



Honouring Women

United By Defence Service



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



WAR WIDOWS' GUILD
OF AUSTRALIA NSW LTD





Year of Peace

2019 celebrates the Year of Peace, following the centenary of the ANZAC celebrations last year. In celebrating peace, we need to honour those who have made sacrifices for that peace; and for those who continue to make those sacrifices on a daily basis.

Join us in honouring the service and sacrifices of women united by defence service.



Rhondda Vanzella OAM
Chair of HWUDS

Collaborative Project led by the War Widows' Guild and Legacy

The major organisations in the veteran space in Australia identified the need to acknowledge women united by defence service and joined forces to drive this project to do so.

Honouring Women United by Defence Service 2019 is a collaborative project led by the War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd and Legacy. It is driven by a collaborative Committee comprised of leaders from major organisations supporting female veterans and veterans' families, including: War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd, Legacy, the Australian Defence Force, Dept of Veterans' Affairs, Returned and Services League (RSL), Women Veterans' Network of Australia (WVNA), Partners of Veterans Association (PVA), Totally & Permanently Incapacitated Federation of Australia (TPI), and Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps. (RAANC).

Honouring Women United by Defence Service Dinner

This year's dinner will be held in The Great Hall at Parliament House, Canberra on **Wednesday, 14 August 2019**.

The events commemorate and honour all women whose lives have been impacted as a result of their own service or that of a loved one.

The goal of the Honouring Women United by Defence Service event is to bring together political leaders, community leaders, defence leaders, business leaders, and leaders in the veteran space to explore the power of women; and how, if we all work together, we can create better understanding of the needs of women in uniform, and women on the home front.

Wreath laying at Australian War Memorial (AWM)

Honouring Women United by Defence Service 2019 will commence with a Last Post and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial (AWM), where women from every major women's organisation who have been impacted by service and their guests will be invited to attend the Ceremony.

Last year's ceremony attracted over 400 attendees. Both the prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition put differences aside to jointly lay wreaths to honour women. This year the ceremony will again be dedicated to the service and sacrifice of women veterans over the last 100 years who gave their lives as the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

National Dinner Event

Last year's National Dinner drew over 500 attendees, including political, community, business and defence leaders, as well as leaders of the major organisations that support veterans and veterans' families, and women who are connected to defence by their own service or the service of a loved one.

Guest speakers last year included Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Director of the Australian War Memorial. He has confirmed that he will speak again this year.

The new Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and Mrs Hurley have been invited to attend this year, as well as all Federal Members of Parliament and Senators.

Recognised for their service to this nation

Women will be acknowledged and honoured for their sacrifices and contributions for the defence of their country.

They will include: serving and ex-serving women, widows of partners who made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation, and all women whose lives have been affected as a result of loss of a loved one through service, or who have a returned veteran who is wounded, injured or ill.



The Collaborative Planning Committee members for HWUDS 2019 include:

- Rhondda Vanzella OAM, Chair, Planning Committee for HWUDS; State President and Chair, War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd
- Paul Lane, Deputy Chair, Planning Committee for HWUDS; Director, Legacy Clubs Services
- Sharon Bown, Co-Ordinator for the HWUDS Last Post Ceremony; Wing Commander (Ret'd), Council of Australian War Memorial
- James Brown, President, The Returned & Services League (RSL NSW)
- Gwen Cherne, Contemporary War Widow on the NSW Board; Council of Australian War Memorial
- Jennifer Collins, Director, War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd, Retired Past Deputy Commissioner DVA NSW/ACT
- Madeline Dermatossian, CEO, War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd
- Leanne Dib, Director Fundraising & Communications, Legacy Club Services,
- Heather Evans, President, Partners of Veterans Association of Australia (PVA)
- Major General Natasha Fox, Head of Defence People Group
- Del Gaudry, RSL NSW, Board Member, Penrith RSL Club; Branch Member of Penrith Club; Board Member, WBI RSL NSW; Reservist
- Di Green, Secretary, Planning Committee for HWUDS; Member, War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd
- Meg Green, National President, War Widows' Guild of Australia Inc.
- Eileen Henderson OAM RFD, President, RAANC - Association (NSW & ACT) Branch, Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC)
- Kimberlea Juchniewicz, Lieutenant Colonel, Army
- Heather MacDonald, Director, Engagement & Design, Communications & Engagement Branch, Transformation Division
- Pat McCabe, President, Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Federation of Australia (TPI)
- Kathleen Moore, Mother of Chris Moore, 20-year Army Veteran; Affiliate of War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd; Project Co-Ordinator for Activities at Parliament House, Planning Committee for HWUDS
- Janny Poate, Mother of Pte. Robert Poate KIA
- Layla Roberts, Communications and Administration Officer, War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd
- Nicky Rothwell, President, Women Veterans Network Australia (WVNA)
- OJ Rushton, Director, OZY Youth Choir Honouring Defence Service
- Dianne Vogt, Assistant Secretary, Planning Committee for HWUDS; Member, War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW Ltd

For information please contact:

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