

BULLETIN

AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS



QUEENSLAND

SPRING 2026

In this issue:

- Constitution Amendments
- Board Election Results
- AGM & Christmas Lunch
- Field of Remembrance



SPRING EDITION 2026

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
NEWS & REMINDERS	4
WAR WIDOWS DAY	5
GROUP DIRECTORY	6
GROUP NEWS	8
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEERS	13
CONCESSIONS	14
STAR FRIENDS	16
80TH ANNIVERSARY	17
AVCAT	18
BOARD ELECTION RESULTS	21
AGM CONSTITUTION CHANGES	22
RECOGNISING FAMILIES SCULPTURE	28
FRIENDSHIP DAY 2026 PHOTOS	36
LIFE HACKS	38
RECIPE	39
FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE	40
AGM & XMAS LUNCH BOOKING	41
DONATION FORM	43
FIND A WORD	44
SUDOKU	45
ACCOMMODATION	36

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	07 3846 7706 or 1800 061 945
Advocacy Register	www.advocateregister.org.au
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Caring Cuisine	07 3354 3919
Centrelink (MyGov)	1300 169 468
Crime Stoppers	1800 333 000
Do Not Call Register	1300 792 958
DVA Booked Car With Driver	Qmbbcwd@dva.gov.au
DVA Community Nursing	nursing@dva.gov.au
DVA General Enquiries	1800 838 372
DVA Payment and Reimbursement Team	ambphmepi@dva.gov.au
DVA Pharmaceutical line	1800 552 580
DVA Rehabilitation Appliances Program	ambrapge@dva.gov.au
DVA Short-term Crisis Accommodation	1800 011 046
DVA Transport	bcwd.qld@dva.gov.au 1800 550 455
Income Support Team	income.Support.New.Claims@dva.gov.au
Lifeline	13 11 14
Meals on Wheels	1300 909 790
My Aged Care	1800 200 422
Open Arms	1800 011 046 / openarms.clientassist@dva.gov.au
Police / Fire / Ambulance	000
Policelink (Non urgent matters)	131 444
Seniors Enquiry Line	1300 135 500
SES (Flood & Storm Emergency)	132 500
Travel Claims	Transport.Claims@dva.gov.au
Veterans' Home Care	1300 550 450 / vhc@dva.gov.au



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Joyce Binder- Bundaberg
 Helen Bowes- Palmwoods
 Sandra Bulmer – Tweed Heads West
 Janice Crockett- Ningi
 Carole Currie- Gulliver
 Betty Davis – Bundaberg West
 Marion Dempsey- Avoca
 Yvonne Doherty-Thabeban
 Kerrie Donald- Mundingburr
 Valerie Frankel – Banksia Beach
 Desleigh Fuller- Kingaroy

Melvena Hallam – Algester
 Susan Kjellgren- Bundaberg
 Sharyn Merrin- Joyner
 Cathy Newman – Coolum Beach
 Yvonne Prior- Bongaree
 Barbara Richardson- Caboolture
 Beth Tulczyn – Bundaberg East
 Patricia Waterson – East Ipswich
 Kathleen Watts- Laidley
 Cherill Weaver – Taigum

STATE PRESIDENT REPORT



Welcome to spring. Leo Tolstoy said, "Spring is the time of plans and projects", and we certainly have a significant project to celebrate next year. Your AWWQ Board is already planning to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the foundation of the War Widows

Guild of Australia (Qld), established in August 1947 and known as Australian War Widows Qld since 2016.

A War Widows Craft Guild was formed in Toowoomba on 8 August 1947, just four days before the Queensland State Branch was established. The Brisbane meeting, called for 12 August 1947, was held in the Lady Mayoress's Room at Brisbane City Hall, with 200 women in attendance. Mrs Jessie Vasey attended and acted as Chair. One of the foundation members was Mrs Billie Hughes, who later became both Queensland State President and National President.

We have several events planned throughout 2027 to commemorate this important milestone. The celebrations will begin in March with the unveiling of the Jessie Vasey statue in Toowoomba. We will publish details of each event in the Bulletin as we get closer to these celebrations.

You will find the proposed 2027 Anniversary Events Program later in this Bulletin.

Of course, Regional Groups may choose to celebrate this important milestone with activities of their own choosing. Please let the office know, and we can advertise your event in the Bulletin.

Now back to the present. To the groups we have visited, thank you for your welcome and kind hospitality. These visits are important to Sue and me, and we enjoy these opportunities to meet and get to know our members and experience the unique community spirit that exists in regional areas. We will see more of you in the next two months.

I continue to attend regular meetings with ESOs and DVA, and I have recently enjoyed meeting new staff, introducing them to AWWQ, and exploring opportunities for mutual support.

Recently, I attended the Victory in Pacific Service, commemorating the day World War 11 ended in 1945. Then I attended the Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Service at ANZAC Square. This was well attended and the biggest I have seen since COVID.

The next AWWQ event will be War Widows Day and the Field of Remembrance service at St John's Cathedral, Brisbane, on 19 October 2026. The service will be like last year, but you will collect your crosses at the Cathedral. I hope to see many of you there, and for catering purposes, please call the office and let them know you are attending. Details are in this Bulletin.

The final event of our year will be the AGM and Christmas Luncheon on 30 November 2026 at Brisbane City Hall. Please join board directors, staff and me as we celebrate another wonderful year of friendship, fellowship and shared memories over a beautiful meal in the very place where the Guild began. I look forward to seeing you there. Details and the booking form are included in this Bulletin.

AWWQ remains committed to ensuring the voices, needs and interests of our members are strongly represented at both state and national levels. We have some exciting new developments underway that will strengthen how we advocate for our members, including representation at ESORT and other key national forums. These opportunities will ensure the experiences and priorities of Queensland war widows continue to be heard and considered in important discussions and decisions affecting the veteran community.

Take care, stay well, and keep warm.

Judy

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT



Dear AWWQ
Members,

Welcome to Spring
2026.

*"True friendship is built
on kindness, respect
and the way we choose
to support one another."*

As we welcome a new season, it is a timely reminder of the importance of friendship, kindness and respect within our AWWQ community. The friendships formed through our Groups and activities are an important part of what makes our organisation so special. By treating one another with consideration, respecting different views and experiences, and ensuring our words and actions reflect the values of AWWQ, we can continue to provide a welcoming and supportive environment where every member feels valued and respected.

The past few months have been a busy and rewarding time for Australian War Widows Queensland as we continue our commitment to supporting, connecting and representing our members across the state. Head Office has also been working steadily through our annual financial audit and governance requirements, ensuring AWWQ continues to operate with transparency and accountability.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 30 November 2026, prior to our Christmas Luncheon at Brisbane City Hall. The meeting will include the presentation of our Annual Report and provide an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and activities of AWWQ over the past year.

I would also like to warmly congratulate Mrs Judy Smith, who will continue as our State President, and Mrs Vikki Harradine and Mrs Debbie Baczyk, who have been re-elected as our two War Widow Directors. Their commitment to AWWQ and our members is greatly valued, and I look forward to working alongside them as we continue to strengthen and grow our organisation.

On 19 October, we will commemorate Queensland War Widows' Day, with a number of iconic landmarks across Queensland lighting up in blue and white in recognition of the courage, sacrifice and resilience of war widows and their families.

This year will also mark our annual Field of Remembrance at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane. We are honoured that Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland will attend this very special ceremony, joining members, dignitaries and invited guests as we come together to honour and remember those who have served, while recognising the enduring contribution of war widows to our nation's history and community.

Looking a little further ahead, our Christmas Luncheon will be held on Monday, 30 November 2026 at Brisbane City Hall. This is always one of my favourite events of the year—a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate friendships, share stories and enjoy a beautiful meal in a festive setting. The booking form is included in this Spring Bulletin, and I encourage you to RSVP early as seats are always in high demand.

As the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, I encourage you to take some time for yourself, enjoy the beautiful spring weather and connect with those around you. Spring is a season of renewal and a wonderful opportunity to focus on the friendships, experiences and activities that bring us joy and purpose.

