

BULLETIN

AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS



QUEENSLAND

SUMMER 2025

In this issue:

- Field Of Remembrance
- War Widows Day
- Friendship Day 2026
- Members' Pets



SUMMER EDITION 2025

AWWQ CONTACTS

QUEENSLAND STATE PRESIDENT

Mrs Judy Smith

CHAIRMAN

Mr Stephen Scott

SECRETARY

Mrs Narelle Stanton

INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

Ms Jenny Walker

Mr Chris Richards

WAR WIDOW DIRECTORS

Mrs Maureen Rush OAM

Mrs Vikki Harradine

Mrs Debbie Baczyk

Mrs Denise Fridolf OAM

MEMBERS OF STAFF

Rachel Johnson, Executive Officer

Susan Hilditch, Wellbeing Program Manager

Jason Orchard, Operations Manager

Lindy Beehre, Member Support Officer

Emma Quigley, Administration & Property Coordinator

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WEBSITE

www.warwidowsqld.org.au

GRATITUDE TO OUR PATRON

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC

PSM, Governor of Queensland

<https://www.govhouse.qld.gov.au/>

CONTENTS

STATE PRESIDENT REPORT	2
EO REPORT	3
WELLBEING PROGRAM MANAGER	4
NEWS & REMINDERS	5
GROUP DIRECTORY	6
GROUP NEWS	8
HEATHER COSSART	14
VALE	15
STARTING THE DAY POSITIVE	16
PETS	18
FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE / WW DAY	19
CHRISTMAS JOKES	30
RECIPE	31
FRIENDSHIP DAY 2026	32
CROSSWORD	36
SUDOKU	37
DONATION FORM	38
ACCOMMODATION	39



DISCLAIMER:

The material in the AWWQ Bulletin has been checked and to the best of our knowledge is correct. However, errors may occur which are beyond our control. If this should happen, we apologise most sincerely.

AWWQ

Advocacy Register

Beyond Blue

Caring Cuisine

Centrelink (MyGov)

Crime Stoppers

Do Not Call Register

DVA Booked Car With Driver

DVA Community Nursing

DVA General Enquiries

DVA Payment and Reimbursement Team

DVA Pharmaceutical line

DVA Rehabilitation Appliances Program

DVA Short-term Crisis Accommodation

DVA Transport

Income Support Team

Lifeline

Meals on Wheels

My Aged Care

Open Arms

Police / Fire / Ambulance

Policelink (Non urgent matters)

Seniors Enquiry Line

SES (Flood & Storm Emergency)

Travel Claims

Veterans' Home Care

07 3846 7706 or 1800 061 945

www.advocateregister.org.au

1300 224 636

07 3354 3919

1300 169 468

1800 333 000

1300 792 958

Qmbbcwd@dva.gov.au

nursing@dva.gov.au

1800 838 372

ambphmepi@dva.gov.au

1800 552 580

ambrapge@dva.gov.au

1800 011 046

1800 550 455

ort.New.Claims@dva.gov.au

13 11 14

1300 909 790

1800 200 422

1800 011 046 / openarms.clientassist@dva.gov.au

000

131 444

1300 135 500

132 500

Transport.Claims@dva.gov.au

1300 550 450 / vhc@dva.gov.au



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Glenda Aitken- Berserker

Pam Barlow – New Farm

Lavina Berry- Cranbrook

Melva Boese – Pacific Pines

Marlene Brown- Wynnum

Wareto Cotterall – New Farm

Melanie Diaz- Booval

Suzanne Elphinston – West End

Jill Fry- Preston

Yvonne Heilman – Runaway Bay

Cheryl Lamond-Oakwood

Dianne Mann – The Dawn

Margaret McDonnell – Morayfield

Elizabeth McWilliam – Moy Pocket

Rosemary Powell – Mango Hill

Rois Reichmann- Coorparoo

Judith Robinson – Bargara

Di Smart – Middle Ridge

Rosemary Swadling- Kawana

Carmel Taylor – Bundaberg

Vicki Taylor-Crook – Sandstone Point

Enid Vandersluys – Edmonton

Eileen Vogele – Charters Towers

STATE PRESIDENT REPORT



AWWQ has enjoyed another successful year, providing more services and benefits to members while maintaining a strong level of membership despite the aging of our members. These are some of my thoughts about 2025.

Sue and I continued the annual visits to

the regions. However, there were some disruptions this year due to the many influenza viruses affecting members and group attendances. My apologies if we missed you this year. We will attempt to catch up early in 2026.

The remedial work at Marina Court was completed, and the units were ready for occupation at the beginning of this year. Applications began arriving, and to date, 14 war widows have been housed at Marina Court since February. There are currently only two unoccupied units.

Friendship Day 2025, hosted by the Maroochydore Social Group, was a great success, with approximately 120 members in attendance. Thanks to Glynis and her team at Maroochydore.

The planning for Townsville Friendship Day 2026 is well advanced. Many members have told me that they have already booked their Townsville holiday around Friendship Day. Details about the event are in this Bulletin. If you intend to make this a holiday, I suggest you start planning your trip.

The AGM was held at the United Services Club in August, with Gail Harrower from the Mission Possible Community Sewing Team speaking about the excellent work her team does.

In October, we celebrated War Widows Day with the first AWWQ Field of Remembrance Service at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane. On this day, we honoured and recognised the sacrifices of widows. It was a memorable day, and you can find many photos of the event in this Bulletin. Thanks to Jack for the beautiful images.

It has been my honour and privilege to attend and lay a wreath at ceremonial events on behalf of war widows. Most recently, I attended the Remembrance Day service at the Brisbane Shrine of Remembrance.

I have continued to attend the National teleconferences and engaged with state and national government agencies and ESOs throughout the year.

The Christmas Luncheon was the last official event of 2025, and we all enjoyed a day of fun and friendship (thanks to Emma for the raffles) while being entertained by the Mal Wood Trio.

Thank you all for your continued support and friendship, and for making me welcome at your meetings and events. To Presidents, Coordinators and all our volunteers, thank you for your work. Without you, we would not be able to do what we do.

Most of you will have finished the year with War Widow business and be preparing for Christmas. To those who are travelling over the holidays, safe travels. To my fellow board members, Rachel, her dedicated staff, and, of course, all the AWWQ members: enjoy the Festive Season, have a Happy New Year, and I look forward to working with you all again in 2026.

Judy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



Dear Members,

As we welcome the warmth of summer and the joy of the Christmas season, I am delighted to reflect on a truly remarkable year for Australian War Widows Queensland. It has been a year filled with meaningful moments, heartfelt connections,

and an enduring sense of community spirit that continues to define who we are and why our mission is so important.

Throughout 2025, we have been reminded time and again of the strength and resilience of our members. Whether gathering in person, connecting by phone, or participating in local group activities, our community has come together to celebrate friendship, honour service, and support one another through life's many seasons.

--- A Historic Milestone — Queensland Field of Remembrance ---

This year marked an extraordinary milestone with the inaugural Queensland Field of Remembrance held on 20 October at St John's Cathedral. Together, we gathered in quiet reflection to honour the sacrifices made by our loved ones who served, and to acknowledge the courage, resilience, and devotion of war widows and families across Queensland.

Watching members lay crosses in memory of their spouses and loved ones was deeply moving. The solemn beauty of the cathedral, combined with the presence of civic leaders, Defence representatives, and our AWWQ community, created an atmosphere of unity, respect, and shared remembrance. It was a privilege to stand beside so many of you on this significant day and to see this new tradition begin with such dignity and heartfelt meaning.

--- Friendship, Celebration & Connection ---

Our Friendship Day once again brought together members from across Queensland to enjoy companionship, laughter, and shared stories. These moments of connection — the smiles, warm embraces, and joy of seeing familiar and new faces — remind us of the lifelong friendships that make our organisation so special.

We also celebrated our much-loved Christmas Luncheon, an annual highlight filled with festive cheer, beautiful music, and holiday warmth. Seeing so many members gathered together — enjoying conversation, reminiscing, and sharing excitement for the year ahead — filled us with pride and gratitude.

--- Supporting One Another ---

Alongside our events and special occasions, AWWQ continues to prioritise member wellbeing. Whether through support calls, social outings, home visits, or group gatherings, our focus remains on ensuring that every member feels valued, supported, and connected.

To our Sub-Branch leaders, volunteers, Board Directors, and Head Office team — thank you. Your commitment, compassion, and hard work make a meaningful difference every single day.

--- A Warm Christmas Wish ---

As the Christmas season arrives, I hope each of you finds time to enjoy moments of peace, reflection, and joy. Christmas is a time to appreciate the people who enrich our lives and to reflect on the blessings of community, connection, and shared purpose.

May 2026 bring good health, renewed energy, and moments of laughter and celebration. Thank you for your continued trust, strength, and spirit. We look forward to another year of honouring, supporting, and uplifting one another.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a bright, happy New Year.

WELLBEING PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT



Dear members of the Australian War Widows Queensland community,

As we celebrate the end of another busy year, I wish you all a very merry Christmas season. I have enjoyed supporting all our members, their families, and their carers at the AWWQ events, branch meet-

ings and individual conversations. AWWQ is a unique charity offering members accommodation, advocacy, fellowship, kindness and connection.

I hope you will find the updated Benefits and Services booklet, included in the summer bulletin, to be informative and useful. One of the most significant improvements that I have observed this year is the increase in the number of new DVA approved Community Nursing providers to support those members with DVA Gold Cards. Their services will support the independence of many war widows who need assistance after surgery or those wishing to age in their homes. Should there be any area that you would like more information on, please do not hesitate to call me.

