Hello All

It has been an exceptionally busy year for me and unfortunately my health has been up and down like a yo yo. I’m sure I am far better off than many of you, but aches and pains and winter ills have been quite disruptive. And just recently I’ve had a recurrence of my heart problems. (Quad Bypass in 2000). This has led me to think seriously about what I need to do in the next few years and though I will never put the WRAAF completely to one side; I have to prioritise. I have reluctantly decided that I must put this newsletter down and let someone else pick up the mantle. I will continue to develop a web site I have been setting up as part of my writing course and you all can watch me struggle by going to exWRAAF.com. I will do one last edition of the newsletter in December/January 2014 and try and tie off any lose ends there might be.

This of course does not help any of you who do not have a computer and I am sorry that I cannot continue for you. I am going to suggest that you sign up to one of the other Branches and I will list their addresses in this issue. There are now quite a few web sites that those with internet facilities will be able to search out. Just Google them and you will be able to find them but I have listed the more prominent ones in the contact page overleaf.

Our lunches are held 3 times a year and you of course are invited to join us on the last Sunday of February, June and October. Details are on page 2.

It has been a pleasure writing to you all. I have enjoyed your letters to me and meeting some of you. Please continue to send me your profiles as I am hoping to put them on the web site. I do feel like I am letting you down a bit but I have to get my house in order. For years I have put off sorting the mess and now that I have this second warning I have to think of my family and what is a priority. Please **do not send** any money to me or to the WRAAF Branch. If someone takes over the writing they will use my address list which after 3 years is finally coming together. You’d think it should, wouldn’t you. Not sure if I will be organised enough to run a web site but I can’t know until I try.

Be friends to your friends and I’ll see you at the next reunion in Perth and before that I’ll write December January. Til then.

Warmest wishes

Lyn Mitchell
Ps Information on Perth Reunion 2013 in this issue

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**Lyn Mitchell**
28 Jacqueline Rd
Mt Waverley Vic 3149
Phone: 03 9802 6835
kipling3@bigpond.com
www.exWRAAF.com

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**NEXT LUNCHEON**

_Last Sunday in October 2012 at Ringwood RSL_

16 Station Street, Ringwood Vic 3134
Ph # 9870 6604 Melways Map Ref 49H9
NO CENT AUCTION THIS TIME
My email is kipling3@bigpond.com
There is a train stop directly opposite.

Sunday 28th October 2012
WRAAF Victorian Luncheons are held on the **LAST SUNDAY** in February, June and October.

**FEBRUARY** is at Caulfield RSL
4 St Georges Road **Elsternwick**.
(Doors do not open til Midday)
Train: Get off at Elsternwick Station and turn right
Tram see Metro Information

**No cent auction here. There is no room.**

**JUNE** is at Altona RSL now (previously at Werribee)
Altona RSL Sub-Branch Inc.
**31 Sargood St**, (Postal - PO Box 37)
Altona Victoria 3018
Telephone: 9398 2817
Email: admin@altonarsl.com

Please note there is a train stop opposite the RSL. The RSL is on the corner. Buses do stop I believe in the same street. The building is on the beach side of the train line. It can be confusing.
We can organise a cent auction at this venue. We bring a small gift and have a raffle.

**OCTOBER** is at Ringwood **RSL**
**16 Station Street**, Ringwood Vic 3134
Ph # .9870 6604 Melways Map Ref 49H9

**NO CENT AUCTION THIS TIME**
There is a train stop directly opposite.

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**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST 2013 REUNION -**
**PERTH WA DATE:** 11th - 13th October 2013

I am interested in a 2013 **REUNION** in Western Australia. Enclosed is a $10 Registration

NAME: ................................................... MAIDEN NAME:

................................................... Email:

................................................... Course Number:

ADDRESS:

..............................................................

send form and money to:

WRAAF Branch,
AFME Bull
Creek Drive
BULL CREEK WA
6149

For completion by WRAAF WA.