On behalf of Jason, Sue, Emma and Lindy, I thank you for your continued support of Australian War Widows Queensland and the dedicated work of our Head Office team. Together, we will continue to honour the legacy of those who came before us and ensure that war widows are recognised, respected and remembered.

Take care and stay safe.

Rachel Johnson
Executive Officer

Australian War Widows Queensland

NEWS & REMINDERS

GROUP WAR WIDOWS' DAY EVENTS

AWWQ Head Office will once again provide financial support to Groups wishing to hold a War Widows' Day event.

Groups will be reimbursed **\$25 per financial member attending one event**, to assist with the cost of recognising and celebrating this important day together.

For further information regarding reimbursement arrangements, please contact AWWQ Head Office.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

This year, we will once again hold the Field of Remembrance service at St John's Cathedral. The service will take place on 19 October, which marks both War Widows' Day and, fittingly, Jessie Vasey's birthday. Please see page 42 of this edition for further details

XMAS LUNCH & AGM

Due to upcoming constitutional changes requiring additional time to finalise, along with a decline in AGM attendance in recent years, this year's AGM will be combined with the Christmas Lunch on 30 November 2026. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to celebrating together.

BURST FLEXI-HOSES

Flexi-hoses, commonly found under sinks and in bathrooms, are a leading cause of major water damage in Australian homes, with around 30% needing replacement. A burst flexi-hose can result in extensive damage, with average insurance claims exceeding \$27,500.

Regular checks every six months for signs of wear, rust, or kinking can help prevent costly repairs.

QUEENSLAND SENIORS MONTH

Throughout 1–31 October, Queensland will celebrate Seniors Month, recognising the valuable contributions older Queenslanders make every day—as volunteers, carers, grandparents, community leaders, advocates and members of the workforce.

The month features a variety of inclusive events and activities hosted by community groups and organisations across the state, providing opportunities to connect, learn, participate and celebrate.

Seniors Month highlights the importance of social connection and supports the vision that all older Queenslanders feel:

- **Connected** to their communities and the people who matter most.
- **Cared for** and supported when support is needed.
- **Celebrated** as valued members of our community.

AWWQ members are encouraged to explore the Seniors Month event calendar and take part in activities happening in their local area throughout October.

For more information and to find events near you, visit the Queensland Seniors Month website. Queensland Seniors Month | <https://qldseniorsmonth.org.au/>

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DONATION

AWWQ Head Office is currently accepting donations for the Christmas Raffle, which will be held at our upcoming Christmas Lunch in Brisbane on **30 November 2026**.

If you or your Group would like to contribute a prize or make a donation towards the raffle, we would be very grateful for your support.

Please contact AWWQ Head Office if you would like to make a contribution.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OFFICE CLOSURE

AWWQ Head Office will close for the Christmas and New Year holiday period at 4.00pm on Monday, 21 December 2026 and will reopen at 8.00am on Monday, 4 January 2027

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

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E	I	A	H	P	G	X	O	J	I	K	U	W	M	G	Q	Y	U	P
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WAR WIDOWS DAY LIGHT UP

To commemorate War Widows' Day, landmarks and buildings across Queensland will once again be illuminated in recognition of war widows and their families.

We are pleased to share the locations confirmed to participate in this year's War Widows' Day Light Up.

Brisbane

- Brisbane City Hall and King George Square
- Sandgate Town Hall
- Story Bridge
- Victoria Bridge
- Kangaroo Point Bridge
- Reddacliff Place sculptures
- Wickham Terrace architectural wall
- Breakfast Creek Bridge
- Yowoggera Bridge
- Newstead
- Kurilpa Bridge
- Neville Bonner Bridge
- Parliament House

Moreton Bay

- Caboolture Administration Building – 2 Hasking Street, Caboolture
- Humpbong Creek Fountain – Humpbong Park, Redcliffe
- Redcliffe Administration Building – 1 Irene Street, Redcliffe
- Scarborough seat – located under the tree at Scarborough Beach

Bundaberg

- Night Lights – School of Arts

Rockhampton

- Heritage Façade Lights

A War Widows' Day banner will be displayed on the Hale Street Pedestrian Bridge (inbound) from Monday, 19 October to Sunday, 1 November.

We are also awaiting confirmation from the following locations:

Brisbane

- Government House

Redlands

- Cleveland Point Lighthouse

Logan

- Three illuminated water towers:
 - Wineglass Drive, Hillcrest
 - Telfer Street, Shailer Park
 - Brookvale Drive, Underwood

Townsville

- Townsville Sign
- Wharton Reef Lighthouse
- Victoria Bridge
- George Roberts Bridge
- Old Magistrates Court House
- Little Fletcher Bridge
- Central Park Boardwalk

We look forward to seeing Queensland light up in recognition of War Widows' Day and encourage members to look out for participating landmarks in their local communities.



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 Coordinator: Margaret Biddlecombe 0404 217 644
CABOOLTURE	2nd FRIDAY 10:30am Jacaranda Cafe, 103 King Street, Caboolture, QLD, 4510 President: Estelle Anson 5495 1215 Vice President: Mary Hogan E: maryhogan85@gmail.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: Melva Boese 0408 782 813 E: Slimbo738@bigpond.com Assistant: Margaret Theobald 0419 671 305
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: Bron Drinkwater 0400 098 310 E: bronny45@bigpond.com Treasurer: Virginia Smith 0407 859 406
JESSIE VASEY SOCIAL GROUP	2nd TUESDAY 10:00am Marina Court, 227 Moray Street, New Farm, QLD, 4005 Acting Coordinator: Judy Smith 0419 725 292 E: judy@warwidowsqld.org.au Treasurer: Gillian Burdett 0438 825 756 E: gillburd@hotmail.com
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 11:00am Brunswick Hotel, New Farm, QLD, 4005 Convenor: Jenny Gregory 0411 512 310 E: Jenny2gregory@hotmail.com
NANANGO	1st Wednesday (excluding January) 11:00am Nanago Services Club, 24-26 Henry Street, Nanango, QLD, 4615 Coordinator: Jan English 0408 789 521 E: janblud26@gmail.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: Judy Harvey 0404 759 289
REDLANDS	Last FRIDAY 10:00am Redlands RSL, 8 Passage St, Cleveland, QLD, 4163 President: Jennifer Cockroft 0417 795 567 Secretary & Treasurer: Shree Rogers 0416 062 115
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
SOUTH EAST	3rd FRIDAY 10:00am Easts Leagues Club, 40 Main Ave, Coorparoo, QLD, 4151 Coordinator: Elizabeth Cowell 3349 2084 E: epcowell@outlook.com
SOUTH WEST	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 0410 565 897 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

The numbers at Geebung are holding at 20-25. The ladies love meeting up monthly to share a chat, morning tea and lunch. They are a happy group.

Our trip to Gaythorne to share Christmas in July was such a success.

My group really enjoyed themselves. A big thank you to Narelle and committee for putting on a wonderful day. Quite a few of my group were very lucky to win a few raffle prizes, they were very happy. We do look forward to this event.

We celebrated Vietnam Veterans Day at Geebung RSL Club. It was our meeting day as well. We just had a catch up and shared lunch together. Joyce Banister celebrated her 103 birthday as well. Denise Turner laid the wreath on my behalf for War Widows.

Recently we attended a High tea at Westside HQ at Corinda (formally Sherwood Services Club)

We were joined by members of the Women's Auxiliary, some ladies from New Farm, War Widows from South West and Brisbane North plus 4 War Widows from Sherwood. What a beautiful room it was held in and decorated for the occasion.

Tara Coll an athlete from High Rox, spoke to us about her sport and how she had represented Australia.

Val Rooney OAM, Jenny Gregory OAM and myself Denise Fridolf OAM were acknowledged by the manager for our work on receiving our awards. We were presented with bunches of flowers. We were a little overwhelmed by the gesture as it hadn't happened to us before.

A big thank you to manager

Mat Conway, Kirsten Borthwith and also Louis Kucks for helping organize this event and Louis for transporting the ladies from New Farm.



