



DEFENCE FORCE WELFARE ASSOCIATION
Defence Widows Support Group

PO Box 2272
CANBERRA ACT 2601



NEW RELEASE
Here, There & Away

Voices of the families of those who served

Compiled by the Defence Widows Support Group – ACT

Published by Big Sky Publishing

This is a unique collection of heart-warming and entertaining stories from the families of ex-servicemen across the three branches of the Australian Defence Force. Much has been written about the military side of service life, particularly when linked to war, but little has been written about the lives of the families who supported those who served. This book is a major contribution to the filling of that void.

The stories cover the period from World War I to more recent times, and celebrate the love, care and support given by and to members of the wider defence family as well as the resilience these families required in diverse locations and situations. Some stories tug at the heart strings, while others are funny in the extreme. From the gates of Changi, through the Malayan Emergency and Operation Babylift in Vietnam, to a mercy flight disaster and the day Australia lost its Prime Minister, the stories are a mixture of the surprising, enlightening and intensely emotional.

The great majority of the contributors are women. They are women who have both thrived and survived through being part of a military family. When needed they supported each other with a feminine version of mateship. With the passage of time they have been able to look back with humour, or at least good grace, on quite grim circumstances and put the difficult parts of their lives into perspective. For some telling their story can't have been easy. However, many have expressed an appreciation of the opportunity to do so.

The book was compiled by Dawn Laing, Judy Rule, and Annette Sadler as part of a Collection of Stories Project, an initiative of the Defence Widows Support Group – ACT, as part of their 30th Anniversary Celebrations. It is published by Big Sky Publishing and is available in hard copy and as an eBook.

Annette Sadler
Convenor
Defence Widows Support Group-ACT

Contact for Defence Widows Support Group

Annette Sadler, M 0417674527 E dws-g-act@dfwa.org.au

Big Sky Publishing: www.bigskypublishing.com.au

Here, There & Away is available for purchase through Big Sky Publishing and it is anticipated it will be available in shops in the second half of March. Postage of \$6.95 will be charged for one or two books ordered through the website or directly from Big Sky Publishing. However, for orders of \$50+, postage is free. An electronic version is also available for purchase through iTunes (Apple) or eKindle (Amazon) for \$7.99.