Receipt Number:.............................................. Date Received
CONTACT PAGE FOR ALL STATES

Brisbane Branch WRAAF Branch (RAAF Association Queensland Div)
President: Rosie Forster
Email: rosie93@optusnet.com.au
Secretary: Rosemary Coleman Phone: 07 3879 4889
Email: info@wraaf.org.au

Townsville Branch
Barbara Bower Phone: (07) 4778 4260

Sydney Branch WRAAF Branch NSW
President: Mrs Betty Sutherland, 14 Batt Street, Penrith 2750
Secretary: Mrs Margaret Wells, JP, 18 Woodland Avenue, Hazlebrook 2779
Phone Contact: 02 47 58 7153
Subscription & Envelopes: Subs are $5 subs and 3XSA stamped envelopes each year to ensure being on the mailing list.
Annual Luncheon held yearly in October.
Patron: Shirley McLaren
Treasurer: Shirley Delaney, 78 Wrench St, Cambridge Park NSW 2747
Phone: (02) 47 212 797

Canberra Branch Australian Capital Territory
Carol Johnston: (02) 62885086
Email: cjjaus@netspeed.com.au

Perth Branch WRAAF Branch (RAAF Association WA Div.)
Nora Cunningham, President
Judy Bland, Secretary Phone No: 08 9401 8296
Email address: gjb41@bigpond.com
Meetings held first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Meg Olive Room, Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek WA.
Contact Judy if you would like to receive the WA newsletter.
Jane Dowdeswell: WA WRAAF Contact wraaf2013@hotmail.com
WA Branch, are taking expressions of interest for the 2013 Reunion

Victorian Branch
June Gospel, President Phone No. 03 97415562
3 Queens Crt Werribee Vic 3030
Lyn Mitchell: Contact Website: 28 Jacqueline Rd Mt Waverley Vic 3149
Phone: 03 98026835 Email: kipling3@bigpond.com Website: exwraaf.com

Toowoomba Branch Queensland
Have reunion once a year usually in September
Enquiries Mrs Judy O’Loughlin
Phone: 07 4630 1157

The Brisbane Branch have a sponsored website. It’s called wraaf.org.au
Also Radschool Association have a great site for news radschool.org.au
(especially if you married a RAAFie). It’s called dan.gov.au
Then there is The Defence Alumni Network (DAN) exwraaf.com
Lyn Mitchell’s Site
MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE.

Number required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wine:</th>
<th>$10.00 per bottle</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White - Southwest Classic White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red - Classic Red</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wine Holder – Double Insulated wine holder</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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REGISTRATION / PAYMENT DETAILS

A non-refundable fee of $10 must accompany each registration form and sent to:

WRAAF BRANCH WA AFME Bull Creek Rd BULL CREEK WA 6149

Registration forms must be received by 31 January 2013.

Payment for functions/merchandise must be received by 30 June 2013.

Payment by cheque/money order to WRAAF Branch WA.

Direct Debit/Electronic funds transfer as set out below.

Bank: BankWest

BSB No.: 306-010

Account No.: 418-400-0

Account name: WRAAF BRANCH

Please include reference number on all correspondence.

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Women's Royal Australian Air Force
National Reunion
11 – 13 October 2013

Hi,

Please find below list of functions, merchandise available for purchase and prices.

All monies for functions and merchandise must be received by 30 June 2013.

If you know anyone who has not registered for the reunion please encourage them to do so as soon as possible – all registrations must be received no later than 31 January 2013.

The committee would like to thank you all for showing such enthusiasm for the 2013 WRAAF reunion in Perth and we all look forward to a great time catching up with wonderful friends.

PLEASE NOMINATE WHICH FUNCTION YOU WILL ATTEND:

FUNCTION: YES/NO

Friday 11 October – Hi Tea @ Rydges – 4pm - 7.30pm $45.00
Saturday 12 October – Museum tour before formal dinner – 5pm $50.00
Saturday 12 October – Formal Dinner @ Air Force Estate $70.00
5.30 pm Pre-dinner drink on arrival
6.00 pm Dinner – Ladies
7.00 pm Dinner – Men
Drinks at own cost.