Val Rooney OAM, Jenny Gregory OAM, Kay Clark OAM and Denise Fridolf OAM receiving flowers for all of their hard work



Brisbane North members enjoying High Tea

BRISBANE WEST

Hello everyone. By the time you are reading this, spring will have arrived and we will be enjoying warmer weather.

We have had good attendances at our meetings averaging 30 ladies.

Five members of our group attended the Friendship Day at Townsville on the 28th May. We had a wonderful time. Congratulations must go to Wendy and her

ladies for organising the event and making it the success that it was.

On the 19th June, we travelled to Harbour Town on the Gold Coast for shopping. We had a great day and some ladies were able to buy some good bargains. We were all happy with our purchases,

We celebrated Christmas in July at our meeting on the 13th July. We welcomed State President Judy Smith, our RSL Gaythorne President, Nigel Cox and the ladies from the Brisbane North (Geebung) Social Group. It was lovely to welcome back our member, Eileen Edmunds, who had been absent for some time owing to health issues. Eight ladies celebrated their birthdays in July, although special congratulations were in order for our members Mollie-Jean Hunt on attaining her 101st birthday and Helen Jones on reaching her 90th.

On the 5th August, a group of us toured the Governor's residence at Rosalie. We had a very interesting morning viewing the formal area of the residence and the gardens. We learned that every Governor may select a flower for the garden and our present Governor chose a yellow rose. We were fortunate that we were able to meet with the Governor after we had been served morning tea and we wished her well for her coming retirement.

On the 18th August, Jean Hoffmann represented our Group by laying a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service at the Gaythorne RSL.

We are now looking forward to our events for the remainder of the year. Take care and stay safe.



Birthday celebrations Helen Jones - 90 and Mollie-Jean Hunt - 101



Jean Hoffmann laying the wreath at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service at Gaythorne



Touring the Governor's residence

our meeting place and where we have all our activities and where their Kitchen is put to good use by our member Betty who provides our morning teas and light lunches. We thank them and Betty so much.

We now go into the busy end of the year.

Cheers all



Margaret Biddlecombe laying a Wreath at Vietnam Memorial



Some of the Bundaberg Ladies at the Vietnam Day Memorial

involved in card making brought along card, stamps, glue, ribbon and all the other bits and pieces needed for this activity. We thank them for their help.

June saw us having lunch at Kangaroos Leagues Club, July we ate at the Bungalow Hotel and August we went out to the Trinity Beach Sports Club. These lunches were lots of fun and the food as always was delicious.

Donata and Lyn laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on the Esplanade for Vietnam's Day.

Lyn Bennett



Lyn & Donata laying a wreath at the Cenotaph for Vietnam Veterans Day



Carins Group enjoying activities at the monthly meetings

BUNDABERG

We have a few new members lately but have also a couple of members in their very late nineties who no longer can make it to meetings.

Some very interesting Guest Speakers from Police Ambulance, a very clever craft lady and Crimson Williams from Gov Scam Department in Maryborough.

This week several of our members attended Vietnam Day at our local Vietnam Drop In Center and Anzac Park. We are very fortunate here in Bundaberg having Legacy provide so much help. From collecting members who no longer drive and bringing them to meetings etc. They also provide

CAIRNS

The year has flown by and we are rapidly losing our cool mornings.

Unfortunately, we've lost one of our long-time members, Thelma Black, who hadn't been well for some time and passed away earlier in the year.

Another one of our passed members, Patricia Anderssen passed away recently in a nursing home.

For our July meeting Donata organised board games as fun activities. They were very well welcomed by all members.

August saw us card making. Donata and Marilyn, who are both

CALOUNDRA

We continue to have a happy social group at Caloundra with most of our ladies attending each month.

The highlight of July was our bus trip and lunch at Bribie Island RSL which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Photo included. The bus

only holds eleven, so Rebecca followed in her car. Again, thanks to our driver Wayne Matthews who makes these trips possible. August was our usual morning tea with lunch after at the RSL. September we will be attending the Neil Diamond Tribute Concert at the Caloundra RSL after morning tea. October, we celebrate War Widows Day with lunch at Waves Club Caloundra.

We have some talented members in our groups; Dee Lister is a joy to behold. Dee was born in England but has lived in Queensland for forty years. Dee is an accomplished poet and has written much poetry some of which has been published in anthologies by the Pente Poets of the Sunshine Coast. She has also published several books of her own including Faraway Places and Under the Sun. Dee is at the front right of our photo.

Ann Stephenson OAM
Co-Ordinator



Members during their trip to Bribie Island

GOLD COAST SOUTH

Spring is here!

It feels like the months have flown by and each year seems to pass faster than the last.

We haven't been out and about as a group during the winter, but many of us have travelled far and wide, and some have joined in with local activities organised by Currumbin RSL and Legacy.

One outing was a 'Back to the sixties' luncheon where some

members went all out, bringing out their loud and bright outfits and enjoying a great afternoon with music from Army band Brisbane and our favourite Tommy Memphis.

Another was Christmas in July luncheon. where Rhyddian Lewis entertained and a few of our members swooned! Lots of laughs and great food was shared Koreans Veterans Day is commemorated on the Gold Coast with a service at the large memorial in Cascade gardens where we were welcomed to the service which was both moving and entertaining with dancing, singing and good food. The sun shone brightly on what was supposed to be a rainy day, making it lovely.

Vietnam veterans day was also a major event, this year's keynote speaker, a local branch member delivered a fantastic speech, personalised with anecdotes relating to other local members and their experiences during the conflict which was interesting and also really inspiring.

The next few months are the busiest with Jessie Vasey day, Field of Remembrance, Veterans health week and then all the Christmas functions to look forward to.

I hope everyone is staying safe and well and enjoying life!

Debbie GC South



Vietnam Veterans Day Service



'Back to the sixties' Luncheon

IPSWICH

Hello to all.

Once again Ipswich has had a change in Coordinator. Susan has moved and I ended up in her seat as coordinator. Who would have thought that? Not me, I thought I'd retired.

We, like most groups are a small with around 12 lovely ladies coming together to share our time.

We have done a trip to Gold Coast, we did Cycling without age, enjoyed a lovely.

We did a trip to Brookfield nursery, what a delight place, once again enjoyed lunch together.

We have to say a special "Thank You" to Louise & Daryl. Daryl drives the war widows bus for us whilst Louise makes sure Wheelie walkers are safe, the ladies all accounted for. We really appreciate them.

This month September our RSL is putting on a War Widows/Widows morning tea.

We will have ADA as our guest speakers. They are advocates for aged care.

Regards from Ipswich ladies.

Bron



Ipswich ladies enjoying lunches together



Susan Croydon's Farewell

JESSIE VASEY SOCIAL GROUP

Last week, a van load of happy members enjoyed a day trip to Bribie Island. First stopping at the Bribie Island Neighbourhood Centre, including the Community Arts Centre where everyone was impressed by the range of art and craft on display and available for sale. The Centre has operated since the early 1990s and is staffed mainly by volunteers.

Then lunch followed at the 191 Café, part of the Arts Centre. The meals were generous, tasty, very enjoyable and excellent value. The ladies enjoyed it so much that they would be happy for a bus to take them there for lunch once a week.

If you live in SE Qld and haven't visited this Centre, you must put it on your next place to visit.

Upcoming activities

- A day trip to the Gold Coast on the Lady Brisbane is being planned for October.
- A night at the theatre is on the calendar, depending on what is showing and when.
- At the next meeting, Narelle is coordinating a Paint-n-Sip morning, which the ladies are looking forward to.

Meetings continue to run well, with steady attendance at each meeting. Sue attended the August meeting and, as usual, answered many member questions.

Many Marina Court members will again attend the Field of Remembrance, and something will also be arranged at Marina Court to mark Jessie's birthday.

We are sorry to hear that Molly-Jean recently had a fall. Our thoughts are with her.

NEW FARM

We continue to meet at the Brunswick Hotel where we have been enjoying our lunches very much.

We have up to 15 ladies who attend each month and in August we used a donation from our local Councillor to pay for our lunch. Many thanks to Vicki Howard for this donation.

Also, in August we will use the AWWQ bus to take us to Sherwood RSL where we have been invited to a special High Tea catered for by the RSL.

