022
 War Nurses Memorial
 Cnr Bourbong & Takalvan Streets, Bundaberg
 Hosted by



Service of Remembrance at War Nurses Memorial Park 75th Anniversary of Peace Operations 60th Anniversary of Vietnam War

MC: Ms Jennifer Waldron, Association President
PADRE: Major Melissa Millard, Salvation Army

0855 Enter the Banner Parade (please stand)
 0900 (please be seated)

Welcome and Introduction MC
 Commemorative Prayers Padre

Prayer for those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice
 Ms Alexandra Logan

- Official Addresses:**
- 75th Anniversary of Australian Peace Operations
 Mr Keith Pitt MP, Federal Member for Hinkler
 - War Nurses of the Vietnam War Era
 Mr Tom Smith MP, State Member for Bundaberg

- Plaque Unveiling and Introductions:**
- 75th Anniversary of Peace Operations
 Ms Sharon Barsby and Ms Danielle Brearley
 - 60th Anniversary of Australians in the Vietnam War
 Mr William Hillis and Mr John Wilson OAM

- Roll of Honour Bundaberg/Burnett Region's Vietnam War Nurses
 Cr Bill Trevor OAM, Deputy Mayor, Bundaberg Regional Council
- Service of Care and Comfort, South East Asian Conflicts
 Ms Anne-Maree Turner, Nurse Unit Manager, Bundaberg Hospital

- Dedication of Plaques Padre
- Laying of Wreaths The MC will call out all wreath layers
- Lament
- Tribute to the Fallen (please stand)
 - Ode Ms Cheryl Frawley CSM
 - Last Post
 - Minute's Silence
 - Rouse
- Australian National Anthem
- Dismounting of the Guard (please be seated)
- Closing Prayers and Benediction Padre
- Thank you MC

You are invited to join us for Morning tea at Rowers on The River
 2 Toonburra Street, Bundaberg

The 2022 Emerald Reunion Service was much more than a commemoration of the contribution of women in the ADF. The service marked anniversaries that should never be forgotten by our nation—it also saw the dedication of plaques that are now a permanent reminder to the Bundaberg community of the service and sacrifices of Australians and that of the region's nurses. It was a special day.



War Nurses Memorial Park is situated on the corner of Bundaberg's main road from the south, Takalvan Street/ Isis Highway and the city's central main street, Bourbong Street. It is over the road from the Bundaberg Hospital and the War Nurses Memorial Pavilion, the first ever Australian War Memorial dedicated to nurses, dates back to 1949. It was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register in 1992.

In 2014 our Association marked the Anzac Centenary by completing a government grants, community and association funded redevelopment of the surrounding area, including construction of a memorial wall to facilitate services.

The very successful project has been further enhanced by the addition of more commemorative plaques, a set of story boards recording the history of service nursing, a mural and associated signage. All additional plaques have been dedicated at commemorative services. The memorial is used whenever special anniversaries are remembered and is the site of an annual Anzac Day service which our association conducts.

On 17 July 2022, further plaques were added in recognition of nurses serving in the Vietnam War and Peace Operations. Two anniversaries were recognised and commemorated the service and sacrifice of Australians in Vietnam and on Peace Operations was commemorated.

The commemoration also paid tribute to those who served in the women's services and the organisations that foster their ongoing friendships by commencing the day's event with a parade of banners.

The parade was under the command of our commemorations officer, Angella Hillis CSC and was led by Piper Adam Johnston of the Bundaberg Caledonian Pipe Band.





Lisa Taylor and Sonya Leijen carried the banner which had been given to our care by Woodgate RSL; they were followed by our members Lynne Pollock and Kay Littler with our association banner. We are thankful to our visitors who brought their association banners to Bundaberg for this parade.



The service commenced with a welcome and introduction by the MC, association president, Jennifer Waldron:

Distinguished guests, fellow veterans, nurses, ladies and gentlemen- on behalf of Bundaberg District Women Veterans it is my privilege to welcome you all to War Nurses Memorial Park, believed to be the first war memorial in Australia solely dedicated to nurses. It was built by the community from donations and was dedicated in 1949.

