

DAPHNE NUNN

DAPHNE Nunn was one of the first women to make their mark on the Royal Australian Air Force after the Second World War. Known to her mates as “Daph”, the Booval-raised woman enlisted in the air defence forces in 1951, at the young age of 23.

During that time, the Women’s Royal Australian Air Force had just reformed after the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force was disbanded in 1947.

Daph enlisted at Amberley but completed her training at Richmond in NSW to become a service policewoman. The following year in 1952, she was among the 23 WRAAF who opened up the stores depot at Toowoomba. She returned to Amberley and when she wasn’t working at the barracks, Daph was showing off her athletic skill out on the hockey fields.

Her talent for the hockey saw Daph represent Queensland in the sport numerous times. She also won numerous inter-service championships for netball, tennis and athletics. She was given the honour of raising the Olympic flag at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.

When she was 27, Daph resigned from the WRAAF so that she could further her career in the defence force and joined the commissioned officer ranks. She then served on most units of the service and rose to the rank of Flight Officer. After 18 years of service, Daph resigned from the air defence force and settled in Brisbane.

She died on the 1st December 2013, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. She was 86 years old.