A number of our group will attend the Vietnam Veterans Day Service at Anzac Square on 18 August.

Many thanks
Jenny G

REDCLIFFE

July 3 – speaker Samantha Zanella from ProHealth spoke on the DVA Rehabilitation Appliances Program (RAP) and the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS). Samantha spoke about the importance of movement for exercise and answered questions about assistance available for various physical disabilities. Invitation received from Wendy Griggs, President of Council of Ex-Servicewomen's Association Qld, inviting all War Widows to a Memorial Service and Wreath Laying for women both military and civilian, on 11am on Wednesday 9th September at Kallangur. 0412 017123 for details and booking.

August 7 – Our Guest Speakers were State President Judy Smith and Wellbeing program Manager Sue Hilditch.

Judy Smith shared upcoming events in War Widows Qld including Vietnam Veteran's Day, the Field of Remembrance service and the Christmas Lunch in Brisbane City Hall. She reminded us that next year will be the 80th anniversary of Qld War Widows, and the 60th anniversary of the Redcliffe group.

Sue Hilditch drew our attention to the information in the Winter Bulletin on benefits and that Gold Card holders should register with My Aged Care as they offer services not provided by DVA. After the meeting we joined our guest speakers upstairs in the café for members lunch, which was provided by Redcliffe War Widows.



Susan Hilditch and Judy Smith joining our August meeting

SOUTH EAST

Well here we are and another year almost gone and still so much to look forward to. The weather hasn't been very kind to us but we have had good attendance at meetings in spite of it.

Our most senior member celebrated her 99th Birthday at July's meeting, even baking her own delicious cake to share. Thankyou Shirley from all of us. Our group now consist of 5 war widows over ninety, 5 well under 90 and 5 daughters whose presence we value since their mothers are no longer with us, gone but definitely not forgotten. Some of our members have moved to Care situations and can no longer attend meetings but if you are reading this you are still with us through the group photo albums that circulate regularly, remembering when.

Our June meeting saw the visit by President Judy and Welfare Sue to bring us up to date on any queries and to meet new members. Most members were present and all enjoyed a lovely morning. We now look forward to spring time, War widows Day and a few more meetings leading up to Christmas. Wishing all our readers good health and happy days.
Elizabeth



South East members at their monthly meeting

TOWNSVILLE

Townsville hosted a White Cross Service and Friendship Day luncheon. The weather was kind to us, no rain and we hope everyone who attended enjoyed the events.

The Nashos celebrated the 75th Anniversary on 30 June at their memorial Rose Bay. It was a moving event and participated by many. I was proud to represent the War Widows and lay a book.

Vietnam Veterans Day is always a day of reflection. Again, I'm proud to represent the War Widows and lay a book.

With winter finally over, I hope that not too many widows ended up with the flu. Welcome to Spring
Wendy Goodman and the Executive.

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Researchers at Griffith University are looking for volunteers aged 50 and over to take part in a study on sleep and heart health during the warmer months, and we would be grateful if you would consider taking part, or passing this invitation on to someone who might.

Warm bedrooms on hot nights can place extra stress on the heart during sleep, and older adults are more affected by this. Many older Australians don't have air-conditioning in their bedroom. Our study looks at whether a mattress-based cooling device — which cools only the surface you sleep on — can help the body stay relaxed and recover overnight.

You may be eligible if you:

- Are aged 50 years or over
- Live independently in your own home in Australia
- Do not have air-conditioning in your bedroom
- Own a smartphone (iPhone 10 / equivalent or newer) with home internet
- Are in generally good health

What would taking part involve?

The study runs for about five months (September 2026 to March 2027) and takes place **entirely in your own home** — there is no travel to a clinic or laboratory. You would wear a Fitbit smartwatch overnight and place a small temperature sensor in your bedroom. For part of the summer you would use the cooling mattress device on your bed; the rest of the time you simply sleep as you normally would. Full instructions and phone support are provided throughout.

All equipment is provided by the research team.

As a thank-you for taking part, participants keep the cooling mattress device at the end of the study. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

Interested, or want to know more?

Please contact Dr Aaron Bach at a.bach@griffith.edu.au. There is no obligation to take part — we can answer your questions and send you an information sheet so you can decide. A short, confidential phone or email check will confirm whether the study is a good fit for you.

With thanks,
Aaron, Fergus, Isabelle, Madison, Shannon, and Mehak
Griffith University

This study has been approved by the Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee (GU Ref No: HREC/2026/0662). If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of this research, you can contact the Senior Manager, Research Ethics Integrity and Governance on (07) 3735 4375 or research-ethics@griffith.edu.au.

Isabella
s5300145
Bachelor of Health Science (Major in Environmental Health)
2024 New Colombo Plan Scholar (Fiji)
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AUSTRALIA POST CONCESSIONS

Save on Your Postage with an Australia Post Concession Account

Many AWWQ members may be eligible to save on the cost of posting letters through an Australia Post Concession Account.

If you hold an eligible concession card, including a **Department of Veterans' Affairs Card** you can purchase domestic postage stamps for just **60 cents each**.

With a free Australia Post Concession Account, you'll receive:

- A **complimentary booklet of five concession stamps** when your account is approved.
- The opportunity to purchase **up to 75 concession stamps each year**, in booklets of five for **\$3.00**.

Even Better Value from 1 September 2026

Australia Post has announced that the standard price of an ordinary domestic letter will increase from **\$1.70 to \$1.85 from 1 September 2026**.

The good news is that **concession stamp prices will not increase**. Eligible concession account holders will continue to pay **\$3.00 for a booklet of five stamps**, making this an even more valuable benefit.

Are You Eligible?

You may apply for an Australia Post Concession Account if you hold one of the following Australian Government concession cards:

- Department of Veterans' Affairs Card
- Veterans' Repatriation Health Card
- Pensioner Concession Card
- Health Care Card (all types)
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

How to Apply

Simply complete an Australia Post Concession Account application form (available from your local Post Office or the Australia Post website) and take it, along with your eligible concession card, to any Australia Post outlet.

Once approved, you'll receive your Concession Account card and your free booklet of five stamps in the mail.

If you're an eligible AWWQ member and regularly send letters, birthday cards or correspondence to family and friends, we encourage you to take advantage of this valuable Australia Post concession.

With postage costs continuing to rise, this simple initiative can help reduce everyday expenses while ensuring you stay connected with the people who matter most.



CONCESSIONAL HOSPITAL CAR PARKING

Did you know that eligible patients and their carers may be able to access reduced parking fees when attending Queensland public hospitals?

The Queensland Government offers concessional car parking to help ease the financial burden for people who need to visit hospital regularly or for extended periods.

You may be eligible if you:

- Are experiencing financial hardship (this may include holders of government concession cards).
- Need to attend hospital for an extended period.
- Are required to attend hospital frequently for treatment or appointments.
- Have special needs and require assistance.

Concessional parking is currently available at the following Queensland public hospitals:

- Caboolture Hospital
- Cairns Hospital
- Gold Coast University Hospital
- Ipswich Hospital
- Logan Hospital
- Nambour Hospital
- Princess Alexandra Hospital
- Queensland Children's Hospital
- Redcliffe Hospital
- Redland Hospital
- Robina Hospital
- Rockhampton Hospital
- Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- Sunshine Coast University Hospital
- The Prince Charles Hospital
- Toowoomba Hospital
- Townsville University Hospital



If you think you may be eligible, speak with the hospital's patient services team or reception staff when you attend your appointment. Each hospital has information available about the application process and eligibility requirements.

This concession may provide valuable savings for patients and carers who regularly travel to hospital for medical care.

STAR FRIENDS

Dear members,

I wish to share with you a FREE service delivered through the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme (ACVVS) and funded by the Australian Government. The program is designed to support older people through meaningful social connection and companionship. The program is only available to older people receiving Support at Home services, living in Residential Aged Care, or currently on the waitlist for either of these services- no other referral code is required. For DVA gold card holders, this may be a good reason to register with My Aged Care.

