



Christmas in January.

For some time now, Carmel Leddiccoat, who many years ago was Carmel Stapleton, a Clerk Medical at 3RAAF at Richmond and her two partners in arms, Sue Pratt and Bernadette Will, have organised a Christmas get together on Queensland's Sunshine Coast for ex WRAAFS.

2020, as we know, was a shocker, most things were either cancelled or delayed and the regular WRAAFs get together was no exception, there would be no Christmas get together in 2020 but as things improved, the three amigos managed to get the girls together at the Alexander Headlands Surf Club on Saturday the 30th January. A bit late but better late than never.



37 lovely ladies came from far and wide to reminisce about the wonderful time they had in uniform, to enjoy a good meal, a few drinks, to meet old mates from long ago and enjoy the atmosphere and scenery offered by Qld's Sunshine Coast. We were invited and with the opportunity of being the only male amongst 37 lovely ladies, need I say more??

These ladies served Australia at the time when, for some insane reason, they were considered inferior to men. Although doing the same job as the men, in a lot of cases side by side and often better than, they were paid only two thirds the men's wage. They had to endure the humiliation of nightly bed checks, had to discharge if they had the temerity to marry and heaven forbid if one of them became pregnant. Men wouldn't put up with bed checks and weren't expected to discharge when they married, but the girls had to and did – and the Air Force was better because of them. Thankfully, all those draconian conditions were swept aside and today men and women enjoy the same conditions, though it's still the girls who are expected to get pregnant.





Alexander Headlands Surf Club.

Those at the get together include: (All names left to right. The number indicates the Rookies Course)



Avril Baque (Eken-Smyth) [222](#), Joy Lee (Absalom), Iris Klan (Nebe) [194](#).



Joy, who turns 95 this year, was born in New Zealand, but she and her mum left NZ when Joy was 14½ and crossed the ditch and moved to Australia. In December 1944, as soon as she turned 18, Joy joined the WAAAF (the triple A) and did her rookies at Penrith. She was then posted to Williamtown, served as a cook's assistant during the remaining war years and was demobbed in 1946 and as a civvy again, started work with Readers Digest.

Joy was a guest of honour at the afternoon.



A very pretty Joy Lee – as a proud WAAAF.



Ros Curren (nee Smith) [222](#), Robyn Arthurs (Godwin) [252](#), Helen Daunt (Pechey) [247](#).



Audrey Browne (Madin) [247](#), Val Machin (Ingram) [202](#).



Greta Campbell, Lorraine Stone.



Cheryl Fleming (Quinn) [182](#), Dot Harris (James) [182](#)



Dianne Scottney (Hart) [176](#), Jutta Rossington (Gaiduke) [163](#)



Jan Cagney (Wollard) [232](#), Jenny Morgan (Hodges) 251.



Linda Carter (Dorries) [223](#), Marie Henson (Arcidiacono) [236](#), Ros Curran (Smith) [222](#), Kate Lung (Peters) [230](#).



Ros Curran, when she was Ros Smith, cutting the cake at the celebration for the end of her Rookies Course.

DI Joan Wotton on the left.



Lorraine Stone (Hansen) [197](#), Lyn Inglis (Wilson) [219](#)



Jutta Rossington, Dianne Scotney.



Rhonda Forrest 56/86, J-Anne Burgess (Robinson) [183](#).



Ros Curran, Carmel Leddicat.



Sandy Faber (Torrissi) [187](#), Dianne Mellick (Priddy) [187](#).



Sheila Rule [206](#), Linde Cavanagh (Dattinger) [196](#).



Sue Pratt (Emmett) [224](#), Phonda Forrest, Val Machin.



With lunch being served – we must say this was the quietest it was all afternoon.



All the troops.



Lyn Inglis, , Val Machin



Helen Daunt, Linda Carter, Carmel Leddicoat, Val Machin, Robyn Arthurs.



Marie Henson, Terri Tonkin (Sanderson) [239](#)



Ros Curren, Dianne Scotney, Carmel Leddicat.



Robyn Arthars, Helen Daunt.

**I'M AT THAT AGE WHERE
MY MIND STILL THINKS
I'M 29, MY HUMOR
SUGGESTS I'M 12 WHILE
MY BODY MOSTLY KEEPS
ASKING IF I'M SURE I'M
NOT DEAD YET.**



Val was determined to do the dance of the seven veils – but with no veils immediately available, she resorted to the dance of the seven balloons.