Sunday 13 October – Church Service – 10am (no cost)

Sunday 13 October City Sightseeing Bus to Burswood Casino $30.00

The bus will pick up from the Rydges Hotel at 12 – do a scenic tour of Perth – stop at the Casino where you can enjoy a leisurely meal, drink and gaming if desired for a couple of hours the bus will then return to finish your tour of Perth.

Meal and drinks at own cost.

This box contains a Personal ID #
This was probably submitted in Rosemary’s day. Maybe even printed but I think given everything that has happened to me of late, including another birthday as have all of you, it should be repeated. It was submitted by June Gospel passed on by her daughter Michelle.

_The Old Woman_

A very weird thing has happened. A strange old lady has moved into my house. I have no idea who she is, where she came from, or how she got in. I certainly did not invite her. All I know is that one day she wasn’t there, and the next day she was! She is a clever old lady and manages to keep out of sight for the most part, but whenever I pass a mirror, I catch a glimpse of her. And, whenever I look in the mirror to check my appearance, there is she hogging the whole thing, completely obliterating my gorgeous face and body. This is very rude! I have tried screaming at her, but she just screams back. The least she could do is offer to pay part of the rent, but no. Every once in a while, I find a dollar coin stuck in a coat pocket or some loose change under a sofa cushion, but it is not nearly enough. I don’t want to jump to conclusions, but I think she is stealing money from me. I go to the ATM and withdraw $100, and a few days later, it’s all gone! I certainly don’t spend money THAT fast, so I can only conclude the old lady is pilfering from me. You’d think she would spend some of that money to buy wrinkle cream. And money isn’t the only thing I think she is stealing. Food seems to disappear at an alarming rate, especially the good stuff like ice cream, cookies and candy. She must have a real sweet tooth; but she’d better watch it, because she is really packing on the pounds. I suspect she realizes this, and to make herself feel better, she is tampering with my scales to make me think I am putting on weight too. For an old lady, she is quite childish. She likes to play nasty games, like going into my closets when I’m not home and altering my clothes so they don’t fit. And she messes with my files and papers so I can’t find anything. This is particularly annoying since I am extremely neat and organised. She has found other imaginative ways to annoy me. She gets into my mail, newspapers and magazines before I do and blurs the print so I can’t read it. And she has done something really sinister to the volume controls on my TV, radio and telephone. Now all I hear are mumbles and whispers. She has done other things. Like make my stairs steeper, my vacuum heavier and all the knob and faucets harder to turn. She even made my bed higher so that getting into and out of it is a real challenge. Lately she has been fooling with my groceries before I put them away, applying glue to the lids, making it almost impossible for me to open the jars. She has taken the fun out of shopping for clothes. When I try something on, she stands in front of the dressing room mirror and monopolises it. She looks totally ridiculous in some of those outfits; plus, she keeps me from seeing how great they look on me. Just when I thought she couldn’t get any meaner, she proved me wrong. She came along when I went to get my picture taken for my driver’s licence; and just as the camera shutter clicked, she jumped in front of me! I hope she never finds out where YOU live.

**AND THIS FROM THE INTERNET**

When I was a child in the 1950s, the bathing suit for the mature figure was boned, trussed and reinforced, not so much sewn as engineered. They were built to hold back and uplift, and they did a good job.

Today’s stretch fabrics are designed for the prepubescent girl with a figure carved from a potato chip.

The mature woman has a choice, she can either go to the maternity department and try on a floral suit with a skirt, coming away looking like a hippopotamus that escaped from Disney’s Fantasia, or she can wander around every department store trying to make a sensible choice from what amounts to a designer range of fluorescent rubber bands.

What choice did I have? I wandered around, made my sensible choice and entered the chamber of horrors known as the fitting room. The first thing I noticed was the extraordinary tensile strength of the stretch material. The Lycra used in bathing costumes was developed, I believe, by NASA to launch small rockets from a slingshot, which gives the added bonus that if you manage to actually lever yourself into one, you would be protected from shark attacks. Any shark taking a swipe at your passing midriff would immediately suffer whiplash. (continue page 6)
I fought my way into the bathing suit, but as I twanged the shoulder strap in place I gasped in horror, my boobs had disappeared! Eventually, I found one boob cowering under my left armpit. It took awhile to find the other. At last I located it flattened beside my seventh rib.