As we move into a new year, I am continually inspired by the resilience and generosity within our community. Each conversation, each shared story, and each act of support reminds me of the strength that exists when we come together with purpose. It has been a privilege to witness how our members uplift one another, creating an environment where no one feels alone in their journey. Your commitment to staying connected, engaged, and supportive of one another strengthens the foundation of everything we do at AWWQ.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful for the opportunities 2025 will bring. We remain committed to expanding our services and ensuring that every member feels valued and supported. I encourage you to take part in the events, programs, and social gatherings planned for the new year, as they continue to foster friendships and provide meaningful moments of companionship. Together, we can ensure that AWWQ remains a place of comfort, community, and continuity for all who need it.

Thank you to all the volunteers who look after our members so well. I look forward to serving our members next year whether that be at the branch meetings, at the events, in-person meetings or over-the-phone.

Best wishes
Sue Hilditch
Wellbeing Program Manager

NEWS & REMINDERS

OFFICE CLOSURE

AWWQ Head Office will be closing on Tuesday 23 December 2025 at 4:00pm for the Christmas / New Year break, and will re-open on Friday 2nd January 2026 at 8:00am.

DVA OFFICE CLOSURE

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) offices, shopfronts, and general enquiry phone lines will be closed from Thursday 25th December 2025 to Thursday 1st January 2026.

MEMBERS' BENEFITS AND SERVICES BOOKLET

Our Wellbeing Program Manager, Sue Hilditch, has updated the members' Benefits and Services booklet, which is included with this Bulletin. This booklet outlines the benefits and services that are available for war widows.

FRIENDSHIP DAY 2026

Friendship Day 2026 will be held in beautiful Townsville on Thursday 28 May, with a White Cross Service being held the day before on Wednesday 27 May. For further information on the event, how to book and accommodation and attraction information, see from page 34 of this edition.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

If you had your photo taken at the Field of Remembrance service in Brisbane and would like a copy, please contact head office and we will arrange for one to be sent to you.

2026/2027 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Your annual membership fees are due on 31 March 2026. A renewal form will be included in the autumn 2026 edition of the Bulletin. However, if you would like to pay early, you can contact head office on (07) 3876 7706.

PEN PALS

A Pen Pal is a great way to connect with someone in similar circumstances as yourself, or just to get the feel of pen to paper, which seems to be a lost exercise these days. AWWQ has a pen pal program connecting its members with each other.

If you would like to send and receive mail and make a new friend, please contact Lindy Beehre on 0478 398 931 or

Lindy@warwidowsqld.org.au.

Lindy will then get back in touch to notify you once you have been matched with someone. Once you are matched you can communicate freely with your new pen pal, and hopefully make a new lifelong friend.

UPDATED MEMBERS HANDBOOK

We are pleased to share that the AWWQ Members Handbook has been updated. This revised edition provides clearer guidelines to assist Group Presidents and Coordinators in confidently managing and supporting their groups. A printed copy will be sent to all Group Presidents and Coordinators in the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to our members.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS

As the year draws to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our sub-branch volunteers for everything you do to support the members of Australian War Widows Queensland. Across our 26 sub-branches, your dedication, compassion, and commitment ensure that our members remain connected, supported, and valued. Each of you gives your time and energy selflessly, organising gatherings, offering a listening ear, and keeping the spirit of community alive.

Your efforts make a real difference in the lives of our members and honour the legacy of those who served. We are deeply grateful for your continued service and the warmth you bring to our organisation.



9	7	8	1	4	2	5	6	3
6	5	3	9	7	8	4	1	2
1	4	2	6	5	3	7	9	8
5	6	4	8	9	7	3	2	1
2	3	1	5	6	4	9	8	7
8	9	7	2	3	1	6	5	4
7	8	9	3	1	5	2	4	6
4	2	6	7	8	9	1	3	5
3	1	5	4	2	6	8	7	9

AWWQ GROUP DIRECTORY

BRISBANE NORTH	3rd TUESDAY 11:00am Geebung RSL, 323 Newman Rd, Geebung, QLD, 4034 Convener: Denise Fridolf OAM 0417 651 447 E: dfridolf9019@gmail.com
BRISBANE WEST	2nd MONDAY 10:15am Gaythorne RSL, 534 Samford Rd, Mitchelton, QLD, 4053 Convener: Narelle Stanton 0418 731 686 E: n_stanton@yahoo.com
BUNDABERG	2nd TUESDAY 10:30am "Legacy House", 11 Williams Road, Svensson Heights, QLD 4670 Coordinator: Judy Mitchell 0407 676 344 E: jbmitchell238@gmail.com
CABOOLTURE	2nd FRIDAY 10:30am Jacaranda Cafe, 103 King Street, Caboolture, QLD, 4510 President: Estelle Anson 5495 1215 Secretary & Treasurer: Cathy Hartshorn 5428 0210 E: cathhartshorn@live.com
CAIRNS	1st WEDNESDAY 10:00am "Rona Shute Room" Cairns RSL, 119 Esplanade, Cairns, QLD 4870 Coordinators: Lyn Bennett 0404 868 449 E: lyncarben@gmail.com Norma Basset 0408 537 547 Donata Harper 0428 581 158
CALOUNDRA	2nd MONDAY 10:00am Caloundra RSL, 19 West Terrace, Caloundra, QLD, 4551 Temporary Coordinator: Ann Stephenson OAM 0418 740 376
GOLD COAST NORTH	4th TUESDAY 10:30am RSL Southport, 36 Scarborough St, Southport, QLD, 4215 Coordinator: Sharon Grut-Mackay 0468 776 119 E: shazza66@y7mail.com Assistants: Margaret Theobald 0419 671 305 Thelma Tiley 0415 746 652
GOLD COAST SOUTH	1st MONDAY 10:30am Currumbin RSL, 165 Duringan St, Currumbin, QLD, 4223 President & Treasurer: Deborah Baczyk 0408 807 600 E: Presidentwwgc@outlook.com Secretary: Rosemary Miller 0407 133 026 E: Secretarywwgc@outlook.com
GYMPIE	1st FRIDAY 10:00am Veterans Service Centre 39 Monkland Street, Gympie, QLD, 4570 President: Maureen Rush 0412 737 380 E: maureenrush@bigpond.com Secretary: Linda Collins 5482 2416 Treasurer: Joyce Longhurst 0429 312 708
HERVEY BAY	1st MONDAY 10:00am Hervey Bay RSL, 11 Torquay Rd, Hervey Bay, QLD, 4655 Coordinator: Lyn Glover 0417 570 631
INGHAM	3rd THURSDAY 10:30am Ingham RSL, 4 Hawkins St, Ingham, QLD, 4850 Coordinators Denise Scott 0419 774 102 or 07 4777 2237 E: denise.f.scott1@bigpond.com
IPSWICH	1st THURSDAY 10:00am CSI Club, 5 Lowry Street, North Ipswich, QLD, 4305 Coordinator: Susan Croydon 0403 404 426 E: nanacroydon@gmail.com Treasurer: Virginia Smith 0407 859 406
LOTUS CLUB	1st SATURDAY 11:30am Held at various venues in the Brisbane CBD Coordinator: Helen McDiarmid 0411 485 032

MAROOCHYDORE	4th MONDAY 10:00am Maroochydore RSL, 106 Memorial Ave, Maroochydore, QLD, 4558 Coordinator Glynis Burns 0474 639 790 E: boxerhaven@ozemail.com.au
MARYBOROUGH	3rd TUESDAY 10:00am Maryborough RSL, 163-175 Lennox St, Maryborough, QLD, 4650 Coordinator: Cristelita Ryan 0448 665 274 E:geron10@hotmail.com
NEW FARM	2nd TUESDAY 10:00am Brunswick Hotel, New Farm, QLD, 4005 Convenor: Jenny Gregory 0411 512 310 E: Jenny2gregory@hotmail.com
THE PERSEPHONES	1st SATURDAY 10:00am - 2:00pm (Subject to change and availability) Coordinator: Lauren Ashby 0409 951 158 E: renash03@bigpond.com
REDCLIFFE	1st FRIDAY 10:30am Redcliffe RSL, Irene St, Redcliffe, QLD, 4020 Coordinator: Gay Middleton 0439 323 557 Coordinator: Judy Harvey 0404 759 289 Treasurer: Jennifer Armstrong 0421 820 415
REDLANDS	Last FRIDAY 10:00am Redlands RSL, 8 Passage St, Cleveland, QLD, 4163 Secretary: Shree Rogers 0416 062 115 Treasurer: Fay Cross 3207 6609
ROCKHAMPTON	2nd TUESDAY 10:00am Frenchville Sports Club, 105 Clifton St, Nth Rockhampton, QLD, 4701 President: Ruth Russell 0488 081 122 E: russellr14@bigpond.com Vice President: Gay Collison 0407 116 982 Secretary: Jan McPherson 0407 642 186 E: jamcpherson52@gmail.com Treasurer: Gloria Lynch 4926 3947
SHERWOOD	3rd TUESDAY 10:00am Sherwood/Indooroopilly RSL Sub Branch, 2 Clewley St, Corinda, QLD, 4075 Convenor: Teresa Howkins 0413 688 601 E: teresahowkins@gmail.com
SOUTHEAST	3rd FRIDAY 10:00am Easts Leagues Club, 40 Main Ave, Coorparoo, QLD, 4151 Coordinator: Elizabeth Cowell 3349 2084 E: epcowell@outlook.com
SOUTHWEST	1st FRIDAY 10:30am Beneath Greenbank RSL (in the Sub Branch rooms), 54 Anzac Ave, Hillcrest, QLD, 4118 President: Vikki Harradine 0408 445 735 Secretary: Vicky Houlson 3273 1930 Treasurer: Trish Elliott 0416 073 263
TOOWOOMBA	2nd WEDNESDAY 9:30am Dr Price Meeting Room, 6 Little St, Toowoomba, QLD, 4350 President: Robyne Hilditch 0427 400 806 Vice President: Mary-Ann Wheatley 0427 379 978 Secretary: Helen Puxty 0428 908 864 Vice Secretary: Christine Hilditch 0412 078 631 Treasurer: Delma Starkoff 4635 8516 Assistant Treasurer: Caroline Pedersen
TOWNSVILLE	3rd TUESDAY 10:00am Townsville RSL, Charters Towers Road, Hermit Park, QLD, 4812 President: Wendy Goodman 0408 584 929 E: Awwtownsville@warwidowsqld.org.au Secretary: Beryl-Ann Kirby 0421 607 552 Treasurer: Lindy Henson 0417 786 920
WARWICK	1st Thursday 11:00am Warwick RSL "Southern Cross Room", 65 Albion St, Warwick, QLD, 4370 Secretary/Treasurer: Deborah Wheeler 0414 852 492 E: Info@kyoomba.com