Through the program, participants are matched with a volunteer from their local community based on shared interests, hobbies, and life experiences. They spend around an hour together each week or fortnight, enjoying activities such as having a cuppa and a chat, going for a walk, playing games, cooking, crafting, or simply spending time together. Every friendship is unique, but the goal is always to foster genuine connections and reduce social isolation.

This service is currently being delivered by Star Community Services and Commlink. To sign up or enquire about services in your area please call:

- Star Community Services on 3821 6699
- Commlink Companion Services 1300 761 011

The Star Community flyer mentions they are currently servicing Toowoomba, Darling Downs, Ipswich, West Moreton, Brisbane South, Redlands and Logan; new areas are being added all the time by both Star and Commlink, so please call them should you reside in other areas.

All volunteers hold current NDIS Worker Screening Clearances and are required to complete onboarding and training.

I hope this is a service that is useful to some of our members.

Kind regards,
Sue Hilditch
Wellbeing Program Manager



STAR
Community
Services
07 3821 6699

Call on a STAR Friend today!

Do you feel lonely or socially isolated?
A STAR friend can add a little sparkle
to your life

STAR Friends is a free service connecting you with a friendly visitor.

Your STAR Friend will be a volunteer from your local community, matched with you based on your interests and hobbies.

You can choose to simply enjoy a cuppa and chat, or:

- go for a walk or an outing in the community
- play games such as chess and cards
- arts and crafts
- rekindle old hobbies
- cook your favourite meals together or have fun exploring new recipes



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

AWWQ 80th Anniversary

2027 will mark a very special milestone for Australian War Widows Queensland as we celebrate 80 years since the War Widows' Guild (QLD) was established in Queensland.

Our 80th Anniversary provides an important opportunity to reflect on our history, honour the remarkable women who laid the foundations of our organisation, and recognise the generations of war widows who have contributed to the strength, friendship and spirit of our community.

For eight decades, the Guild and now Australian War Widows Queensland (AWWQ) has provided a place of connection, advocacy and support for war widows and their families. While our organisation has evolved over the years, the values at its heart remain strong – **friendship, respect, remembrance and ensuring the voices of war widows are heard.**

To commemorate this significant anniversary, AWWQ is developing an exciting **80th Anniversary Events Calendar for 2027**, with activities and special events planned throughout the year. These will provide opportunities for members and Groups across Queensland to participate in the celebrations, share memories and stories, recognise our history and look towards the future of AWWQ.

Further details, including dates and locations, will be shared with members as plans are confirmed.

We look forward to celebrating this remarkable **80 year milestone** together and honouring the women whose dedication and determination have shaped the organisation we are proud to be part of today.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATIN
March 2027 (TBC)	Jessie Vasey Statue Unveiling	Toowoomba
25 April 2027	ANZAC Day March	Brisbane CBD
20 May 2027	Friendship Day	Maroochydore RSL
12 August 2027	80th Birthday Celebration	Brisbane City Hall
18 October 2027	Field of Remembrance	St John's Cathedral, Brisbane City
19 October 2027	War Widows Day	Various Queensland locations
29 November 2027	AGM & Christmas Party	Brisbane City Hall



AVCAT

AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

2027 Scholarships

How to Apply

- check your eligibility
- prep your paperwork
- apply online August 18th - 31st October 2026

Visit ***avcat.org.au*** for more details



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the eligibility criteria?

- Australian residency or citizenship
- child or grandchild of an Australian ex-serving veteran
- full time tertiary student in 2027

Additional eligibility requirements for specific scholarships can be found online.

Do all applicants receive an AVCAT Scholarship?

The selection process is very competitive, and scholarship numbers are limited, therefore not all worthy and eligible applicants will receive a scholarship.

How will my scholarship application be assessed?

Applications are assessed on financial need, academic potential and personal circumstances.

What supporting documents do I need for my scholarship application?

It is advisable to start preparing your documents before applications open. Refer to the application guide on our website for more details.

When will I be notified of the outcome of my application?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application from late February through to early March, 2027.

Where can I find more information?

- Website: avcat.org.au
- Email: info@avcat.org.au
- Telephone: 02 9127 9880



Dear War Widows Queensland,

I am writing to provide an update on my academic journey and to express my continued, deepest gratitude for your generous support. This year has brought both great personal growth and excellent academic results, none of which would have been possible without the stability and peace of mind your scholarship provides.

I am pleased to share that my dedication to my Data Science major has continued to yield strong results. In my most recent subjects, I achieved one High Distinction and two Credits. These results have further fuelled my passion for the field and maintained the academic momentum I have worked hard to build. The financial assistance provided by War Widows Queensland has been invaluable, allowing me to comfortably manage my living expenses, purchase essential resources, and balance my daily commitments while keeping my education as my absolute priority.

As I look toward the future of my degree, I am currently navigating a transition period due to the subject offerings available at James Cook University. I recently discovered that I would only be able to continue my studies there on a part-time basis, as there are no available subjects for me to complete in Trimester 3 of this year, and structural limitations would prevent me from maintaining a full-time load in 2027. Because retrogressing to part-time would delay my graduation by over a year, I have proactively looked at options to transfer to a university in Melbourne with broader subject offerings, where I also have the invaluable opportunity to live with family.

While I was not able to secure a mid-year offer for Semester 2 of this year, my plan is to defer my studies for the remainder of 2026. This period will allow me to prepare for my relocation, with the firm intention of re-applying and resuming my full-time studies at a Melbourne institution at the start of 2027.



I want to extend my immense, heartfelt appreciation for all the assistance War Widows Queensland has provided me over the past three years. While I am genuinely disheartened that I cannot continue my studies for the remainder of this year, I am staying focused on the bigger picture. Your unwavering financial support has been an incredible safety net during my time at university, lifting a massive burden off my shoulders and allowing me to focus on my goals. I am profoundly grateful for your continued kindness and generosity throughout my degree, and I look forward to keeping you updated as I resume and complete my studies in the near future.

With great appreciation,
William Buttigieg



BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the Board election will be formally announced at the AWWQ Annual General Meeting on 30 November 2026.

We are pleased to congratulate Mrs Judy Smith, who will continue her term as State President. We also congratulate Mrs Debbie Baczyk and Mrs Vikki Harradine on their re-election as War Widow Directors.

We extend our sincere thanks to Mrs Wendy Goodman for her nomination and willingness to serve, and to all members who took the time to vote and have their say in these important leadership roles.

We look forward to continuing to work together to represent and support our members across Queensland.



DEBBIE BACZYK



VIKKI HARRADINE

The committees are as follows:

Property Committee:	Constitution Committee:	Executive/ Finance Committee:	Members committee:	Events committee:
Chris Richards	Debbie Baczyk	Stephen Scott	Debbie Baczyk	Judy Smith
Maureen Rush OAM	Stephen Scott	Judy Smith	Denise Fridolf OAM	Jenny Walker
Stephen Scott	Judy Smith	Narelle Stanton	Vikki Harradine	Vikki Harradine
	Narelle Stanton		Maureen Rush OAM	Debbie Baczyk
	Jenny Walker		Judy Smith	



NOTICE OF MEETING

AWWQ Annual General Meeting – 30 November 2026

Australian War Widows Queensland members are invited to attend the **2026 Annual General Meeting**, to be held on:

Date: Monday, 30 November 2026

Venue: Ithaca Room, Brisbane City Hall

Arrival: 10:15 am

Meeting commences: 10:30 am

An important item for members at this year's meeting will be consideration of a **Special Resolution to adopt an amended AWWQ Constitution**.

The AWWQ Board has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Constitution, which was last updated in November 2023, and has identified a number of areas where the Constitution could be updated and clarified.

One of the key proposed changes is to broaden the definition of War Widow or Widower, moving away from relying strictly on the Department of Veterans' Affairs definition. This will provide AWWQ with greater flexibility to determine eligibility for membership and may enable War Widows or Widowers who do not meet the current DVA criteria to become members of AWWQ.

Other proposed amendments include clarification of membership categories and privileges, the eligibility and qualifications required to serve as a Director, the composition of the Board, the role of Associate Members and the requirement that the Chair be an independent Director. The amendments also update the definition of Veteran, remove the provision for circulating resolutions and make a number of general amendments to improve the clarity and operation of the Constitution.