The Heritage Listed Memorial Pavilion is used every day by nurses, staff, and visitors to the Base Hospital – and I am sure the nurses it honours would be very happy to know it is well used.

In 2014 our association undertook a major enhancement project as part of the Anzac Century commemorations that included the new Service Nurse Memorial Wall, the new gardens and trees and the storyboards.

Our Service of Remembrance this morning, commemorates the 60th Anniversary of deployment of Australian troops to the Vietnam War and 75 Years of Australian Peace Operations involving peacemaking, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions and we especially welcome our Vietnam veterans and those who have served on the many peace operations throughout the world over the last 7 decades.

This morning we also welcome visiting women veterans of all eras who are in Bundaberg to celebrate our Association's 55th Anniversary and we also remember those women who paid the supreme sacrifice and all who have served our country both at home and aboard.



Jennifer then invited Major Melissa Millard of Bundaberg Salvation Army to provide the opening commemorative prayers.

The prayer for those who paid the Supreme Sacrifice was delivered by former Army nursing officer who served in Rwanda, Alexandra Logan

A Prayer For Nurses Who Paid The Supreme Sacrifice

Almighty God our heavenly Father,
in this special place of remembrance,
we praise your name for nurses
who laid down their lives
in the course of duty
and in the cause of peace.

We thank you for the spirit of sacrifice
which inspired them,
and for all that was good in their lives.

We give thanks they will continue to be
honoured here at
War Nurses Memorial Park, Bundaberg
and throughout our nation;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



The 75th Anniversary of Australian Peace Operations commemorative address was delivered by Federal Member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt MP.

75th Anniversary of Australian Peace Operations Bundaberg War Nurses Memorial – Sunday, 17 July 2022

For the past 75 years Australians have served on peacekeeping operations providing stability, commitment and passion, in what are complex and dangerous situations.

Since the first peacekeeping operation in 1947 in Netherlands East Indies – what we know as Indonesia today – more than 30,000 Australians have delivered humanitarian aid to countries around the globe.

They have worked in more than 70 peace and security operations including Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iran, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe and closer to home East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

Our peacekeepers come from all walks of life. Some are from the Australian Defence Force, others are state or federal police workers, public servants, aid workers, scientists or other specialists, and many civilians have also served.

Their duties are just as varied as their backgrounds, but can include:

- *military observers to monitor ceasefire violation*
- *supporting democratic elections*
- *treating casualties*
- *landmine clearance operations – and teaching locals to do it*
- *providing communications, medical and movement control team*
- *policing support functions; and*

- *helping to deliver or make possible humanitarian aid.*

Some peacekeeping missions have only involved a handful of personnel. But since the 1970s, Australia's contributions have increased in size and scope.

In the 1970s and 80s RAAF helicopters operated in the Sinai, as Egypt and Israel ended three decades of hostilities.

At the end of the 1970s, an Australian infantry force of 150 soldiers took part in a British Commonwealth operation as Zimbabwe won its independence.

A decade later an even larger contingent, composed largely of engineers, assisted a UN operation with a similar role in Namibia.

The 1990s were the busiest decade in the history of multinational peacekeeping with Australian peacekeepers in Cambodia, Somalia and Rwanda, the Middle East, Cyprus, Iraq, Bougainville and East Timor during this time.

Australia organised and led International Force East Timor contributing over 5,500 personnel and the force commander, former Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove.

One of the Australian Navy vessels to take cargo and troops to East Timor was HMAS Tobruk – which as many of you would know now rests approximately 22 nautical miles from Burnett Heads as a military dive wreck.

HMAS Tobruk had more than 34 years of decorated service with its ability to carry 18 tanks, more than 40 Armoured Personnel Carriers or Light Armoured Vehicles on the vehicle deck, 520 personnel, and with two helicopter decks, it provided logistical support for multiple peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

As well as East Timor, HMAS Tobruk served at missions in Sinai, Somalia, the Middle East, Bougainville, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and assisted Tonga and Vanuatu with food and building equipment after they were hit by cyclones in the 1980s, and Samoa and Tonga which were devastated by tsunami in 2009.

The role of women in military service and civilian peacekeeping operations has grown over the years and today, more women serve in leadership positions in UN peacekeeping than ever before.

