

Australian War Widows' (Act) Inc

ABN 70 713 347235

Canberra Services Club, 51 Blackall St, Barton ACT 2600 - Phone: 6162 0503

PO Box 3041, Manuka ACT 2603

Patron

Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley

We all belong to each other

We all need each other

It is in serving each other

And in sacrificing for our common good

That we are finding our true life



President: Shirley Percival

Minute Secretary: Kathryn Spurling

Public Officer: Judy Rowe

Vice President: Robynne Mitchell

Treasurer: Trish Behan

Spring 2020



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that Christmas is only weeks away. I hope and pray 2021 will be a better year for all Australians.

At a recent general meeting a motion was put forward to change our name from War Widows Guild (ACT) Inc. to Australian War Widows (ACT) Inc. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously. The name has now been approved by Access Canberra and the change is in keeping with the other states who have previously changed their name. Our Constitution and By-laws of the War Widows' Guild of Australia (ACT) Inc and any reference within the Constitution/By-laws will be updated to reflect the registration.

I attended the National Annual General Meeting by zoom this month and the elections were held at that meeting. Outgoing National President Meg Green stood down in favour of Rhondda Vanzella (NSW) who was elected unopposed to the position. The National Treasurer Shirley Drysdale also stood down and Jenny Gregory (QLD) was elected unopposed.

I hope to see you all at our Christmas Lunch at the Irish Club on 18 November.

Our office will close for the Christmas break on 26 November and reopen 18 January 2021.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Xmas and best wishes for the New Year. Keep Safe.

Shirley Percival
President





National President Rhondda Vanzella OAM

Congratulations to our new National President Rhondda who was elected in October. We look forward to working closely with her in the future.

We wish to thank outgoing President Meg Green for all the work she did over the years on behalf of War Widows. We wish her well.

Australian War Widows' (ACT) Inc Committee 2020-2021

President	Shirley Percival
Vice President	Robynne Mitchell
Minute Secretary	Kathryn Spurling
Treasurer	Trish Behan
Committee Members	Constance Aronsen, Enid Vance, Marlene Wilson Mary Cummings, Judy Rowe, Judith Young



L-R Shirley Percival, Mary Cummings, Marlene Wilson, Kathryn Spurling,
Judy Rowe, Enid Vance, Trish Behan, Judith Young

Guild Meetings are held at Legacy House, Deakin on the first Saturday of each month at 1.30pm, with the exception of September, when it is held at Moreshead Home, El Alamein Village, Archibald St Lyneham.

Please come and join us for a pleasant afternoon. A “bring a plate” afternoon tea is enjoyed after each meeting.

The Community Services Directorate, along with the Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their Families, invite you to attend the...

ACT Remembrance Day Commemoration

Date : Sunday, 8 November 2020

Time : 10:45am –11:30am

Location : Woden Cemetery, Justinian Street, Phillip

Should you wish to attend please contact the office ASAP or RSVP to communityparticipation@act.gov.au by 5 November 2020

The National Remembrance Day held at the Australian War Memorial will be invitation only for this year.

New DVA Phone Number

DVA have advised that 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) will become the primary access number for veterans and their families.

“This change is part of DVA’s Veteran Centric Reform Program which includes improvements to our telephone channel to make it easier for veterans and their families to speak to the right person at the first point of contact.

You will start to see 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) rather than the previous general enquiry number 1800 555 254 in our publications and correspondence and on our website and other online portals. This is a gradual process and 1800 555 254 will remain active for some time yet until 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) is well embedded. Some other external-facing numbers will remain for specific needs, including the transport bookings and Ex-service Organisation lines.

Phone numbers for other non-DVA services will stay the same. For example, the current phone numbers for Open Arms and the Veterans’ Review Board, will stay the same.”

Victoria Benz
Deputy Commissioner NSW & ACT
Department of Veterans’ Affairs

New Members

We welcome our new members
Sarah Lund, Judith Sertori and Valna Stirton

Happy Birthdays



Best Wishes to all our Members who have or will celebrate Birthdays in
October, November and December

Special birthday wishes to Margaret McAuslan who will turn **90**
and Helen Duff and Valerie O'Dwyer who will turn **95**



Vale

We sadly farewell our friends

*Elaine Pennock
June Healy OAM
Enid Lee*

*Maelyn Wishart
Wilma McQueen
Sylvia Jeffery*



Past Presidents

June Healy OAM passed in August 2020. June was previously ACT President from 2006 to 2007. She created a life of adventures and accomplishments at home and overseas. She led over 30 commemorative tours. In 1990 June was awarded a Medal of Order of Australia for service to veterans. Formerly RSL National Secretary, National President of COTA, War Widows' Guild and WRAAC Association. June contributed to many organisations.