The problem is that modern bathing suits have no bra cups. The mature woman is meant to wear her boobs spread across her chest like a speed bump. I realigned my speed bump and lurched toward the mirror to take a full view assessment.

The bathing suit fitted all right, but unfortunately it only fitted those bits of me willing to stay inside it. The rest of me oozed out rebelliously from top, bottom and sides. I looked like a lump of Playdoh wearing undersized cling wrap.

As I tried to work out where all those extra bits had come from, the prepubescent sales girl popped her head through the curtain, "Oh, there you are," she said, admiring the bathing suit.

I replied that I wasn't so sure and asked what else she had to show me. I tried on a cream crinkled one that made me look like a lump of masking tape, and a floral two-piece that gave the appearance of an oversized napkin in a serving ring.

I struggled into a pair of leopard-skin bathers with ragged frills and came out looking like Tarzan’s Jane, pregnant with triplets and having a rough day.

I tried on a black number with a midriff and looked like a jellyfish in mourning.

I tried on a bright pink pair with such a high cut leg I thought I would have to wax my eye-brows to wear them.

Finally, I found a suit that fitted, it was a two-piece affair with a shorts-style bottom and a loose blouse-type top. It was cheap, comfortable, and bulge-friendly, so I bought it. My ridiculous search had a successful outcome, I figured.

When I got it home, I found a label that read, "Material might become transparent in water."

So, if you happen to be on the beach or near any other body of water this year and I'm there too, I'll be the one in cut-off jeans and a t-shirt!

Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain, with or without a bathing suit!

Anyone who receives this & who wears a single digit dress size, THIS WAS SENT TO YOU IN ERROR, but I hope you got a chuckle out of it anyway.

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NSW 48th Annual Reunion  WRAAF (1951—1977)
Venue: NSW Leagues Club
Time 1130—1500 hours
Cost: $40.00 per person
Bar: Buy your own at bar prices
Contact Shirley Delaney, Treasure
WRAAF Reunion Group,78 Wrench Street, Cambridge Park NSW 2747
Cheques made payable to WRAAF Reunion Group (include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if a receipt is required.)
Douglas Barthelson is looking for names of people in RAAF Communication Operator Musterings. Your help will assist the current Radio School Staff recover and rebuild their records. He is attempting to rebuild a chronological record of all course photographs, member names (first and last) and course start and finish dates. I am printing a couple on this page but there are many and quite frankly this newsletter does not get the coverage this deserves. We all know how hard it is to date and pick out faces and names of our own photos. However, we must do what we can in the name of Esprit de Corp. If you know someone email me or ring 03 98026835 or write 28 Jacqueline Rd Mt Waverley Vic 3149.

We can’t put names to faces in this photo, but we’re sure that Bev Seach, Jean Dancey, Bob Delaney, Georgina Tatham, John Richards, “Strawb” Hart, Paul Curran, Jan Noack, Sandra Nichols and Denise Carey are in there somewhere, - perhaps someone can help.

26 TPRINOPS 1966
Picture living behind a barbed wire fence guarded by soldiers 24 hours a day. Sharing a bedroom with colleagues, you shower with frogs, eat only rice and eggplant, and it could be months until you enjoy simple pleasures like a glass of wine with friends or a cuddle with your kids. It’s too dangerous to go out alone, so you immerse yourself in work.

The idea of heading to a volatile region riddled with soldiers sounds like a nightmare to most people. But more and more Australian women are putting their lives at risk to work in countries torn apart by war, terrorism or civil unrest. The Australian Defence Force currently employs 10,000 female recruits, while 50 of the 110 aid workers sent on missions by the Australian Red Cross last year were women.

Professor Mark Creamer, director of the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health, says it’s a natural progression of the sexual revolution in the ‘60s, when women fought for the right to work alongside men.