GROUP NEWS

BRISBANE NORTH

Once again, a great year was had at our group. Our numbers have gone down with a couple of members going into care, but we still continue to have a great time.

We have had a couple of interesting guest speakers, one from Velan Health which was of interest. It was helpful to some of the groups to do some planning.

We celebrated War Widows Day with a luncheon at Geebung RSL Club. The ladies enjoyed it as it was a high tea served on platters.

Those of us who attended the Remembrance Day service thoroughly enjoyed the very moving service.

In November, we are sharing Christmas lunch with Legacy at Geebung RSL Club. Our group will be having a Christmas Lunch at Geebung on December 16th. We also have a group of 13 going to AWWQ Christmas Lunch at City Hall.

Our group will be resuming on Tuesday 20th January 2026 for lunch.

From all at Brisbane North Social Group, we wish all a happy Christmas filled with Peace and love.

BRISBANE WEST

Hello everyone. The end of the year is fast approaching and we have again enjoyed an year of outings and activities.

On the 19th September, a group of us, together with Denise Fridolf and her ladies from Brisbane North group, travelled to Bribie Island and, although the day was a bit rushed through no fault of our own, we enjoyed Op-shopping and a lovely lunch at

the Woorim Golf Club.

October was a busy month for us, we celebrated Jessie Vasey Day with a lunch after our meeting on the 13th October. Then, on the 20th October, we attended St. John's Cathedral for the Field of Remembrance to honour the widows and families of those who passed away as a result of war and conflict. It was a very moving and beautiful service and congratulations must go to our President Judy Smith, Executive Officer Rachel Johnson and all those involved in making the ceremony so heartfelt.

On the 10th November, our last meeting for the year, we enjoyed a lovely Christmas Lunch with fun and laughter. We welcomed our guests, Peter Thatcher, Area Legatee for Legacy, Nigel Cox, President of RSL Mitchelton, our State President, Judy Smith and Sue Hilditch, our Health and Wellbeing Manager.

Jean Hoffmann, Elizabeth Frew and Narelle Stanton represented our group by laying a wreath at the Gaythorne RSL Remembrance Day Ceremony on the 11th November.

As with every year, this year we are all a little bit older and wiser. Our beautiful Mollie-Jean Hunt reached the milestone of 100 years. We have also had our fair share of illnesses, injuries, hospitalisations and the life event of moving into care. Those ladies have faced these challenges with bravery and resilience and we support them.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2026.



Brisbane West members at a Remembrance Day Service

BUNDABERG

In October on War Widows Day, we celebrated with a high tea, and also had a White Cross Ceremony.

In November, our monthly meeting happened to fall on Remembrance Day, so we commemorated with a Remembrance Service that included the Last Post which was very moving, and appreciated by all the ladies.

We had a combined Christmas Lunch with the legacy ladies on 20th of November which was enjoyed by all. We share a great bond with the Bundaberg Legacy ladies.

We have a large amount of appreciation towards Bundaberg Legacy, they provide Legacy House for the monthly meetings, all of our functions and also do a pick up and drop off service for ladies who don't drive. We thank them very much for all of their help.

We have two members who are turning 97 in December which we celebrated with them this month. But sadly, we lost four members this year who will all be dearly missed.

From all of us at Bundaberg, wishing all of you a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.



Bundaberg Sub Branch Christmas Lunch

CAIRNS

August, we dined at Dunwoodies Restaurant.

September, we held our War Widows Day celebration at Kangaroos. It wasn't a large gathering but those of us who could attend really enjoyed the celebration and the delicious food.

During October's meeting we shared suggestions for our 2026 activities. We also checked out the many treasures at the Kokoda War Museum upstairs at the RSL on the Esplanade, Cairns. During October some of our group also visited Dundees Restaurant at the Pier.

November meeting was very busy, first we welcomed our newest member Enid Vandersluys. Then we checked out our preparations for our Christmas party which will be on the 26th. I know we're all looking forward to it. Donata also held a Christmas craft session.

Donata and Lyn laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on the Esplanade

for Remembrance Day.

We will finish off this year with our Christmas break-up on the 26th November at the RSL.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

I hope next year will be a good year for us all.

Lyn Bennett



Craft day organised by Donata



Kokoda Museum at the Cairns RSL



War Widows Day celebrations at Dundees

CALOUNDRA

Another year drawing to a close, time goes fast when we are having fun.

The Caloundra group have been meeting every second Monday this year and a good turn up for our group. We meet in a very relaxed atmosphere with tea/coffee/biscuits supplied by the Caloundra RSL Sub-branch. Lunch for those who wish to stay in the Victoria Cross lounge. All members and new members' welcome.

Some highlights this year have been a bus trip to the Kenilworth cheese factory, then onto lunch at the Kenilworth hotel, later to the famous donut shop. A very

successful day had by all attending. The below picture shows the girls enjoying this outing. Thank you to Wayne Matthews for taking time to drive us ladies on this excursion. Also thank you to the Sub-branch for allowing us to use the bus.

We had nine attend the lunch at the Power Boat Club for War Widows Day. A very pleasant day overlooking Pumicestone Passage at Golden Beach.

Dee Lister and Rita McKeown laid a wreath at the Caloundra RSL Bob McInnes Memorial Gardens on the 11th November for Remembrance Day

We continue to strive to attract new members and retain our members. We are looking at advertising locally to attract new members as I am sure there are many War Widows who would like to meet with like-minded people.

Thank you to our members who attend our social gathering each month, it is lovely to catch up and partake of news from head office and share stories.

My thoughts go out to our members who are not well or have been hospitalised.

Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year to you all.

Ann Stephenson OAM
Coordinator.



War Widows Day at the Power Boat Club



At the Kenilworth Cheese Factory



Caloundra Remembrance Day Service

GOLD COAST SOUTH

Hello from the Gold Coast South.

Gold Coast South has had a productive last quarter of 2025.

We have continued with our monthly meetings with that being the core of our group. Ceremonial days are also a major part of what Currumbin RSL does, and we are always included in the proceedings.

Remembrance Day was both moving and uplifting to see so many people validating the loss that we have all experienced.

As a group, we love to share with each other in friendship and community.

We have had a couple of bus trips over the last couple of months, one to the Margaret Olley Art Gallery in Murwillumbah and then another to Kingscliff to see our favourite entertainer Tommy Memphis. Both of these days were a great success.

Some of our members have been involved in a poppy project that culminated in a display for Remembrance Day. This was both fun and enlightening on how you how every day products can be recycled to make something beautiful.

The silly season is approaching quickly and with that we have many events to attend to keep us all out of mischief.

All the members from Gold Coast South wish our friends

around the state a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year and look forward to a bigger and better 2026.

Debbie

IPSWICH

What a busy few months it has been. August, the ladies had a visit from an OT Tim who explained many items of use to make the ladies' lives a little easier. Demonstrations of a couple of these items bought some laughter to the group, but Tim settled us down and showed the practical use of these items too.

Bron Drinkwater and myself laid a wreath and poppies at CSI Ipswich for Vietnam Veteran Day. A large crowd enjoyed the afternoon.

A few of us enjoyed the AGM in the city. A few questions were asked and many more answered. As a new Coordinator it was lovely to put a face to many I have been speaking to over the phone these last few months.

Carrara markets at the Gold Coast was a fabulous day out for 10 of us. Again, we thank War Widows for the use of their bus and our wonderful driver and navigator, without them us ladies would not have enjoyed spending money and tripping around the Gold Coast.

September was a special meeting with Qld President Judy and Wellbeing Manager Sue discussing many things. The ladies always enjoy their visit as it brings War Widows closer to us with not only knowledge but their friendship.

Field of Remembrance was celebrated by all but in many ways. Going along to the Cathedral in Brisbane, placing our crosses in a special place at home or even a quiet moment by ourselves. These crosses and their meanings hold dear to us all.

A visit to Gov't House in Brisbane in October, was an experience. The history of this beautiful building and the previous owners and the circumstances on how Gov't House was purchased was shared by the knowledge of our guide on the day. Some very interesting facts. Unfortunately, the Governor was not there but a walk around the gardens and enjoying morning tea, completed the day.