Importantly, the proposed amendments **do not change AWWQ's charitable purpose or activities**.

Members will receive the proposed amended Constitution and Information Memorandum, which provide further details about the proposed changes and the Special Resolution to be considered at the AGM.

We encourage members to review the information provided and join us at the AGM on 30 November 2026.

Information memorandum

Australian War Widows Queensland
ACN 009 708 810

CONTACT

Nicole Shenfield
Director

Phone 07 3007 9278
Email nicole.shenfield@paxton-hall.com.au

Address Level 10, 15 Adelaide Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Mail PO Box 12088
Brisbane QLD 4003

Contents

1. Introduction1

2. Background and current issues1

3. What is proposed1

4. Pros and cons2

5. What happens if the special resolution is not passed3

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the general meeting of Australian War Widows Queensland ACN 009 708 810 (**AWWQ**) to be held on Monday 30 November 2026, the members will consider a special resolution to vary the current constitution by adopting an amended constitution in the form annexed to the Notice of meeting.
- 1.2 This information memorandum is intended to provide members with an explanation of the proposed new constitution, the rationale behind the proposed amendments and the implications of the amendments, if any.

2. Background and current issues

- 2.1 AWWQ is dedicated to providing assistance and relief to War Widows and Widowers and other close family members of deceased veterans who are in need of benevolent relief. AWWQ is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission in the sub-type of public benevolent institution.
- 2.2 The existing constitution was last updated on 27 November 2023 following a targeted legal compliance review. The directors have now conducted a more fulsome review of the current constitution and have identified some areas of improvement.
- 2.3 One key change that is proposed is to move away from aligning AWWQ's definition of 'War Widow' strictly with that defined by the Department of Veterans' Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia (**DVA**). At the present time, under the current terms of the constitution, if a person does not meet the DVA's definition of 'War Widow', they are ineligible for membership with AWWQ. The board considers that AWWQ should be able to determine who it considers is a war widow/widower for its own benevolent purposes.
- 2.4 Further, it is proposed that the term War Widow or Widower be included.

3. What is proposed

- 3.1 The marked up constitution shows the proposed changes.
- 3.2 In summary, the proposed amendments are as follows:
 - (1) The term 'Member' is now defined;
 - (2) The existing definitions of 'Appointed Directors' and 'Member Directors' are modestly amended to clarify who may be either an Appointed Director or Member Director, in addition to how the board may be composed;
 - (3) The meaning of 'Veteran' has been amended to that within the *Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and Their Families First) Act 2019* (Cth), being 'a person who has served, or is serving, as a member of the Permanent Forces or as a member of the Reserves';

- (4) The existing definition of a 'War Widow' is amended to include a 'Widower' and to shift away from the DVA definition and this change is now reflected throughout the constitution;
 - (5) Membership and member privileges have been clarified in rules 10 to 13, including that Associate Members are no longer entitled to the social privileges of the Company;
 - (6) It is now expressly stated that an Associate Member is unable to be elected as a director for clarity (but can assume other roles such as the Secretary);
 - (7) The Board will return the fees paid by an applicant whose application is rejected for procedural clarity;
 - (8) The qualifications which an individual must hold to be elected as a director is now included in rule 24;
 - (9) It is now clarified that the Chair must be an independent director and may, but need not be, a War Widow or War Widower in rule 28.1;
 - (10) The provision relating to circulating resolutions has been removed entirely as it is not practical;
 - (11) The existing rule regarding the sale or disposal of all of the Company's assets has been slightly modified to make it clear that the ratification required to be made by the Company must occur at a general meeting; and
 - (12) A general tidy has been conducted with respect the existing provisions.
- 3.3 The proposed amendments do not alter the substance of AWWQ's charitable purpose or its activities.

4. Pros and cons

- 4.1 The main pros of the special resolution passing are:
- (1) that the current and prospective members of AWWQ will benefit from the intentional shift from the DVA's definition of 'War Widow' such that a War Widow or Widower who does not meet the DVA's criteria may still be a War Widow or Widower, as determined by the board; and
 - (2) overall, increased clarity regarding the following matters:
 - (a) the Company's membership criteria and application determination;
 - (b) the requirements qualifications of directors; and
 - (c) the roles that Associate Member's may assume within the Company.
- 4.2 The cons are limited to the cost of engaging external legal practitioners to assist in the review process and any administrative burdens of adopting a new constitution.

5. What happens if the special resolution is not passed

- 5.1 If the special resolution is not passed, then the constitution of AWWQ will not change and the status quo will remain.

Our families serve too.



Recognising Families Sculpture

Fundraising Proposal

**Recognising
Families
Sculpture**

Proudly supported by



RSL
Queensland





After more than a century of silent strength, sacrifice, and unseen service, the families of Australia's veterans will finally receive the recognition they deserve. A major sculpture is being commissioned for permanent installation in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial.

The sculpture will be the first tribute built anywhere in Australia to honour more than one million families who stood behind the one million Australians who have served in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping missions, including the more than 103,000 who died as a result of service.

A dedicated committee has been working towards creating meaningful acknowledgement for families of veterans.

With your support, we can finally build the Recognising Families Sculpture, ensuring that the families who also served are honoured for generations to come.

WHY THE RECOGNISING FAMILIES SCULPTURE MATTERS



Jenny Gregory, National President, Australian War Widows (Queensland) and a war widow herself, reminds us that families “receive no medals nor are there any memorials to us to appropriately recognise the role we played in supporting and then mourning our loved ones who served.” For her, this sculpture represents an enduring reminder that “families are the chief mourners and remembers of those who gave, or were prepared to give, their lives for their country.”

“Families receive no medals nor are there any memorials to us to appropriately recognise the role we played in supporting and then mourning our loved ones who served.” – *Jenny Gregory, National President, Australian War Widows (Queensland)*



Queen Dunbar, State President, Families of Veterans Guild, and a war widow knows she doesn't stand alone. “I stand shoulder to shoulder with the partners and families

of veterans that have stood before me in defence of this country and its ideals. I stand with the partners and families of these brave men and women that heeded the call of service and did their duty by their country.”



Narelle Stanton sees the sculpture as an acknowledgment of the sacrifice of veterans and current serving members, alongside the pain of loss felt by families. She also

highlights “the strength and resilience to maintain the family's vital role in the stability and fabric of home and country”, recognising the importance families played during conflict in holding communities together.

“I pay tribute to these service families, to their strengths and resilience, to their ongoing tenacity and courage that they embody and exemplify every day and in every aspect of their lives.” – *Queen Dunbar, State President, Families of Veterans Guild*