Women serve Australia and the UN as military personnel, police officers and civilians in a variety of roles.

Now retired, former Major General Cheryl Pearce recently completed her tenure as Force Commander, United Nations Forces in Cyprus and was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross for her outstanding achievement whilst appointed to the position during the period January 2019 to January 2021.

Female peacekeepers have played a vital role in interviewing and supporting women and girls who are survivors of violence and in some cases, female peacekeepers can engage better with female civilians for cultural or religious reasons.

Members of the Bundaberg District Women Veterans have served in peacekeeping and peace-making missions including Sinai, Somalia, Rwanda, Bougainville, East Timor and Sudan.

I extend my thanks to those members for their role in helping restore stability and assistance to those nations and their people.

Sadly, 16 Australians have lost their lives during peacekeeping missions and today we pay tribute to them and say thank you to all Australians who have served during peacekeeping operations.

Thank you for your service.

The second official address was provided by Tom Smith MP, State Member for Bundaberg, who spoke on the war nurses of the Vietnam era.

60th Anniversary of Australia's Commitment to Vietnam
Commemorative Address: War Nurses of the Vietnam Era

Sixty years ago, Australia committed itself to the then ever developing conflict in Vietnam. What began as an initial response of thirty military advisors to support the Government of South Vietnam, grew to a commitment of service of almost sixty-thousand Australians.

The conflict in Vietnam was a war fought like no other, and the arrival home, an experience like no other Australian involved conflict.

Between 1967 and 1971, one-hundred and fifty military nurses and two-hundred volunteer civilian nurses served in South Vietnam.

Conditions were often extreme and tasks before those nurses were demanding. The wounds inflicted upon the servicemen on the battlefield did not simply remain on the battlefield.

Australia's brave nurses confronted the horrors of war, often brought to the hospital grounds by the swift work of the 'Dust-off' helicopters.

Confronted with the traumatic amputations caused by the explosions of mines, nurses met the often form of injury with the same dedication, commitment, and care as they did the wounds from gunshots and shrapnel as well.

Intensive care nurses regularly undertook, at minimum, six 12-hour shifts a week. Indeed, during the 1968 Tet Offensive nurses were at their post for fourteen nights straight.

In her contribution to the Australian War Memorial, Captain Jane Naughton stated:

"When battle casualties occurred, we would receive a radio message warning us of incoming casualties. The hospital was brought to ALERT by a shrill blast of a siren."

Lieutenant Colleen Mealy spoke of how the casualties would come at either dawn or dusk. Colleen reflects on how the wounded would have their rifles taken from them, unless already being used as a splint, strapped to their leg. In her words on the wounded,

"When they would come in and they would see an Aussie nurse there, they would have a smile on their face."

For nurses serving in the Air Force, at the RAAF base at Butterworth in Malaya, aero-medical evacuations were an extra element of danger and duty.

Whilst the fighting was still as fierce, the survival rate of casualties having reached hospital increased dramatically when compared to World War II. Eight and half percent of casualties died after reaching hospital in World War II, Vietnam the figure was less than three percent.

From aero-medivac operations to the hospital grounds, Australian nurses saved lives in the name of duty, commitment, care, honour, and service to their country. Their legacy will live long as we all strive to remember their service some near sixty years on.

Lest We Forget.



Following the official addresses, each new plaque was ‘unveiled’ by them being introduced. The introduction was a reading of the plaques commemorative content.