Jessie Vasey Day was celebrated by a few of the ladies remembering why one woman can start an amazing following through heartache but how then, treasured friendships are formed. In friendship.

Susan



Marea Teakle's farewell



Ipswich members in front of the Governor's official car



At the War Widows Day Lunch

MAROOCHYDORE

Greetings from Maroochydore Social Group. It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year. We are still averaging 15 members at meetings. Sadly, we have lost six members this year.

September, one of our members Diane Melloy gave a presentation on VP day and even dressed for the occasion as a land army girl.

October we had the President from the Military Historical society Australia who gave a presentation on finding a couple of family members who had been killed and buried in France. Very informative and the amount of detective work that was done was amazing. Diary entries and map coordinates along with google maps came in very handy.

For our last meeting of the year we will have a craft morning, making Christmas baubles and cards. Our Christmas lunch will be at Maroochydore RSL and we are looking forward to that.

Maroochydore social group would like to wish all sub branches and social groups a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2026.

Glynis



Diane Melloy as a Land Army Girl

NEW FARM

We wish all AWWQ members a happy Christmas at this time.

The New Farm social group

continues to meet at the Brunswick Hotel.

In October we celebrated War Widows Day with a lunch subsidised by AWWQ.

November, we held our own Remembrance service and a short address from one of our Marina Court residents who served as a nurse in Vietnam.

Our Christmas lunch is on December 9 commencing at 11am.

On December 2, 30 of our members will be attending the Lord Mayor's Christmas function at City Hall.

Our first meeting for 2026 will be in February when we will celebrate Veterans Health Week.

REDCLIFFE

As the Redcliffe War Widows Social Group, we continue to have good attendance at our social meetings and have welcomed several new members.

We started our spring meetings with a theme of spring, featuring a spring fashion parade with some of our members modelling lovely outfits provided by Jenny from Lady Claire in Margate. Many of our members also wore touches of spring in their outfits.

Our Guest Speaker in October was Occupational Therapist home visitor Leigh Morris, whose topic was Falls Prevention. Leigh shared many valuable tips on this very topical subject such as the importance of movement, suggesting even those confined to their chair can practice swinging their legs forward and back.

For our November meeting, Robert (Bob) Dadd from Dadd's Medals and Heirlooms spoke on the importance of making sure all available medals have been collected, as he has found one in four sets of medals brought to him for mounting have at least one

missing medal.

He also spoke on civilian medals awarded for service in the World Wars and not received by the family, for example women who went to work on farms, nurses who cared for servicemen and workers in factories that manufactured war supplies.

Also in November, 12 of our members travelled into the city to St. John's Cathedral for the inaugural Field of Remembrance service. We each placed a wooden cross with our husband's name and service into a tray of sand. After a very touching service, we were each supplied with a delicious lunch box. Those of us who went encourage all those able to attend next year to do so.

Many of us also attended the Remembrance Day Service at Anzac Park in Redcliffe on Remembrance Day. A wreath was laid on behalf of the War Widows.



Bernardita Carbery at the Spring fashion parade



Guest Speaker Leigh Morris (centre) with Carolyn Jones, Elaine Day, Val Hanson and Eunice Beutel



Redcliffe members at the Field of Remembrance

ROCKHAMPTON

This year our War Widows Day was held on the 19th October and hosted by volunteers from the Royal Australian Engineers, Rockhampton, at the Western Street Army Barracks. On arrival we held a White Cross Service, reciting the Ode, placing our White Crosses and concluding with the War Widows Motto.

We then proceeded to the air-conditioned room for our celebration, an informal affair with stories, memories, jokes, games and companionship. There was an abundant selection of finger food both hot and cold and of course sweets which were supplied by our members. One member sang 'Happy Birthday' for our birthday ladies and our 96 years young member cut the cake. We also had a Missing Man Table in place in the room for this special day. A wonderful day and more memories created.

A few days later Captain Misty Evans and her Engineers held another White Cross Service using our crosses. Each service member placed a Cross 'honouring the men who served and the women who are left behind'. A short talk explaining the definition of a War Widow was given. All serving members who attended now have a better understanding of what it means to be called 'A War Widow'. The younger service personnel were amazed at the resilience of our 'Elderly Widows'. Thank you Rockhampton Engineers for a

memorable day.

On the 4th of November a number of our members attended the Melbourne Cup luncheon at the Yeppoon RSL Club and once again had an enjoyable time. Some were even lucky enough to back the winner.

On Remembrance Day our members attended the Service at the Frenchville Sports Club and member Barbara Schunemann laid the wreath on our behalf.

On the 18th November, 14 members attended our activity for Veterans Health Week. This was given by a Dietitian who gave a very informative talk about nutrition and how the food we eat also affects our mental health and not just our physical health. He then proceeded to guide us on how to make a salad in a jar. This is a great dish that is versatile for meal prepping. The ingredients can be stored in the fridge in an airtight jar for up to a week. We all made one and took it home. I had mine tonight for my dinner and it was very nice.

On the 22nd November some of us will be attending the Cockcomb Christmas party at Cockcomb Veterans Retreat.

It has been a very busy time during the last couple of months.

Wishing you all the Seasons Greetings. Hope you have a good rest ready for a great year to come.

SOUTH EAST

It has been a busy three months for some War Widows since the last Bulletin, especially if you could attend all meetings and functions and if you had to consider the unusual weather and transport conditions.

Some South East members were able to enjoy a treat in September, a bus trip to Lindum

to the two hour performance of Hello Dolly, an excellent production that carried on one's mind for days after.

The 19th October, War Widow Day, unfortunately fell on a Sunday but the special memorial service in St John's Cathedral on Monday 20th was well attended and appreciated.

Memorial Day on 11th November saw AWWQ represented at Coorparoo by South East, the last at this site. This Club is moving to Greenslopes to become Parkside Community and Services Club in January.

With 2025 drawing to a close, the mind turns to Christmas, families, hot days and cold drinks. May the few weeks break see you in good health returning in 2026 with renewed hopes and wellbeing.

Elizabeth



Everyone looking lovely at Hello Dolly



South East members at Field of Remembrance

SOUTH WEST

Hello again ladies.

Our attendance numbers have been stable, averaging around 22 ladies per meeting. We have had

some very interesting speakers.

September, we had Michelle Ryan from Niagara Therapy who gave a very interesting talk on the various therapies available, and the benefits achieved for your general health and wellbeing.

Katharina Hindemith Shala Yoga was our October speaker; the ladies had a very relaxing 45 minutes of relaxation (I'm sure some ladies had a little nap) doing yoga totally different to a previous yoga instructor.

September, the ladies attended a High Tea hosted by Greenbank RSL Women's Auxiliary at Diggers Services Club; a great time was had by all with some ladies winning raffle prizes.

The inaugural White Cross Service held at St John's Cathedral was a very touching occasion. And very emotional for some. A big congratulations go to all involved for making it such a memorable occasion.

Jessie Vassey Day was celebrated with a luncheon in the Greenbank Services club.

We have had several bus trips. September was to Templin Historical Village. I personally had never heard of this village. I am so glad we went. It was a veritable trip down memory lane; so much to see and so well taken care of. Should you ever be down that way I recommend you stop by. They even have the original jaws of life, designed and built by the local gentlemen of that area after so many cars were involved in accidents where the people had to cut out of their vehicles. Back in the day the vehicles were made of a much heavier metal than those of today. They say necessity is the mother of invention. Unfortunately, they did not take out a copyright, so others profited from their design. The tea and scones were delicious and made on premises

by volunteers.

Our bus trip for October saw us having morning tea in Orleigh Park at West End before boarding the City Cat for a glorious trip down the river to view all the blooming Jacaranda trees from the river and then on to New Farm Park. Lunch was at the Hamilton Hotel. Everyone said what a great day it had been.

November marks the 19th anniversary of the formation this South West Region Sub-Branch, how quickly time does fly; so, we celebrated with cake, as you do.

As quite a few ladies will be away for the 5th of December meeting, it was decided that we would have an early Christmas lunch in the Sub-Branch rooms after the meeting doing our own catering. All things considered I think it went down rather well.

The 12th of December will be our break up for the year on a Gold Coast Canal Cruise with lunch on board. Can't wait.

That's all for now. Stay safe and well. Have a wonderful Christmas spent with family and friends. See you in the New Year. Kind regards to all.

Vicky Houlson and team.

TOWNSVILLE

Greetings from Townsville. As the year comes to a close, the Executive would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Townsville had their Christmas Lunch at Brother's Leagues Club again this year. Everyone enjoyed the food and the company.

As you might be aware, Townsville will be hosting Friendship Day next year.

A White Cross Service will be held on Wednesday 27 May 2026 at Twin Cities Hotel followed by an afternoon tea.

Friendship Day lunch will be held on Thursday 28 May 2026 at Brother's Leagues Club.

Hoping to see lots of people next year. Preparations are coming along.

Kind regards

Wendy Goodman and the Executive.



Members enjoying the Christmas Lunch

WARWICK

Warwick War Widows are sad to announce the passing of former President and our good friend, Beryl Nancy Payne. Nancy worked tirelessly and donated generously to Queensland War Widows from the moment she became a member of the organisation. She was genuinely interested in all our members and was always ready to lend a hand or offer support when asked. Her loss leaves a very big void in our hearts.