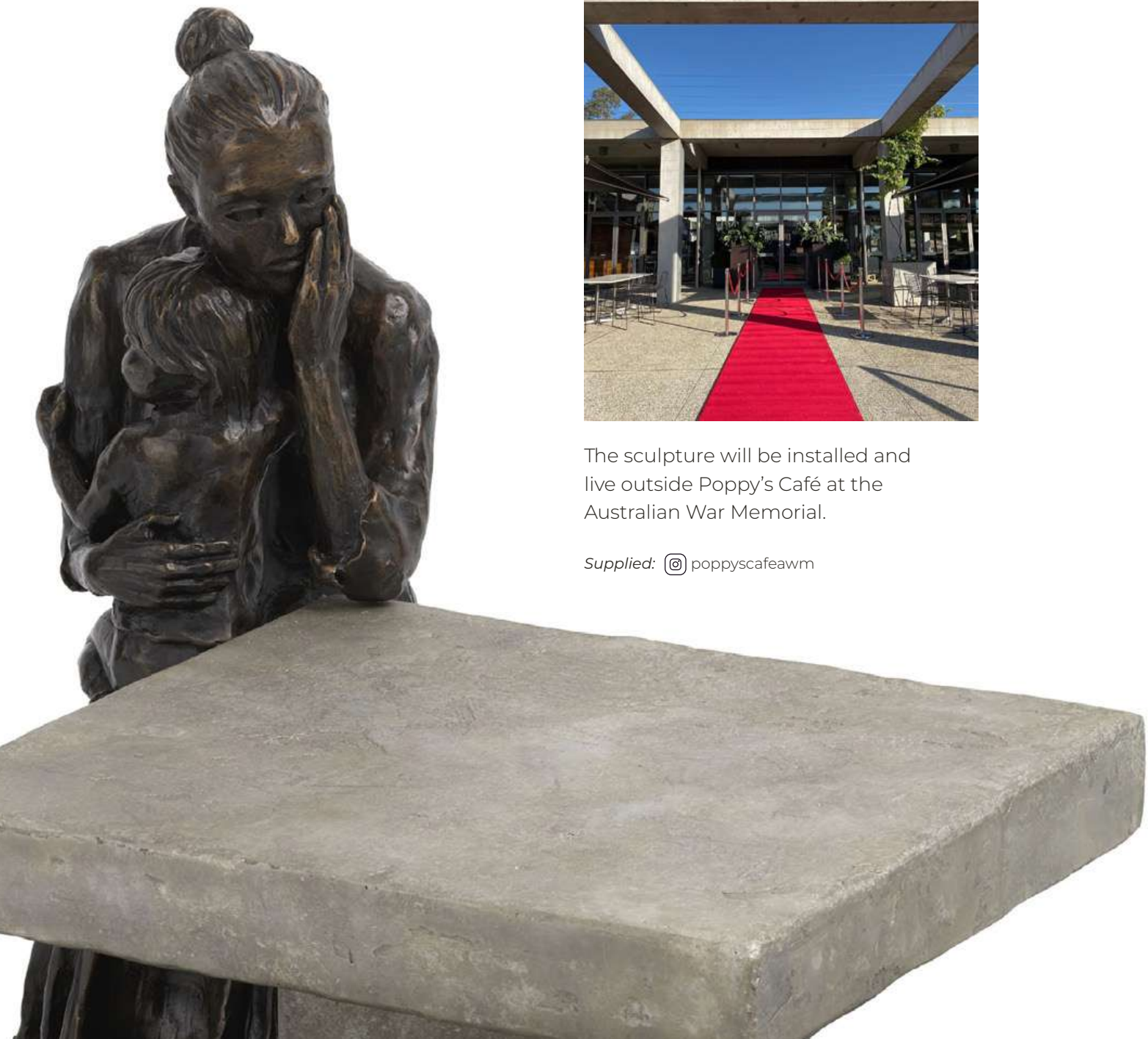
Major General Stephen Day DSC AM a returned soldier who served in Namibia, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, speaks from both perspectives: “Our families wear no uniform, they have no medals, there are no memorials to them. There should be.” He knows firsthand that families are “as tough as us; they need to be”, carrying burdens “every gram as heavy as those in uniform” while maintaining homes, raising children, and supporting Defence members and veterans through deployment and return.

“Our families wear no uniform, they have no medals, there are no memorials to them. There should be.” – *Major General Stephen Day DSC AM*

THE VISION

This sculpture will honour the contribution of the many families of members of the Australian Defence Force who have served in war, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

The Committee advising the Australian War Memorial, comprising ADF personnel and families, including widows, has identified the defining qualities this sculpture should embody. This sculpture will honour the profound contribution of ADF families, recognising not only the challenges and sacrifices they carry, but also their enduring resilience and deep sense of pride. It will also reflect the unwavering support and hope Defence families carry, capturing both their lived experience and their steadfast belief in the future.



The sculpture will be installed and live outside Poppy's Café at the Australian War Memorial.

Supplied:  [poppyscafeawm](https://www.instagram.com/poppyscafeawm)

ARTIST STATEMENT

Nina Sanadze

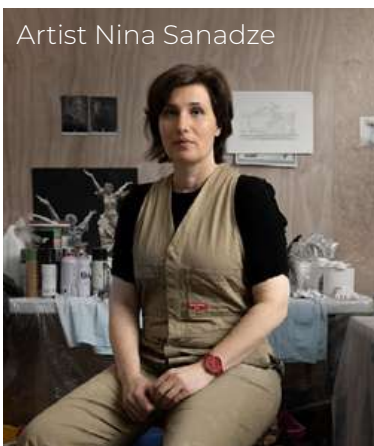
Visiting the Australian War Memorial is a profound experience, deepening my understanding of Defence families experiences. The Memorial's archives enriched my knowledge and provided historic references and vital visual materials about the role families play.

My intention is to derive the figurative elements of my sculpture from historic images of real people, specifically, partners, children and families connected to those who served or perished. Aligning with my artistic approach, this method allows me to anchor my work in historical facts, stories, and real-life experiences, enhancing the emotional depth of the sculpture. By incorporating this historical material, the artwork becomes intrinsically moving and compelling, adding layers of complexity and storytelling that resonate with visitors.

Given this perspective, I have portrayed a younger mother with a child – a theme that has resonated through art from the Renaissance to Abstract movements. This classic motif symbolises fundamental human qualities such as humanity, redemption, love, nurture, care, duty, and innocence. By juxtaposing the mother and child against the backdrop of war, the sculpture inherently critiques the tragic consequences of conflicts, emphasizing the celebration of life over the spectre of death/service.

I believe it is crucial to centre life in this work, capturing the essence of those who are missed while allowing for a sense of continuity. The chosen representations aim to honour those who dedicated their lives to service or indeed lost their lives, embracing the idea of hope prevailing for a family even in the face of profound sadness and the absence of a loved one from the family unit.

“I believe it is crucial to centre life in this work, capturing the essence of those who are missed while allowing for a sense of continuity.”



DONOR RECOGNITION

Make your donation today

As a valued donor to the Recognising Families Sculpture, your contribution will be acknowledged on a dedicated webpage as a reflection of the Committee's sincere gratitude on behalf of the veteran and Defence families this sculpture represents.

You also can subscribe to a mailing list to receive ongoing updates regarding the Recognising Families Sculpture's fundraising efforts and project milestones.

To contribute to the Recognising Families Sculpture, a one-off donation can be made online via credit card: recognisingfamilies.org.au

Donations in excess of \$2.00 are tax-deductible, and you will receive an automatic receipt via email for your records.

recognisingfamilies.org.au



If you can, please
donate by scanning
the QR code.

**Recognising
Families
Sculpture**

Proudly supported by



PROJECT GOVERNANCE

- As an Australian War Memorial project, management and financial oversight is conducted according to relevant legislation for procurement and expenditure of public money. The AWM also has policies in place for the development and delivery of new public sculptures for the grounds, and a Collection Development Policy for acquisitions for the National Collection.
- The project is being managed by an experienced Project Manager and senior curator, with involvement of the Head of Art (H/Art) and Assistant Director National Collection (ADNC), with endorsement from the AWM's Corporate Management Group (CMG) and Council.
- As an important addition to the grounds of the AWM, the project also required approval from the National Capital Authority, which has been granted.
- Project Manager will convene a team across the AWM once funds are raised and production phase commences to ensure project is best practice across relevant disciplines – eg. conservation, construction, interpretation, communications. Project Manager elevates any issues or decisions for senior delegations to H/Art, ADNC, CMG as required.
- The AWM provides regular updates to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Matt Keogh, MP
- RSL Queensland is collecting funds for the construction and installation of the Recognising Family Sculpture at the Australian War Memorial grounds. All money raised will be donated to the Australian War Memorial, which will be responsible for completing the works. RSL Queensland is an endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient. All donations in excess of \$2.00 are tax deductible. A charity registered with the ACNC. ABN 79 902 601 713.

PROJECT FUNDS REQUIRED AND ALLOCATION

The Recognising Families Sculpture Project is seeking \$500,000 to commission, create, and install the sculpture outside Poppy's Café at the Australian War Memorial.

Thank you for your support.