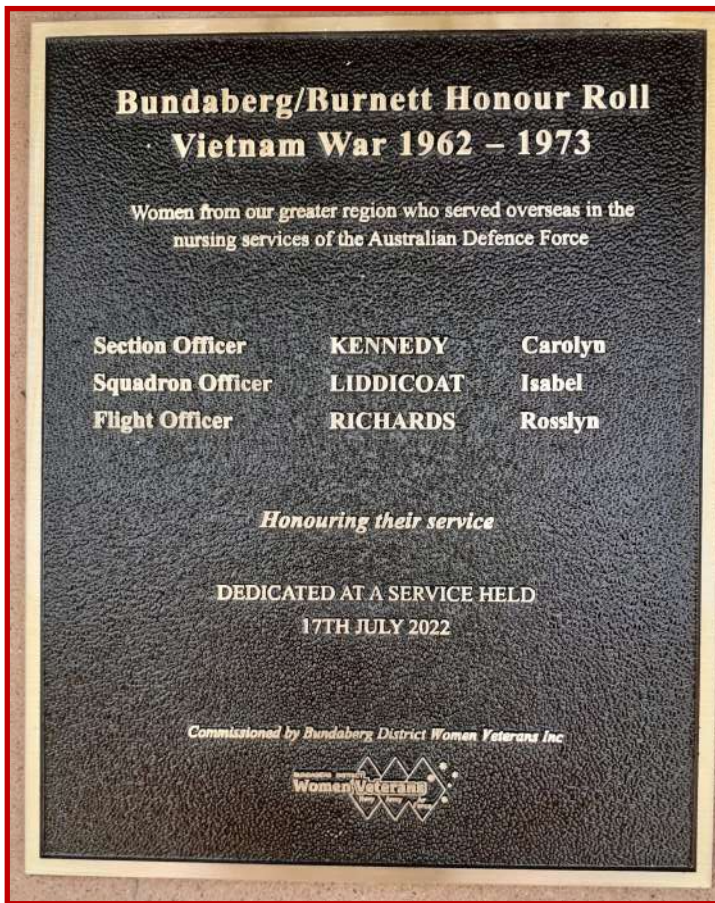


**‘75th Anniversary of Peace Operations’
was introduced by
Sharon Barsby, Army, who served in Rwanda and
Dannielle Brearley, Navy who served in East Timor**

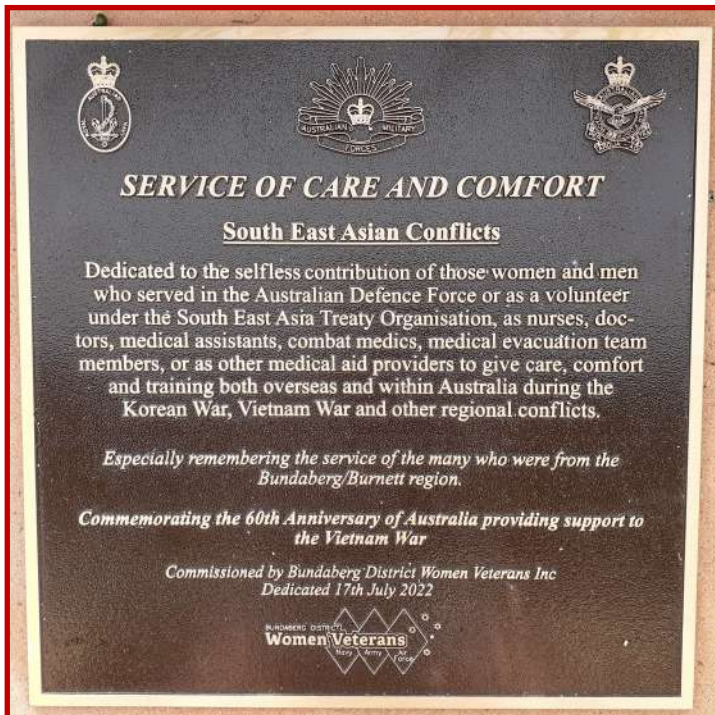
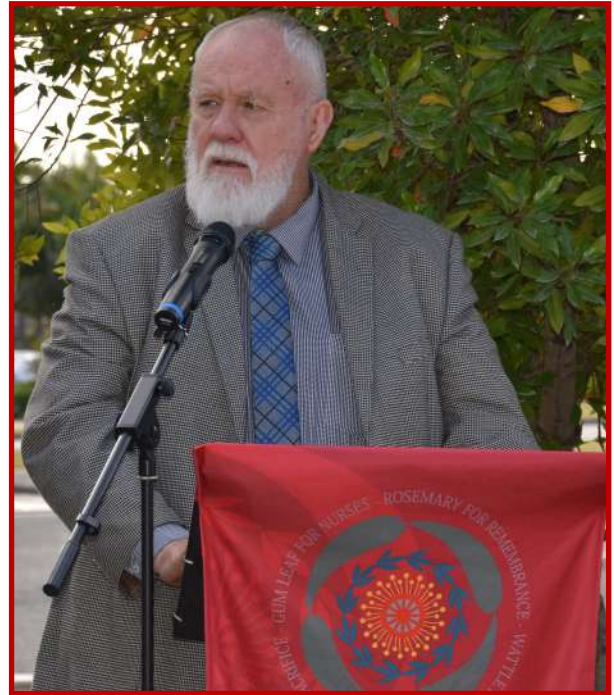