Beryl Nancy Payne

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HEATHER COSSART

Heather lived an extraordinary life, not just in years, but in spirit, warmth, and resilience. Reaching the remarkable age of 106, she bore witness to some of the most momentous events of the past century: two world wars, two global pandemics, the moon landing, the rise of the internet and, as her great-grandchildren would tell you, the arrival of Bluey. But more than the events she lived through, it was how she lived that left a lasting legacy.

Heather, or “Nan” to most of us was a constant, a steady and loving presence in the lives of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was there at school events, sporting matches, graduations, weddings, and countless family gatherings. Whether she was cheering from the sidelines, sharing stories over tea and pikelets, or slipping money into lace bags for little hands, Nan always made you feel seen and loved.

Her fierce independence was legendary. Well into her later years, she remained active, sharp and social, still reverse-parking her trusty yellow Toyota Corona into the carport on Ison Street with pinpoint precision. Her determination, resilience, and dry wit defined her, whether it was arguing the milk in her fridge was “still fine” weeks after its expiry, or insisting she didn’t need a walking frame, even while giving great-grandchildren rides on her wheelie walker.

She lived simply, but richly. A bingo regular and lover of a low-key club lunch followed by a sneaky flutter, she cherished her routines and the company they brought. She had a fondness for buttery food, salty humour, and a cheeky giggle, especially when it came from the younger generation calling her “GG” or “Mouldy Oldie”, nicknames she wore with pride.

Some of our fondest memories include long phone calls filled with stories, card games around the kitchen table, Christmas puddings no one could replicate, and that ever-reliable biscuit tin. She delighted in the small things and taught us to do the same.

Heather’s strength was matched only by her generosity and sense of fun. Her legacy lives on in her family, in the stories we share, the traditions we carry forward, and the countless moments she helped shape. We are especially grateful to Rois and Keith, whose tireless love and support ensured Nan could live on her own terms, surrounded by family until the very end.

Heather left us just as she lived: peacefully, without drama, and entirely on her own terms. As we say goodbye, we do so with full hearts, thankful for every laugh, every lesson, and every biscuit she ever offered.

Rest easy, Nan. You will be missed beyond words, but your spirit lives on in all of us.

- Douglas, Grant, Greg and Alex



Heather with her family, taken at her daughter Rois' birthday country getaway weekend in June 2023.

In memory of our departed members, whose presence will be dearly missed by the war widow community

<i>Elvira Anderson</i>	<i>Moya Goodman</i>	<i>Joan Merton</i>
<i>Joycelyn Atkinson</i>	<i>Jeanie Griffin</i>	<i>Shirley Mitchell</i>
<i>Connie Beavan</i>	<i>Jean Griffin</i>	<i>Winifred Morrison</i>
<i>Betty Bell</i>	<i>Audrey Grimmett</i>	<i>Shirley Murphy</i>
<i>Marlene Bennett</i>	<i>Valma Hacking</i>	<i>Carol O'Brien</i>
<i>Margaret Blackbourn</i>	<i>Shirley Hamilton</i>	<i>Patricia Pascoe</i>
<i>Betty Blinco</i>	<i>Diane Heley</i>	<i>Beryl (Nancy) Payne</i>
<i>Mary Brimblecombe</i>	<i>Belvie Adoll Hess</i>	<i>Mary Phipps</i>
<i>Johanna Charmaine</i>	<i>Veronica Hitzke</i>	<i>Jill Rankin</i>
<i>Pat Clark</i>	<i>Edna Jeffery</i>	<i>Shirley Rutherford</i>
<i>Noela Clark</i>	<i>Patricia Jolliffe</i>	<i>Gwyneth Rutherford</i>
<i>Angela Coman</i>	<i>Betty Kavanagh</i>	<i>Barbara Shaw</i>
<i>Noreen Cook</i>	<i>Kathleen Kelly</i>	<i>Valerie Sheahan</i>
<i>Joan Crane</i>	<i>Myrtle Lawrence</i>	<i>Judith Sheeran</i>
<i>Elvie Davis</i>	<i>Dorothy Lingham</i>	<i>Janine Shelley</i>
<i>Nancy Dyball</i>	<i>Gwenyth Luhrmann</i>	<i>Doreen Warren</i>
<i>Joyce Esler</i>	<i>Joan Maddern</i>	<i>Joan Wilson</i>
<i>Beryl Fawkes</i>	<i>Doreen Mann</i>	<i>Jessie Wogandt</i>
<i>Olga Jean Frazer</i>	<i>Shirley Matheson</i>	<i>Betty Worthington</i>
	<i>Marjorie McLaran</i>	

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO START YOUR DAY ON A POSITIVE NOTE

We all have those days where no matter how positive and motivated we are when we wake up, we're just not feeling it. Some people call it getting out the wrong side of the bed. Some of us sadly just dread the day ahead.

The dawning of every new day presents you with another fresh chance to make the most of unexplored potential and opportunities.

But how can we ensure that we start our day on a positive note, avoid anxiety and depression, and have positivity echoed throughout the day?

As the great Philosopher Jim Rohn used to say, "Either you run the day or the day runs you" and how you start is a really important part of that.

Below are 10 habits (in no particular order) that are guaranteed to help you start your mornings on a more positive footing.

Drink a glass of water when you get up

Keep a glass or bottle of water by your bedside table for when you wake up. No matter how much water you drank the day before you will always wake up dehydrated to some degree. Water fires up the metabolism helping your body flush out toxins and gives your brain fuel. So get refreshed as soon as possible, ready for the day ahead.

Change your alarm clock

If the first sounds you hear when you wake are blaring noises and frightening alerts, you're likely bringing anxiety to your day before it even starts. Instead, put something nice and melodic that begins soft and gets increasingly louder as time goes. You might find this brings you into the day more peacefully, waking up to a lovely sound than you are to something intense.

Keep a reminder by your bedside or breakfast area

If you keep a note of what it is you intend to do or achieve in your day, and it becomes the first thing you wake up to every morning, then it can be the motivational element you need. Consider scribbling down at least three things that you give the highest priorities for the day. This process will help you work towards achieving those goals.

Additionally, you can scribble down anything that promotes a positive outlook on life. This will help you be more appreciative of things, be it the weather, work, food, people or different things that happen

around you. It may not seem like much, but often it's the small things that we take for granted that make the most significant impacts in our lives.

Get in the habit of allocating a few minutes to read what you have written down. Some say a successful day starts before you head to sleep. Prevent foggy thoughts and restlessness by dedicating 15 minutes each night to write down your goals and thoughts for the following day. The next morning you'll find those notes to be a useful blueprint of the day's focus and give your day greater purpose.

Consider what makes you happy

Thoughts create emotions. Happy thoughts create happy emotions. It's super simple but it's so true – think about the things you love to do that make you happy. Just visualising doing something that makes you happy is bound to make you actually feel happier in return.

Give one genuine compliment

Give a genuine compliment to your spouse, friend, family member, workmate or coffee barista that you see in the morning. This will help lift their day and your day as a result. This may help you go about your activities feeling happier and with brighter spirits.

If possible, let it come unexpectedly. Bonus points if it is something that person has not heard before. If you are short on ideas, pick something a bit different from the ordinary such as superficial stuff that people enjoy doing. For instance, you can praise some-

one for their great sense of fashion or taste in music, or as simple as how good the coffee was last time.

Positive nourishment during breakfast

If you like to start the day with the news, just be mindful that most mornings you'll be starting the day reading or hearing about things that are depressing, evoking anger and negativity. Instead, settle for what will inspire you or start you bouncing into the day. Catch up on the news later.

This could include readings from your favorite author or quotes by a powerhouse in your industry, make space for positive content before taking on the cold, harsh world.

For example, reading one or a couple of new posts from positive, funny or uplifting blogs or websites, listening to a podcast that boosts your motivation, reading a chapter from a book that inspires or makes you laugh, or even put on some good music.

Take a second to think about what kind of music immediately puts you in a happy mood. Maybe it's the soothing sounds of jazz, or the upbeat tempo of today's latest pop hits. Studies have shown that the "feel-good" neurochemical dopamine is released when we listen to music—that same chemical that's associated with feeling pleasure when we eat or sleep for example.

Find time to exercise

If you can, squeeze in some workout sessions in your morning. Try walking to the shop or cafe, or even a quick 15-minute workout before getting ready and taking your breakfast. If you're short on time, something as simple as morning stretches or an impromptu dance session will do the trick.

But it is important to exercise properly at least three times a week. It will give you energy, good for your mental and physical health and wellbeing, amongst many other positive outcomes.

Smile regardless of how you might feel at first

Even if you feel like you want to stay in bed for the entire day and mope around, don't. Smile to yourself - look at yourself in the mirror and smile at yourself. Many swear by the simple action of smiling for a minute or two in the mirror in the morning changes their whole mood and outlook for the entire day. It's worth a try!

Arlene Dijamco, MD, an integrative physician based in Georgia, suggests, "When getting ready in front of the mirror, it's a great idea to give yourself a big smile. Usually, we are critiquing our hair, or the circles under our eyes, or a new blemish that's popped up overnight." Instead, she says, look at your beautiful self and send yourself lots of love and compassion. Smiling never hurt anyone, right?

Stay off social media early morning and late at night

If you're someone that checks your social media or emails as soon as you wake up – stop that now! You will be surprised how much this subconsciously affects you (often negatively), until you stop doing it for a while. Each morning spent away from social media is so much more relaxed, peaceful, and joyful. We aren't screamed at by a constant influx of information, news, bursts of activist posts or countless messages and shared spam – and our mind has the capacity to just be.