“You find a few adrenaline junkies but, generally, women [who work in dangerous roles] are resilient, self-reliant, confident people who are open to new experiences, but don’t take unnecessary risks,” says Creamer.

Paul Cutler, director of news and current affairs at SBS, says there’s been a steady influx of female journalists into war zones since the first Gulf War in 1990. “We don’t discriminate by sex as to who we send into hostile environments,” he says, “but we’re conscious that, in some circumstances, females can be more vulnerable than males, and we modify our security training accordingly.”

This Christmas, as the rest of us stuff our fridges until they groan, spare a thought for women such as these, who will be rolling up their sleeves and getting on with the job at hand in countries far less fortunate.

ALISA WICKHAM
HEALTH PLANNER,
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

When Captain Alisa Wickham told her children she was moving to East Timor for six months, they wanted to know why she was leaving them behind. “I said, ‘Hopefully, one day, you’ll look back and say you’re proud of your mum for going,’” recalls the 38-year-old health planner at Camp Phoenix in Dili.

A secure compound no bigger than a footy field, the camp is protected by barbed wire and soldiers. Every day, Wickham wakes up at 5:30am, goes for a jog on the running track, dresses and is at her desk by 8am. At night, she returns to her bunk, hopes under a mosquito net and stares at a wall plastered with photos of her daughters, Sarah, 11, and Emily, 8, and husband Gavin.

Above: Article 2010 Sunday Magazine
Below: October 8, 2011 Herald Sun Newspaper
Clare Lotan passed away in June 2012. Clare had not been well for some time. Clare (W39606) was a Clerk Admin, joined August 1953, was on Course 47 and served 1953—1956 July 1956 at Sale, Laverton and Wagga Wagga. She joined the WRAAF Branch in January 1998 and served as Branch Secretary in 2002.

Kim (Marjory) Meade (nee Kimmitt) passed away 26/2/12 Kim was on Course 5 and served as an Equip Asst from 1951—54 at 1SD Tottenham.

Doreele Dalton (nee McNamara), passed away on 10/11/11. Kim was a stewardess. Angela Bennett (nee Berwick), passed away August last year. Angela was an AMO and on Course 188 serving from 1970 –73.

Noelene Park has advised me that Jan Weatherhead has lost her husband John. It was late May 2012. He died after a long illness. John was an active member of the local CFS for over twenty five years. CFA members formed a guard of Honour at the church and gave assistance to Jan at this sad time. Jan also has been a long time active member of the CFA.

Editors Note: I have Jan’s address if anyone needs it. Contact me at 28 Jacqueline Rd Mt Waverley Vic 3149 or at kipling3@bigpond.com.

Eunice Smith (nee Vidler) also has lost her husband aged 67 years from heart problems. Eunice is surrounded by her family which gives great comfort. Eunice is a Rookie Course mate of mine. We flew to Adelaide on the same plane. Found each other in 2004 I think.

From Noelene Park: Richard (Dick) Nash, husband of Jan Nash (nee Heap) Course 125; passed away early July 2012 after a long illness. Dick was in the Army and was a Vietnam Veteran.

Fay Stever (Budden) June 2012 following a long battle. Fay was an EquipAsst/TeleOp Cpl, was on Course 58 and served 1955-1958.

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**Sick List**

**Vic Branch**
- Beres McEnvoy

**NSW**
- Marj Duffus
- Una Cooper
- Helen Martin
- Barbara Marshall (Smith)
- Una Cooper (McCauley)
- Eileen Gilligan (Dunn)
- Fay Wheatley (Brien)
- Carol Johnston (Rudkin)
- Wendy Canty
- Lyn Morrison (Christmass)
- Barbara Gilson (Willis)

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**From Brisbane Branch**

**USEFUL and INTERESTING WEBSITES**

**90 Years of the RAAF (Published: November 2011)** Price: $50.00 (for hard copy) This book is an illustrated “snapshot history” of the Royal Australian Air Force that focuses, year by year, on specific chronological events from its formation in 1921 to the present day. It captures not only the highlights and achievements of the last 90 years, but also its low points. For more information on this publication and how you can obtain a copy, see the RAAF APDC website at: [http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/470/90-Years-of-the-RAAF.aspx](http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/470/90-Years-of-the-RAAF.aspx)

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WRANS Christmas Luncheon will be held at Sydney RSL Club on 17th November. Anyone wishing to attend along with Betty Sutherland, Shirley Delaney and Margaret Wells would be made welcome. Cost $35 and contact Margaret (NSW) on 02 47 587153
REUNION 2013 LISTEN UP GIRLS!  