**‘60th Anniversary of Australians in the Vietnam War’
was introduced by Vietnam Veterans
William Hillis, Navy and John Wilson OAM, RAAF**





**‘Bundaberg/Burnett Honour Roll
Vietnam War 1962 - 1973’
Introduced by
Councillor Bill Trevor OAM
Deputy Mayor, Bundaberg Regional Council**



**‘Service of Care and Comfort,
South East Asian Conflicts’
was introduced by
Anne-Maree Turner
Nurse Unit Manager, Bundaberg Hospital
Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service**





Padre, Major Melissa Millard then dedicated all four plaques.

Let us now dedicate these commemorative plaques to the memory of those who died for their country and in honour of those who served during conflicts, war and humanitarian operations in honour of the service and care provided by those from Bundaberg/Burnett region and for all those whose memory we treasure and who lived and died in the service of their country.



The dedication was followed by Wreath Laying during which time Piper Adam Johnston played a Lament.

**Warrant Officer
M J 'Jeannie' Roberts,
RAN Reserve,
on behalf of serving personnel
Australian Defence Force
and
Angella Hillis CSC
on behalf of
Bundaberg District Women
Veterans**



Shelagh Bennet, Australian Nurses of the Vietnam War and John Wilson OAM, Vietnam Veterans



**Keith Pitt MP, Federal Member for Hinkler
Tom Smith MP, State Member for Bundaberg
Bill Trevor, Deputy Mayor Bundaberg Regional Council**



Left: Alexandra Logan, on behalf of Australian Service Nurses, Peace Operations



Above right: Helen Hancock, CMF/Army Reserve Assn; Dannielle Brearley, Bundaberg RSL Sub Branch; Michael Walker, Bundaberg & District Branch, RAAF Assn

Below L-R: Deidre Elliott, Sunshine Coast Ex-Service & Serving Women's Assn; Dale Reynolds, WRAAC Assn; Wayne McNee, Bundaberg Legacy; Desley Lingard, Ex-Servicewomen's RSL Sub Branch



Above L-R: Ian Rieck, Bundaberg Services Club; Jean Smith, Australian Red Cross; Anne-Maree Turner and Craig Hodges, Wide Bay Hospital and Health



