

# NZ WWSA



WWWSA (Women's War Auxiliary Service) marching in parade in Wellington 14 June, 1943.

## INTRODUCTION STATEMENT

WWWSA stands for Women's War Service Auxiliary. WWWSA is an organization created in World War Two, to fill in all the jobs in factories, farms and many other industries after they had been left empty once the men went to fight. Originally when some women offered to fill in the mens work it was said to be a horrible idea, and were told that they had to look and behave the very best to make the men that were fighting feel better. However as more New Zealand Men went overseas to fight, the only way to keep New Zealand's Factories, farms, land producing and other industries running was to have women working there. As the WWWSA became more known worldwide, they became known as 'Tuis'.



WW2 WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) in newspaper article.

## WHY THE NZ WWSA STARTED?

The New Zealand WWWSA started in 1940 and went through to 1946. The WWWSA started because many New Zealand men were going overseas to fight and there were many jobs left vacant. The woman therefore had to step up and do these jobs on farms, factories land producing and many other industries to keep the country running. Although any women with children under 16 were expected to stay home and look after their children.

## WHAT WAS THE WWSA UNIFORM?

The WWWSA uniform was black leather ankle boots all year round. During the summer they wore a vest and khaki shirt under the battle dress. In the winter they wore a khaki woolen pullover over their battle dress. Black berets were worn for all men and women in troops in armored units. On the shoulder of their uniform they would have the tab showing which section they were in.



NZ WWWSA uniform.

## WHAT DID WOMEN DO AFTER WAR?

After War it was supposed to be that women went back to doing what they did before the war, taking care of the young and doing housework. Once the war finished some women did that, but other women enjoyed working on the land, in factories and other industries so much that they decided to continue working there.

## HOW DID WAR AND THE WWSA CHANGE PEOPLES PERCEPTIVE OF WOMEN.

Before the war women were not very confident and usually had no say on decisions, it was always the men who had the final say. After war women were more confident and made more decisions, this had to do with the amount of responsibility they were given during the war. Before the war women were underestimated and were told they couldn't do the jobs that the men did, but during the war proved that they were just as capable as the men.

## WHAT WERE THE ROLES OF THE WWSA?

The seven main roles of the WWWSA were:

- ~CANTEEN
- ~CLERICAL
- ~CYCLE
- ~LAND
- ~TRANSPORT
- ~NURSES
- ~SIGNALLERS

There were also three main service branches for the women to join if they wanted to help fight Hitler.

- WAAF's (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps)
  - WAAF's (Women's Auxiliary Air Force)
  - WRENS's (Women's Royal Naval Service)
- Many other roles that the WWWSA took part in and contributed towards the country were.
- Industrial workers,
  - Nurses,
  - Cooks
  - Patriotic workers,
  - Land Girls

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Websites

- [www.my.christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://www.my.christchurchcitylibraries.com)
- [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz)
- [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)
- [www.thecommunityarchive.org.nz](http://www.thecommunityarchive.org.nz)
- [www.8bnmhc2014.weebly.com](http://www.8bnmhc2014.weebly.com)

### Books:

- ~ NZ Memories Issue 24 (Unknown Author)
- ~ NZ Memories Issue 37 (Unknown Author)
- ~ NZ Memories Issue 85 (Unknown Author)
- ~ NZ Memories Issue 98 (Unknown Author)