I’ve been sussing out my accommodation for 2013 and this is what I have received from Rydges. I’m guessing it will be of interest to you all.

Steve Jackson | Reservations Manager – Rydges Perth
815 Hay Street, Perth WA 6000
Hotel: +61 8 9263 1800 | Direct: +61 8 9263 1898

Email: reservations_perth@rydges.com | Web: www.rydges.com

Please be advised any cancellations made within 24 hours of arrival will incur a first night penalty

Below is an extract from the email received from Steve:

Ps
The group rate for the WRAAF reunion is $260 room only, this is for a Superior Queen room (1 Queen size bed) or a Twin Superior Room (2 double beds). The group rate is available for the dates Friday 11, Sat 12th and Sunday 13th October 2013. Any dates outside will be charged at the hotels best available rate at that time, however Perth rates can be quite high especially Monday to Thursday as it is the busiest times for the hotel, at this stage dates outside the group date range have been quoted at $359.00 per night to some of the WRAAF ladies I have been in contact with. Alternatively if you wish to email me your number I will be able to contact you directly.

My direct number is 08 92631843 and I work Mon to Friday 7am to 4:30pm.

Pss
I have called Stephen today 6/9/2012 and there is extra information. You must book by email or by fax. The fax # is 08 92631801. If you have neither then I would advise you to write and try to keep a photocopy of your letter. Steve does want to have visible records. There will be a special on the breakfast at the CBD restaurant for $28 and cannot be changed by 2013. If you wish to book outside the days of 11/12/13th October 2013, please email Stephen on his direct email and request a special rate. He can then consider to lower the rate—to around the $360 mark. There is also a $50 charge per each guest over 2 people who may stay in your room over night.

Steve’s email is stephen_jackson@rydges.com

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In profile – Meg Green

In the Autumn 2012 issue of Vetaffairs, the advisory panel for the Australian component of the Vietnam Veterans Education Centre in Washington DC was announced. War widow Meg Green has been appointed as a panel member. Vetaffairs spoke to Mrs Green to discuss her appointment.

When you were approached to join the advisory panel, what were your thoughts?

I felt very honoured. The panel has many very distinguished members, all of whom are returned servicemen and women from the Vietnam war, and all have a much more in-depth knowledge and understanding of this war than I do.

You have attended one meeting – what is your understanding of the project?

My understanding is that the concept for the education centre arose in the USA from the efforts of returned servicemen. The ideal is to build a centre which will assist in the education of all who want to know about the impact of the Vietnam war on many people – mothers, fathers, wives, children, grandparents and friends. It is hoped that it will assist in healing some of the wounds from that extremely controversial war.

As a war widow, what contribution do you hope to make to the project?

As a wife of a Vietnam veteran for 35 years, I feel that I can provide some insight into the lasting effects of the war – particularly on emotional and physical wellbeing. I also feel that the War Widows’ Guild (of which I am a member), will be a great source of information for this committee. They will be able to contribute information from the many war widows from this era.

What is the importance of this Education Centre for Australia, given it is located in the US?

The Education Centre is very important for Australia, as Australian servicemen and women played a very important active and strategic part in this war. Despite the fact that the centre will be in Washington, many Australians (and people from all around the world) will make a point of visiting and reflecting.

It is important that all visitors to the Education Centre understand the involvement and commitment of all men. Australians and Americans suffered traumas and deaths, and while the number of Australians were not as great, the effects were no less.

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DVA Services:

DVA has launched an internet based gateway to a growing range of services. To use this service you must have access to the internet and call 1800 173 858 During business hours

To receive a personal registration number.

You can still access DVA by phone or mail.