IG: @RecognisingFamilies
Facebook: @RecognisingFamilies
LinkedIn: @RecognisingFamilies

For further information, please email:
RecognisingFamilies@rslqld.org

**Recognising
Families
Sculpture**

Proudly supported by



RSL
Queensland



FRIENDSHIP DAY 2026

TOWNSVILLE, QLD





LIFE HACKS

1. Use lazy Susans in cabinets and refrigerators. These rotating trays make it easier to access items without reaching or straining.
2. Wear rubber gloves to open jars. The added grip can reduce the strain on your hands.
3. Use a small dot of bright nail polish on each key to help you remember which key goes to which door. You can also coordinate the dots to the doors.
4. Soften sharp corners on counters, coffee tables, and nightstands with adhesive furniture bumper pads to prevent bumps and bruises.



5. Add keyrings to zippers to make them easier to grasp and use independently.
6. If you are having trouble turning your door-knobs, swap out your round doorknobs for lever-style handles. They are much easier to open.
7. Add motion-sensor lights to hallways and stairs. This will help you navigate around much easier and safer during the nighttime.
8. Tape down those loose edges on rugs and mats with double-sided tape. This will help prevent falls.



VIETNAMESE GRILLED CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 kg chicken thighs
- 1 tbsp crushed garlic
- 1 tbsp crushed ginger
- 2 tbsp honey
- 1/4 cup fish sauce
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp white pepper
- 1 Juice of a lime

METHOD:

1. First things first, let's create our magical marinade! Combine the garlic, ginger, honey, fish sauce, salt, white pepper, and lime juice in a bowl.
2. Next, bathe those chicken thighs in the marinade. Make sure they're well coated. Let them soak up the flavors for 1 hour. Patience is key here!
3. Ready for some air frying action? Place the marinated chicken thighs in your air fryer. Set it to 180C and cook for 20 mins. Don't forget to flip them halfway through! This is crucial for that perfect golden char

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
HONOURING WAR WIDOWS AND THE FALLEN

TO BE HELD AT ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
373 ANN STREET, BRISBANE CITY
ON
MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2026

ARRIVAL: 10:00 AM
SERVICE COMMENCES: 10:30 AM
MORNING TEA WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING
THE SERVICE

TO MAKE A BOOKING FOR THE EVENT CONTACT
RACHEL@WARWIDOWSQLD.ORG.AU OR PHONE
07 3846 7706 BY 12 OCTOBER 2026





CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Price: Free

Date: Monday 30 November 2026

Time & Location: 10:15am arrival for 10:30am start- 11:30am
Ithaca Room, Brisbane City Hall, 64 Adelaide St, Brisbane City
Entrances located at Adelaide St, Ann St and King George Square

CHRISTMAS LUNCH:

Price: \$55 Per person, includes 2 course luncheon.

Drinks are available for purchase (card only, no cash)

Date: Monday 30 November 2026

Time & Location: 11:30am- 2:00pm

Ithaca Room, Brisbane City Hall, 64 Adelaide St, Brisbane City

Full Name:

Member Number:

Dietary Requirements:

Events Attending: ☐ AGM Only ☐ Christmas Lunch Only ☐ AGM & Christmas Lunch

Payment Method (Please tick):

- ☐ I enclose a cheque or money order with this form
- ☐ Over the phone to AWWQ Head Office with a credit card on 3846 7706 | 1800 061 945
- ☐ Through Direct deposit to:

Australian War Widows Queensland

BSB: 064 000

ACC: 1496 9480

Reference: Your AWWQ membership number

RSVP BY FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER

REFUNDS ARE NOT PROVIDED AFTER FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER

A stylized illustration of a purple mailbox with a circular inset for text. The mailbox is purple with a white flag and a white slot. A large, light purple circle is centered over the mailbox, containing the text. The background is light purple with some yellow and white geometric shapes and a small white cloud.

**FILL OUT THE REVERSE SIDE AND
SEND TO:**

**AUSTRALIAN WAR WIDOWS QLD
PO BOX 13604
GEORGE ST POST SHOP
BRISBANE, QLD, 4003**



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.*



H	P	S	A	M	E	L	O	N	E	J	V	F	T	Q	G	T	R	G
P	E	W	K	D	M	U	F	G	E	C	U	W	F	I	R	E	W	O
O	E	I	P	R	N	D	A	I	S	B	T	V	E	K	P	H	M	R
P	B	M	D	V	K	W	H	N	Y	G	L	Z	G	B	P	U	N	K
S	T	M	F	A	E	J	L	C	P	Z	T	Y	C	A	X	G	N	S
I	W	I	V	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	V	R	J	L	H	I
C	F	N	K	E	K	U	R	J	D	V	N	U	H	B	R	E	V	T
L	W	G	X	I	P	I	C	N	I	C	G	Q	S	E	E	M	D	H
E	M	W	E	M	M	Z	Q	Z	V	Y	C	Q	R	C	N	O	U	U
B	B	U	M	B	L	E	B	E	E	E	J	R	E	U	F	N	C	N
S	N	M	S	R	Q	R	L	L	H	J	A	H	C	E	J	A	I	D
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B	P	Z	Y	Q	N	V	R	G	L	G	G	Y	A	V	Q	E	M	R
E	I	A	H	P	G	X	O	J	I	K	U	W	M	G	Q	Y	U	P
M	C	Y	H	K	L	C	A	Y	G	W	S	V	P	F	I	R	E	S
Y	E	F	A	U	A	X	D	U	H	H	T	S	O	F	Y	Q	O	Q
F	C	K	T	N	S	D	T	M	T	I	B	T	S	U	N	B	U	R
M	R	P	P	R	S	L	R	W	N	T	I	S	P	B	W	R	W	N
S	E	D	W	W	E	Q	I	C	I	N	K	U	X	Q	J	P	V	U
U	A	M	C	M	S	E	P	K	N	G	V	N	F	L	O	W	E	R

Solutions on page 4

Find the words

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. SUNGLASSES | 11. ROADTRIP |
| 2. ICECREAM | 12. PICNIC |
| 3. SUNFLOWER | 13. THUNDER |
| 4. LIGHTNING | 14. DAISY |
| 5. BARBECUE | 15. AUGUST |
| 6. CAMPFIRE | 16. SWIMMING |
| 7. LEMONADE | 17. MELON |
| 8. BUTTERFLY | 18. SUNBURN |
| 9. POPSICLE | 19. FIREWORKS |
| 10. HAT | 20. BUMBLEBEE |

Rules for Sudoku -

- Every square has to contain a single number
- Only the numbers from 1 to 9 can be used
- Each 3x3 square 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

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

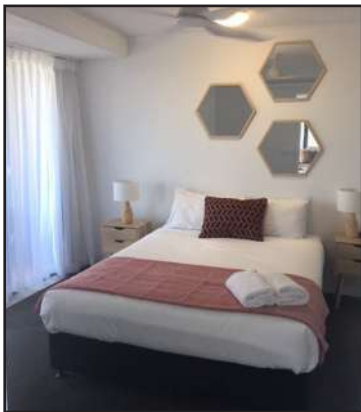
Solutions on page 4

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.

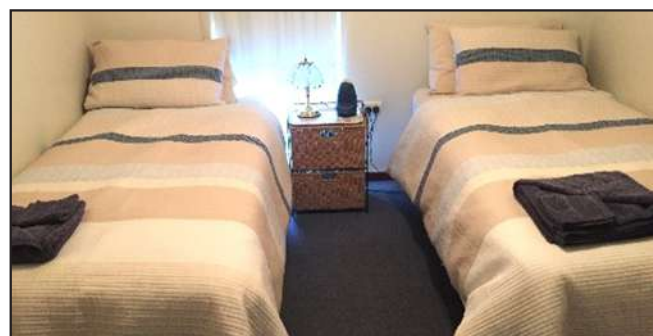


WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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 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.



Attitude

"The longer I live the more I realise
the impact of attitude on life.

It is more important than education, than money,
than circumstances, than failures, than success
than whatever anyone else might say or do.

It is more important than appearances,
giftedness or skill.

The remarkable thing is that we have the choice
to create the attitude we have for that day.

We cannot change our past.

We cannot change the way people act.

We cannot change the inevitable.

The one thing we can change is the only thing
we have control over and that is our attitude.

I'm convinced that life is 10% what actually
happens to us and 90% how we react to it."

- Charles Swindoll



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