Give gratitude

Gratitude is an important practice for many people that seek positivity. It's easy to get caught in the cycle of negative thinking and eventually forgetting how good you actually have it. When you spend some time in the morning to list out 2-3 things you are grateful for, it shifts your whole mindset and your day becomes so much brighter.

An article on Harvard Health Publishing sums it up perfectly: "In positive psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships." So, try starting your day with appreciation.

<https://www.60plusclub.com.au/happiness/14-things-over-60s-can-do-start-day-on-positive-note/>



PETS

Our pets have us wrapped around their paws. They bring endless laughter, unconditional love, and an uncanny ability to steal the spotlight in every photo. From goofy antics to quiet moments of charm, they fill our homes with warmth and joy. This page celebrates the adorable, spoiled, and wonderfully unique pets that bring life and laughter to our AWWQ community.



Archie looking fresh from his bath



Maisy and Daisy taking a time-out from their wrestling match



Violet and Rosey, the pawfect duo



Kali ready for her post-swim snack



Molly the VIP (Very Important Pup) in transit



Talos (aka Big Girl) striking a pose for the camera



AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS QUEENSLAND

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE & WAR WIDOWS DAY

Honouring War Widows in Queensland: a day of reflection and remembrance

Every year, War Widows Day provides Queensland with a special opportunity to acknowledge the enduring strength of widows of servicemen. It is not only a solemn moment of remembrance but also a celebration of the resilience, courage, and contribution of the war widows' community. Through meaningful ceremonies, gatherings, and reflections, we come together to recognise their sacrifices and reaffirm our gratitude for their unwavering dedication.

We also saw Queensland illuminated with icons lit up in recognition of War Widows Day, sending a powerful public message of remembrance and unity.

Commemorating at St John's Cathedral

This year marked a historic milestone with the first Queensland Field of Remembrance Service held at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane. Members, families and dignitaries gathered in the magnificent cathedral for a moving ceremony that combined tradition, reverence, and unity. The service included the laying of wreaths, prayers of remembrance and the symbolic planting of crosses to honour those who served, and the widows who carry their legacy. The serene atmosphere of the cathedral, combined with the dignity of the ceremony, ensured the sacrifices of war widows and their loved ones were deeply honoured.

Dignitaries and Community Support

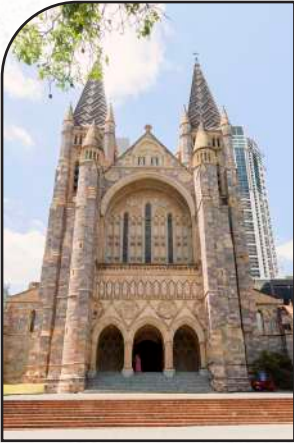
Queensland's Field of Remembrance was attended by dignitaries, veteran representatives, and community leaders, each acknowledging the profound contribution of war widows to our national story. Messages of respect and gratitude were delivered on behalf of government, Defence, and veteran organisations, emphasising the importance of ensuring widows' voices are heard.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, War Widows Day and Field of Remembrance in Queensland will continue to grow as days of state-wide recognition and reflection. They serve as both a solemn remembrance of the sacrifices endured and a celebration of the resilience, strength, and unity of the war widows' community.

To all widows and families who gathered this year, and to those who remembered quietly at home, we say: thank you. Your courage continues to inspire us all.







I WORE A HAT FOR JESSIE MARY VASEY

Traditions are valuable. They need to have real meaning – for a nation, for a family, for a group – and thus gain value as time passes. For a nation, a fixed annual date is important so long as the reason is valued. Within a family, traditions are inherited, maybe unconsciously, from generation to generation, and may lose importance if seen to be old-fashioned. A group may have to work hard to ensure viability over time. We, as members who belong to each other within AWWQ, have well-established traditions, as spoken in our creed. Mrs Jessie Mary Vasey – founder of the War Widows Guild – was an “inspiring, energetic and passionate leader [with] lively blue eyes, a sharp wit, and a regal bearing which was accentuated by the large, eye-catching hats she wore.”

A lady wearing a hat was the fashion when I was young in that same era, the 1940s. I loved to watch my grandmother, Jessie Agnes Hunter, dressing for church and I wore my hat also. I thought of her as I prepared to travel on 20 October 2025 to St John’s Cathedral, Brisbane, for the inaugural Field of Remembrance service.

Each person widowed by war has a story. Because we have an association to bind us together, both formally and informally, we have the means of sharing our sad times, our cheerful times, and our traditions. We are grateful to members who volunteer their time and energy and to office staff who work to ensure the existence and well-being of this association – Australian War Widows.

We pay respect to the memory of Jessie Mary Vasey as founder, in 1945, of the War Widows Guild of bereaved women, [renamed] Australian War Widows, to which we all belong. We belong because we qualify for membership. It is not a membership sought by choice. We are all widows, our state of being conferred because of the military service and death of our husbands, either during war or conflict, or afterwards of war-related causes.

War Widows Day is officially observed on 19 October, the anniversary of birth in Roma, Queensland, of Jessie Mary, the widow of Major General George Vasey. On leave during the Second World War, he discussed with his wife the plight of women widowed by the First World War. For many, there was no provision in place by the government to ensure they and their children were adequately housed and fed. Basic needs were income and companionship. Jessie Mary Vasey made a big difference. The story has been told in *No Mean Destiny 1945-1985* by Mavis Thorpe-Clark. Indeed, the book title denotes a strong sense of purpose attached to the certain message of duty to preserve the memory of those – our loved ones – who have gone before.

The Field of Remembrance Service was conducted at St John’s Cathedral by The Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt, Dean, and The Most Reverend Jeremy Greaves, Archbishop. Order of Service booklets were provided for attendees. The Service commenced with the arrival of the Official Party and the Flag Party. The flags were received by the Clergy and placed in the Sanctuary. The Dean’s introduction was a prayer for all in bereavement, disability and pain, particularly those who have been widowed, remembering those whose lives have been given and taken away. Then the Welcome was extended to those present (130 widows and others) by our Queensland President, Mrs Judy Smith, whom we certainly thank for making arrangements speaking with the Archbishop after this year’s Anzac Day march, that the Field of Remembrance Service be held in Brisbane, at the Cathedral, for the first time ever.

After wreaths were placed at the foot of the altar and crosses laid by official representatives of organisations and government, it was time for the laying of crosses by individual widows, called forward in this order: First World War; Second World War; Korea; Vietnam; Malaysia; Peacekeeping Operations; East Timor; Iraq; Afghanistan; Gulf War; Occupation of Japan; Borneo War. Then all widows processed into the nave to lay their crosses in the Field of Remembrance.

The Ode, the Last Post, and the Reveille were followed by the prayer of commitment to God our Father, to pledge ourselves in the cause of peace, asking for wisdom and courage, and hope, to be faithful, now and always. The Archbishop gave his final blessing to all. Amen.

Following the conclusion, War Widows were welcome to stay for light refreshments at the West End of the Cathedral. Staff members from the AWWQ office were there, rightly deserving of appreciation by members for their diligent work. Judy Smith was surrounded by members eager to tell her that they were moved by the solemnity and to voice the hope of an annual Remembrance Service. I had invited Russell and Anne Paten to be there. Russell is Queensland President of the Military Historical Society of Queensland, to which I belong. Russell is speaker at the October Maroochydore meeting about the pilgrimage which he and his wife made to Flanders in 2024 to find the places where their two great-uncles gave their lives in 1917.

But my responsibility had not ended. Yes, I wore a hat to honour our Founder; I wore the AWW official colours of blue and white; I wore my silver kookaburra badge, I wore my husband's medals and his 42nd Battalion colour patch, and I laid a Cross in his name in the Field of Remembrance. I felt humble and honoured by President Judy's request to do this for the First World War. As I did so, I remembered . . . many things.

Afterwards, my recess along the aisle was halted by a platoon of widows, led by one, eager and undaunted. "I want to ask you a personal question. How old are you?" "I am 82." Her 'Oh' response was quickly followed by, "Did you lay the cross for your father?" "No," I said, "My father served in the Second World War. My husband served in the First World War." The group's jaws dropped in unison.

The day after, I watched a video of the Field of Remembrance service on St John's Cathedral's YouTube channel. When it struck me that I was the only female civilian in the congregation wearing a hat, I silently shouted "three cheers" – one for Jessie Mary Vasey, one for my grandmother Jessie Agnes Hunter, and one . . . for hats!

- Diane Melloy



WAR WIDOWS DAY

War Widows Day was proudly celebrated across Queensland on the 19th of October 2025, a date that holds special significance as the birthday of Mary Jessie Vasey, founder of Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ). The day provides an opportunity to recognise and honour the strength, resilience, and contribution of war widows throughout Queensland and across Australia.

To mark this important occasion, landmarks and buildings across Queensland were illuminated in blue, symbolising unity and remembrance for all war widows. This visible show of support helped raise awareness of the ongoing contributions of the AWWQ and the importance of ensuring that no war widow is forgotten.

In recognition of the day's importance, AWWQ sub-branches were reimbursed funds to assist them in hosting their own celebrations. These local events brought members together to share stories, support one another, and reflect on the legacy of service and sacrifice that unites the AWWQ community. Each sub-branch celebrated in its own way, fostering connection and a sense of belonging among members.

War Widows Day also fell one day before the Field of Remembrance Service, creating a meaningful period of reflection and commemoration. Together, these events serve as a reminder of the enduring bonds formed through shared experience and the vital role that organisations like AWWQ continue to play in supporting the wellbeing and recognition of war widows throughout Queensland.