Elaine Pennock passed in August 2020. Elaine was ACT President from 2013 to 2016. She became a widow in 2005 and was involved with war widows for 15 years. During that time, she held the positions of President and Vice President. Elaine enjoyed the camaraderie and the chance to improve the lives of older war widows.



Private Ronald Eagleton



Coral Sadler's family attended the Last Post Ceremony held for Coral's brother Ronald on the 30th August 2020 at the Australian War Memorial. Some of our widows also attended and a wreath was laid on behalf of the War Widows by the President.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ACT Remembrance Day Commemoration

Sunday 8th November 2020 10.45am-11.30am Woden Cemetery. RSVP required.

Australian War Widows' (ACT) Inc Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 18th November 2020 12 midday at the Irish Club, Weston

General meetings

The first General Meeting for 2021 will be on Saturday 6th February 2021 and the first Saturday of the month there after.

Annual Picnic 2021

The picnic will be held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at the Canberra Yacht Club commencing at 5.00pm. The ladies will be meeting downstairs for fish and chips or bring your own picnic



Stories of our Members.



Kathryn Spurling (nee Norris)

I was born in Brisbane and educated at Ironside State and Brisbane Girls Grammar. Being a restless soul and from a military family: (father served with RAF Bomber Command in WWII and brother served with fulltime CMF); I enlisted in the Womens Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) in 1966 at 18. I married an RAN Electrical Engineering Officer and moved where Nigel was posted (except to sea and he did a lot of sea service.

Our worst year was 1983 when he was home collectively 52 days). The most interesting posting was when Nigel was appointed Assistant Naval Attache, Washington DC, between 1986-1989. It was an exciting time with our two sons, but not being a very good, 'society wife', the cocktail parties and luncheons five and six days/nights a week, became boring. I did manage to complete a Masters degree, in history through University of NSW, with my thesis on discrimination against women in the navy. When we returned home, I worked on the two-volume history of the Department of Customs. In 1996 I commenced a PhD in history at UNSW at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra. I was granted a PhD in 1989; my 100,000-word thesis, was on RAN non-commissioned personnel. I had commenced tutoring Midshipmen and Cadets in 1st year history and Strategic Studies and guest-lectured in Australian, naval, and women's history. In 1999 I organized the first Australian international conference on women in uniform. I have lectured overseas in Washington DC; at Denmark's Defence College; University of Massachusetts; NATO Headquarters, Brussels; Spain, and was a Summer Fellow appointed to the United States Military Academy (Westpoint), New York. My subjects were 'women in the military' and 'sexual abuse by United Nations Peacekeepers' (and received a lot of angst from less forward-thinking military individuals).

When Nigel died of cancer at age 60, I ceased lecturing at ADFA but was appointed a Visiting Fellow there until 2011. Due to persistent sexual abuse at ADFA (and the skype affair) I again reported to the Australian Government, and, appeared on *Insight* and *Four Corners* and *ABC* programmes. My Fellowship was terminated. Women in the military have come a long way – my daughter-in-law was the first woman in the world to be a submarine engineering officer. My elder son, also an ADFA graduate, was an RAN submarine engineering officer. My second son is a senior Defence public servant. The Australian National

University made me a Visiting Fellow from 2012 until 2014, when I accepted an Adjunct Fellowship with Flinders University, which I still have. Until Christmas 2019, I travelled Australia to interview Australian Defence Force abuse victims for a Flinders/DVA research study. 2010 to 2019, I was a member of the ACT Govt. Veterans Advisory Board.

I am a partner in the *Artists Shed*, Fyshwick and spend probably too many hours sourcing, cleaning, and upcycling discarded original Australian paintings. My gallery partner, artist, Margaret Hadfield, and I are: *The Artist and the Historian* and our art and history expeditions are filmed. Margaret has also provided the artwork for some of my books. Books published:

Cruel Conflict: the triumphs and tragedy of HMAS Perth. A Grave too Far Away: a tribute to Australians in RAF Bomber Command, Europe. The Mystery of AE1: Australia's Missing Submarine and Crew. HMAS Canberra: Casualty of Circumstance. Abandoned and Sacrificed: the tragedy of the Montevideo Maru. Fire at Sea: HMAS Westralia 1998. For *Inspiring Australian Women* I interviewed Helen Reddy, Natasha Stott-Despoja, Geraldine Cox, Fiona Wood, Matilda House-Williams and Lauren Jackson and they totally inspired **me**.