**Simone Finch,
Friendly Society Private Hospital**

**Major Melissa Millard
Salvation Army, Bundaberg**

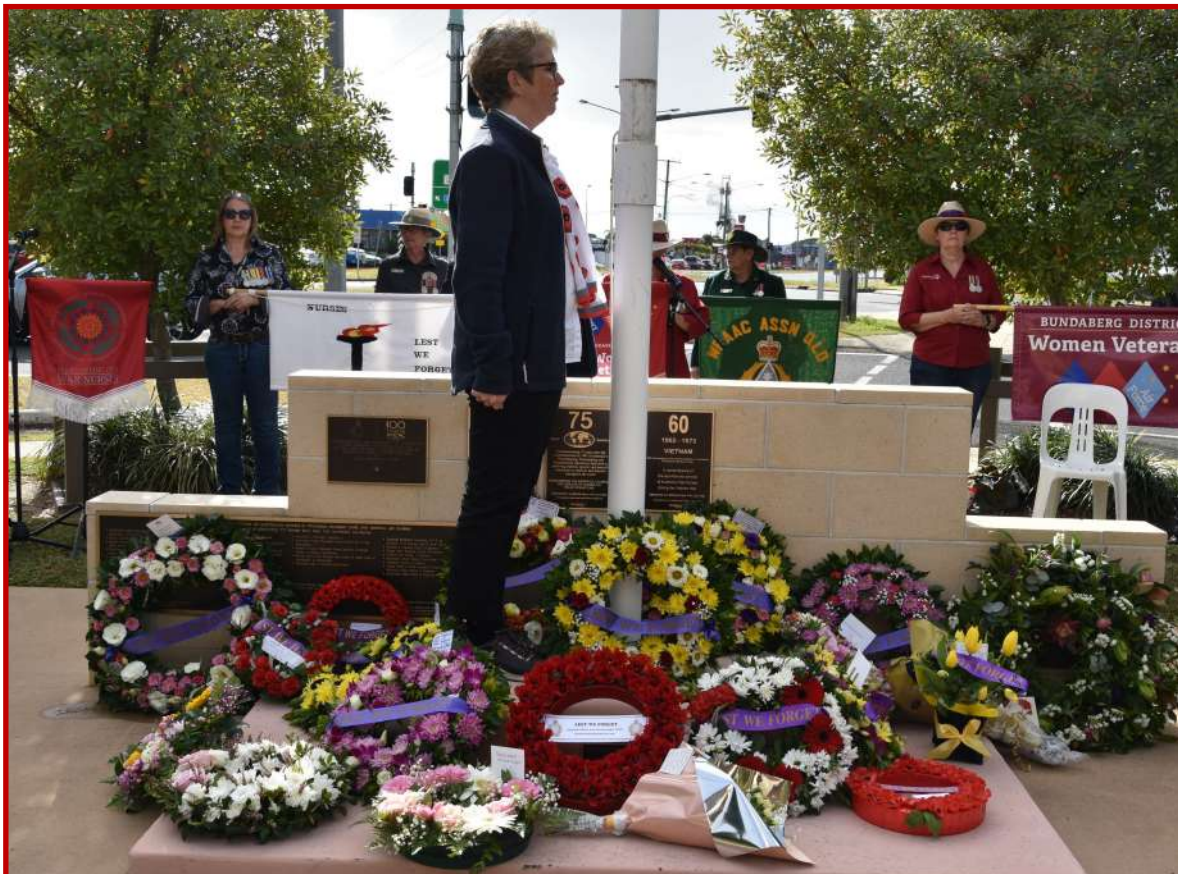


**Fran Sinclair and
Shirley Watson**

In memory of family who served



Flag Orderly, Kim Hiscox





Cheryl Frawley CSM recites The Ode



Aaron Hunter sounds The Last Post and Rouse



Sharon Barsby, PA controller

Following the Australian National Anthem provided electronically, Closing Prayers and Benediction, the MC President Jennifer Waldron thanked everyone who had contributed. The gathering was invited to a tree planting ceremony which would be held in the same park as soon as chairs and equipment were moved.



Carolyn Kennedy, Nursing Sister, Vietnam



Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee

War Nurses Memorial Park & Lions Remembrance Park: July-November 2022

A ceremonial planting of the first tree in this project, a *Waterhousia floribunda*
War Nurses Memorial Park, 17th July 2022, 1000 Hrs.

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



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

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 completed in partnership with Bundaberg Regional Council



Australian Government

The transition from the War Nurses Memorial Pavilion 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 30 minute exercise the MC, who was still president Jennifer Waldron, commenced the ceremonial event:

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 serves 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, 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.



Throughout the reunion weekend, the green theme was partnered by the Queen theme. With the 3rd day's activities completed, many took the opportunity to say farewell and begin their journey back 'home'.



May the friendships continue until we meet again in 2027—keep smiling!



Sunshine Coast Ex-Service & Serving Women's Association Incorporated



Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association Queensland Inc.

Thank you to all of our visitors—we could not have a reunion without you!



Bundaberg District Women Veterans

BACK ROW: Jeannie Roberts, Faye Chatham, Lynne Pollock, Lisa Taylor, Sonya Leijen,
Angella Hillis CSC, Shirley Watson, Kate Erickson,
Gloria Kilpatrick, Dannielle Brearley.
FRONT ROW: Carolyn Kennedy, Shirley Parker, Kay Littler, Jennifer Waldron,
Leone Wilson OAM.
KNEELING: Shelagh Bennet, Sharon Barsby.