27 YEARS A SOLDIER

Although unable to travel to Brisbane for the Field of Remembrance service, member Patricia Jerome found a deeply meaningful way to take part from home. With the help of her carers from Centacare, Patricia held her own small ceremony to honour her late husband, Ted Jerome, who served in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966 and fought in the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966.

Understanding how disappointed Patricia was to miss the city service, her carers organised a touching personal tribute. Together, they planted the wooden cross that had been sent to her in a pot plant, said a few heartfelt words, and observed a minute's silence in Ted's memory. Patricia shared that she was deeply moved by the thought and care shown to her during this moment of quiet remembrance.

In addition to the ceremony, Patricia has written a poem from her husband's perspective, a beautiful reflection inspired by his time in Vietnam. She has kindly given permission for it to be published and shared with fellow members.

We thank Patricia for allowing us to share her story and her poem, which remind us all that remembrance can take many forms, whether in a public gathering or a simple, heartfelt moment at home.

It was that which others cared not to be

I went where others feared to go

And did what others failed to do

I asked nothing from those who gave nothing

And reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness, should I fail

I have seen the face of terror

Felt the chill of fear

Warmed to the touch of love

I have hoped, pained, cried, but foremost

I lived in a time others would say best forgotten

At the very least, in later days, I will be able to say in great pride

That I was indeed a soldier.

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in War Widows Day on October 19 and the Field of Remembrance on October 20.

Across the state, sub-branches hosted their own commemorations for members who were unable to attend the Brisbane services, and many others took part by holding personal tributes in their own yards. Your efforts and thoughtfulness ensured that the spirit of remembrance was shared widely and meaningfully.

As part of the Field of Remembrance service, we were pleased to include wooden crosses in the last edition of our Bulletin for all members. Many took this opportunity to write their partner's name, service details and a short message on the cross and plant it either at their local service or at home. A touching gesture of love and remembrance that connected us all, no matter where we were.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support, dedication, and compassion shown by our members and communities during these important occasions.

We look forward to coming together again next year to honour, remember, and reflect.





According to the Alaskan Department of Fisheries and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December. Female reindeer, however, retain their antlers until after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, even Rudolf, had to be female. Therefore, it stands to reason that only women would be able to drag a little fat man in a red velvet suit around the world in one night....and not get lost.



When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, Santa began to feel the pre-Christmas pressure. Then, Mrs. Clause told Santa her mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more. When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that Dasher, Dancer and Comet had wandered off and could not be found. Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he found that the elves had finished the cider and the liquor. Just then the doorbell rang, and an irritated Santa stomped to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree. The angel said very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa, isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to put it?" And so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.



CHRISTMAS ICE CREAM PUDDING

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 litres good quality ice cream
- 250 grams Maltesers
- 2 punnets fresh raspberries or 250 grams frozen raspberries
- 150 grams dairy milk chocolate

METHOD:

1. Scoop Ice Cream out of tub and into a large mixing bowl and let it soften for 5- 10 minutes
2. Place Maltesers in the unopened bag into another plastic bag. Crush them with a rolling pin
3. Add crushed Maltesers and almost all of the raspberries to the ice cream and mix gently through. You will need to save a handful of raspberries for decoration on the top later
4. Once combined, pour into a pudding basin, or pudding shaped bowl lined with plastic wrap. Make sure there is plenty of plastic wrap hanging over the edges so you will be able to pull on it to remove the pudding from the bowl
5. Cover with plastic wrap and place into the freezer to reset. This usually takes a number of hours, to form properly so is a great one to do at night and then let it stay in the freezer all night
6. Remove from freezer and let it sit for 5 minutes
7. While the ice cream pudding is thawing just a little, break the chocolate into pieces and place into a small microwave safe dish
8. Place in the microwave and heat on high for a minute
9. Check the chocolate has melted and give it a stir. Continue with 15 seconds bursts until it is melted
10. Pull the pudding from the basin and sit on the plate you wish to serve it on
11. Pour the chocolate over the ice cream pudding, add the raspberries on top
12. If you are not going to eat it straight away for example and need to take the pudding with you, cover completely with plastic wrap and put back in the freezer. You can then take it out just before you need to travel or want to eat it

FRIENDSHIP DAY 2026

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY Is the White Cross Service. This will take place at The Twin Cities Hotel. At 2.00pm, a Courtesy bus will depart Townsville RSL Club to transport you to "The White Cross Ceremony" held at The Twin Cities Hotel.

After the ceremony – afternoon tea will be served. At 4.30pm, a courtesy bus will leave The Twin Cities Hotel to transport you back to the RSL Townsville Club.

THURSDAY 28TH MAY will be the Friendship Day Luncheon. This will be held at Brothers Leagues Club. At 10.30am, a courtesy bus will depart Townsville RSL Club to transport you to lunch held at Brothers Leagues Club Townsville, Kirwan for 11.00am. At 2.30pm, a courtesy bus will leave Brothers Leagues Club Townsville to transport you back to the RSL Townsville Club. Please note there is a limit of 160 people for the Friendship Day Lunch, so please book early to avoid any disappointment.

Townsville sub-branch are offering attendees the opportunity to have their partner's details placed on a special disc that sits on the crosses used at the White Cross Service (see pictures). If you would like one of these organised, please contact Wendy Goodman on 0408 584 929 before the 31st of March 2026.

All Friendship Day bookings for the luncheon and bus trips are to be made through Head Office on 07 3846 7706.

From page 36, we have listed some attraction and accommodation options in and around Townsville, so make the most of your trip and stay a few days. We look forward to seeing you all there.



FRIENDSHIP DAY 2026 RSVP FORM

White Cross Service - Wednesday 27 May, 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Twin Cities Hotel, 14 Hervey Range Rd, Thuringowa Central

.....

Friendship Day Luncheon - Thursday 28 May, 11:00am - 2:30pm

Brothers Leagues Club, 14 Golf Links Drive, Kirwan

\$55 per person

First Name		Last Name	
Member #		Branch/Group	
Home Phone		Mobile Phone	
Address			
Town/Suburb		Post Code	
Dietary Requirements			
Events attending	<input type="checkbox"/> Friendship Day only <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship Day & White Cross Service		
How will you make your payment?	<input type="checkbox"/> By cheque/mail order in the post to the postal address below <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card by calling Lindy - 0478 398 931 <input type="checkbox"/> EFT to Australian War Widows Queensland BSB: 064 000 Account #: 1496 9480 Ref: "FD + Your membership number"		
Emergency contact	Name: Relationship: Phone:		

RSVP: FRIDAY 8 MAY 2026

Contact to book and pay:

Australian War Widows Queensland
ATTN: Friendship Day
PO Box 13604
George St Post Shop
Brisbane QLD 4003

Contact Person for event details:

Lindy Beehre
0478 398 931
Lindy@warwidowsqld.org.au

CASTLE HILL

A pink granite monolith right in the city centre offering 360° panoramic views of Townsville, Magnetic Island, and beyond. Walk the scenic trails or drive up for a more relaxed experience. A WWII observation bunker at the summit adds historical intrigue.



THE STRAND

A 2.2 – 2.5 km beachfront promenade perfect for walking, jogging, swimming, relaxing, with playgrounds, water parks, picnic spots, cafes, restaurants, and a historic jetty ideal for fishing or sunset views.

MAGNETIC ISLAND

A tropical island just a short ferry ride from Townsville, offering stunning beaches, snorkelling, hiking trails (like Forts Walk and Hawkings Point), and wildlife viewing opportunities including wild koalas and wallabies. Ferry departs from Breakwater Terminal (20–25 min)



BILLABONG SANCTUARY

A wildlife sanctuary 17 km south of Townsville offering close contact with iconic Australian animals — koalas, wombats, kangaroos, cassowaries, dingoes, reptiles — plus daily shows including croc-feed and free-flight bird demonstrations.

MUSEUM OF UNDERWATER ART (MoUA)

A unique, immersive art and conservation experience off the Townsville coast as part of the Great Barrier Reef. Includes the coral-restoring Coral Greenhouse sculptures and the color-changing Ocean Siren, visible from The Strand jetty or up close via dive tours.



MARITIME MUSEUM OF TOWNSVILLE

Located at 42/68 Palmer Street, South Townsville, with exhibits covering everything from the 1911 Yongala shipwreck to Townsville's role in the World Wars. It features model ships, historical watercraft and interactive galleries.