**Artists
Shed**

The Artists Shed is a large, privately owned gallery/art school, which celebrates Australian art and culture like no other. Rescued and upcycled Australian paintings at very affordable prices, as well as the exquisite Australian paintings of award-winning Margaret Hadfield. Also featured, indigenous artifacts from Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Pacific Islands and Africa.

The Bohemian Coffee and Wine Bar offers barista quality beverages, regular music events and is a wonderful venue for morning teas, meetings and High Teas by arrangement.



Each Thursday, Julie-Anne Ure offers you some **TART**, to enjoy fun and achievable creativity, drawing and painting with morning tea. All art materials included. Bookings essential.

Unit 1-3, 88 Wollongong St, Fyshwick Canberra
All enquires and bookings 0418 237 766
www.artistsshed.com.au

**We are hoping to organise a card making and or art class
for early next year.**

Easy Curried Zucchini Soup

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 medium carrots, peeled, chopped
- 3 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 small onion, peeled, chopped
- 1-2 teaspoon curry powder
- 3 zucchinis cut into cubes
- 6 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- ½ cup heavy cream (optional)
- 1 teaspoon salt, season with cracked black pepper



In a large soup pot, melt the butter over medium heat until it begins to bubble. Add the carrots, celery, onion and curry powder. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 6-8 minutes, or until the vegetables soften and start to turn brown. Stir in the zucchini. Add the stock, salt and pepper and bring it to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 12-15 minutes or until the zucchini is tender. Stir in the cream. Remove the soup from the heat to cool slightly before blending. Using a blender, process the soup in batches until smooth (or use a stick blender). Reheat and season the soup to taste.
 Makes 8 servings (or freeze half for later).



ACROSS

- 1 Plant support (4)
- 3 Latin American dance (3-3)
- 8 Piece of jewellery, one of a pair (7)
- 9 Complete and utter nonsense (3)
- 10 Muscle disorder (10)
- 13 Added air to (10)
- 17 Creditor's note (inits)(3)
- 18 Wear formal clothes (5,2)
- 19 Compelling, convincing (6)
- 20 Watches (4)

DOWN

- 1 Part of a staircase (4)
- 2 Soil (5)
- 4 Hold lovingly (3)
- 5 Short-legged breed of dog (5)
- 6 Chronic respiratory illness (6)
- 7 Numeral (6)
- 11 Rhododendron-like flowering shrub (6)
- 12 Group of star signs (6)
- 14 Still in the early part of life (5)
- 15 Dissertation (5)
- 16 Numbered musical piece (4)
- 18 Judo grade (3)

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Christmas Luncheon



The Australian War Widows' (ACT) Inc Christmas Luncheon will be held on

Wednesday 18th November 2020
12 Midday at The Irish Club, Weston

Menu – Crispy bread roll with butter

Mains

Duo of roast turkey and honey glazed ham, served with roast potatoes and pumpkin, steamed crunchy greens and gravy.

Dessert

Individual pudding with warm brandy custard or mini fruit pavlova with fresh fruit and mango coulis.

Cost - \$30 per head

Due to COVID restrictions tea, coffee and bon bons are not available as part of the lunch.

Also due to COVID we are required to purchase our own beverages from the bar and are restricted to 45 guests.

Entertainment – Mathew Vrins sings all the golden oldies

To book a place please put your name down at the next general meeting or call the office no later than 5th November.

Money for the luncheon will be collected at the next general meeting or you can pay on the day.

Members and friends welcome.



Trading Table

During every General Meeting we have a trading table which is run by Vi McRae who does a wonderful job. Members are encouraged to donate items to be sold as the funds raised help to support the Guild.

Do you have an email address?

Please let us know and we can send out your newsletter and information to you that way.

Australian War Widows' (ACT) Inc email is actwarwidows@outlook.com

Are you in hospital or entering long term care?

Can you ask family to advise the office so we can keep our records up to date?

Please phone us on 6162 0503 or email on actwarwidows@outlook.com

Our face book page is up and running.

If you have access to a computer, give our page a like.

War Widows' Guild of Australia - ACT

<https://www.facebook.com/WarWidowsACT>



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