

AN AIRWOMAN'S STORY



Service No.: W17424
Name: Daphne Eleanor HOPPING
(nee SMITH)
Nickname: Daph



Medals and Decorations

Australian Defence Medal

Rank: Corporal
Service: RAAF (WRAAF)
Enlisted: 10 Nov 1961
Discharged: 9 Nov 1967

Daphne was born at Tully, Qld, on 14 Jun 1943 to Oscar Smith and Jean Smith (nee White). She completed her schooling at Tully in 1959.

Daphne then took employment as a clerk in the local saw mill for approx 2 years before joining the WRAAF. She undertook basic training at Point Cook in Victoria (achieving the distinction of dux of the course), before being posted to Laverton, Vic, as clerk equipment account (clerk EA). After 3 years she was promoted to Corporal and posted to East Sale, Vic.

During her posting to Sale she met the man of her dreams, Dean David Hopping of Tumby Bay. Dean was an Army Apprentice and served nine years with the Army before transferring to the RAAF. They were married on 9 Nov 1967; as married servicewomen were not allowed in the WRAAF at that time, she took her discharge on the same date.

Whilst Dean travelled the world with the RAAF, Daphne remained at home (Sale) and continued to work as a clerk in "civvy" street, until their first child, Ruth, arrived.

Daphne and Dean returned to Tumby Bay in Mar 1978 and completed their family. They had two children, a daughter and son (Ruth and Gene). Daphne continued to work periodically as a shop assistant at Garth's until mid 1980, when she retired.

Since retirement she has been very active in the community, having served in the following organisations:

St Johns Ambulance	-	1991-94
Meals on Wheels	-	1991-current
State Emergency Service	-	1997-05

She has also held the position of Secretary of the local Kindergarten, the Yacht Club and Tennis Club; and Treasurer for Thuruna.

Daphne is an active member of the RSL, having held the position of Secretary, and currently holding the position of Public Relations Officer within the Tumby Bay Sub Branch.



Australian
Defence
Medal



The winning team. East Sale WRAAF Basketball Team.
Daphne is No.5



Daphne the Debutante



Daphne & Dean at
their daughter's wedding