COLONIAL ROSE MOTEL

Address: 23 Bowen Rd, Rosslea, QLD, 4812

Phone: (07) 4725 1422

Website: colonialrosemotel.com.au

Distance from Townsville RSL: 1.8km



RAINTREE MOTEL

Address: 12 Bowen Rd, Rosslea, QLD, 4812

Phone: (07) 4775 3066

Website: raintree-motel.queenslandhotelmotel.com/en/

Distance from Townsville RSL: 2.1km



MONTE CARLO MOTOR INN

Address: 45 Bowen Rd, Rosslea, QLD, 4812

Phone: (07) 4426 8690

Website: montecarlomotel.com.au

Distance from Townsville RSL: 2.1km



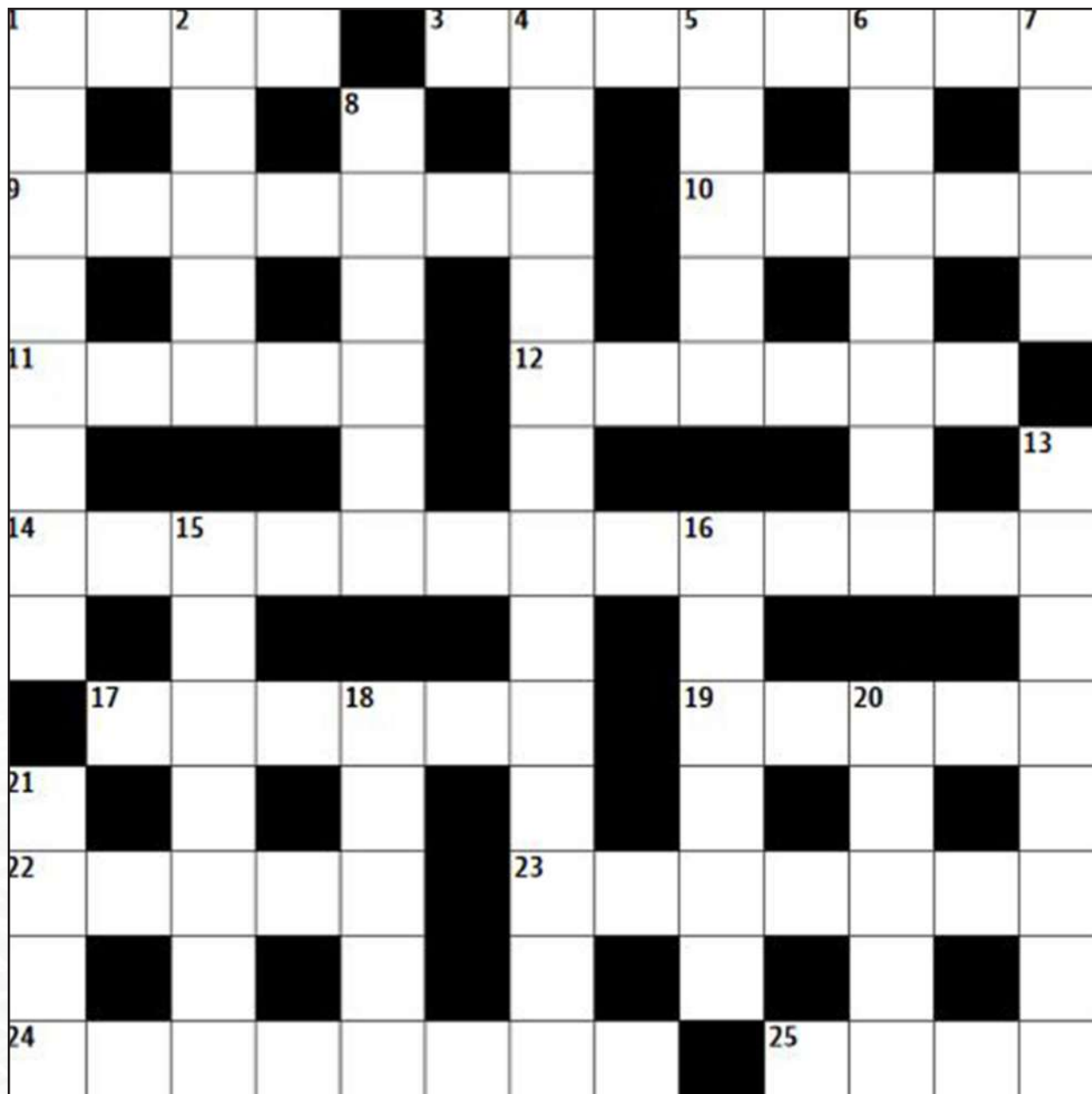
TOWNSVILLE CITY MOTEL

Address: 36 Bowen Rd, Mundingburra, QLD, 4812

Phone: (07) 4779 2179

Website: townsvillecitymotel.com.au

Distance from Townsville RSL: 2.5km



Solutions on page 4

ACROSS

1. Dreadful (4)
3. Overshadowed (8)
9. Unfavourable (7)
10. Talk show group (5)
11. Abatement (3-2)
12. Allotted amount (6)
14. Hong Kong Airline (6,7)
17. Medical facility (6)
19. Achieve great things (2,3)
22. Spare tyre location? (5)
23. Peeved (2,1,4)
24. Spanish cheese- come hang (anag) (8)
25. Boxing match signal (4)

DOWN

1. Stalemate (8)
2. Metal fastener (5)
4. Selecting only the best (6-7)
5. Provision of data (5)
6. Farewell Celebration (4-3)
7. Unemployment benefit (4)
8. Italian brandy (6)
13. Contemptuous (8)
15. Capital on the Gulf of Finland (7)
16. French brandy (6)
18. Nick (5)
20. Accidental success (5)
21. Bathe (4)

Rules for Sudoku -

- Every square has to contain a single number
- Only the numbers from 1 through to 9 can be used
- Each 3×3 box can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once
- Each vertical column can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once
- Each horizontal row can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once

								3
6	5			7				2
		2		5			9	
	6	4	8				2	1
2		1				9	8	
8			2	3		6		
7	8		3		5			
		6			9	1	3	
3			4	2	6			9

Solutions on page 4



AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS QUEENSLAND

*"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."*

Can you help continue our advocacy, support and service to War Widows?

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. On behalf of the War Widows who will be helped by your donation, thank you.

Personal Details:

Title: _____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Donation:

Please accept my gift of \$ _____

Enclosed is my ☐ Cheque/ Money Order (payable to *Australian War Widows Queensland*)

OR Please debit my card ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card Number:

Name on Card:

Signature: Expiry Date: /

To donate by bank transfer:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia

Account Name: Australian War Widows Queensland

BSB: 064 000 **Account Number:** 1496 9480

Bank reference: Please use your full name



(07) 3846 7706 8am- 4pm Monday to Friday



www.warwidowsqld.org.au



admin@warwidowsqld.org.au

Do you require a receipt? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, which type? ☐ Post ☐ Email

Please return this form to:

Australian War Widows Queensland

PO Box 13604, George Street Post Shop, Brisbane, QLD, 4003

☐ Please send me information on becoming a member of Australian War Widows Queensland

☐ Please send me information on including a gift in my Will to Australian War Widows Queensland

thank you!

*For helping us continue our mission to empower,
inspire and celebrate all war widows and
families while providing whole of life support
and assistance.*

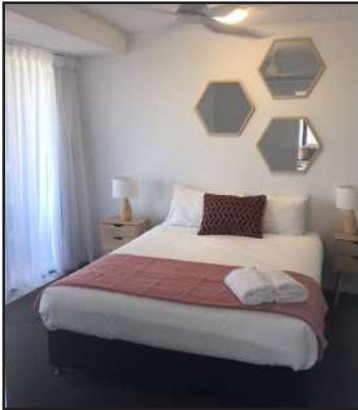


VACATION/RESPITE RENTALS



CENTREPOINT CALOUNDRA

Centrepont Apartments in Caloundra boasts a heated swimming pool and a sauna. Guests enjoy an on-site café and balcony views over the Pumicestone Passage. The apartment has air-conditioning, a fully equipped kitchen, a dining setting, laundry facilities and a lounge area with a flat-screen TV with free cable channels. The unit is open to all guests along with guests requiring disability access. It has two bedrooms, one with two single beds and the other with a queen size bed. Reservations require a two night minimum stay and AWWQ Members & ESO members receive a 35% discount off the advertised rate. Please call Centrepont Caloundra management on (07) 5492 0100 to make a reservation.

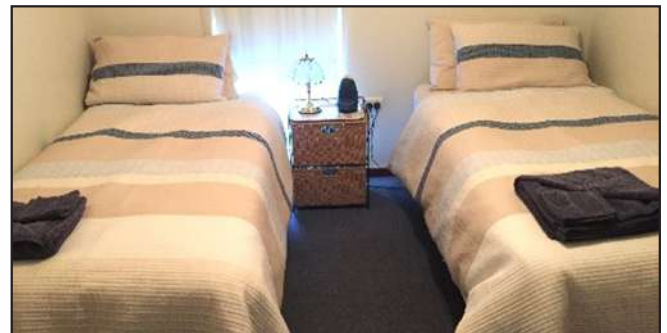


WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Australian War Widows WA Inc. is pleased to advise that a holiday unit is available for AWWQ members at Forsyth Gardens, located at 15 Plantation Street, Menora, Western Australia, 6050.

The one-bedroom unit can comfortably accommodate two and is fully equipped for short term stays. Located on the grounds of the Marjorie Le Souef Administration and Community Centre and within close proximity to major shopping centres, transport and the city, it is ideal for a city break or medical appointments. The cost is \$30 per person/per night for war widows and \$40 per person/per night for all others.

Please contact Joanna Simpson on (08) 9371 7470 Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 9.30 am and 2.30 pm for further information.



MARINA COURT NEW FARM

Australian War Widows Queensland provides a furnished unit at Marina Court, New Farm, for members & their families along with ESO members requiring short stay/respite accommodation whilst in Brisbane for a maximum of 21 days. The Price is \$50 per night (with a 2-night minimum) or \$250 per week. A \$50 cleaning fee is charged per stay, and cleaning arrangements are organised through head office only. Please phone the office on (07) 3846 7706 to book. Conditions apply.





AUSTRALIAN
WAR WIDOWS
QUEENSLAND

We support them
because they supported us.

07 3846 7706
Level 4, 183 Wickham Tce
Spring Hill QLD 4000
ABN 88 009 708 810