
RAAF Association (ACT Division)

Patron: Air Marshal David Evans AC DSO AFC (Retd).

President: Bob Weight bob.weight@bigpond.com / www.raafact.org.au



NEWSLETTER



June 2016

AIMS: *To foster friendships based on sharing Air Force and aviation experiences; to support commemorative activities, heritage and records of history; and to provide for the welfare of members through advice, liaison and representation*

Activities Ahead for 2016

Monday 20 June 2016 – General Meeting and Lunch, 1200-1230, Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla. Speaker: Mark Lax, details below.

Saturday 6 August 2016 – HMAS Canberra memorial ceremony.

Thursday 18 August 2016 – Vietnam Veteran's memorial day.

Monday 22 August 2016 – GM/lunch at the Commonwealth Club, details TBA

Wednesday 7 September 2016 – Battle for Australia Day Ceremony, details TBA

Tuesday 15 September 2016 – Battle of Britain ceremony, reflecting pool AWM, 1700 hrs

Sunday 23 October 2016 – Lake Burley Griffin cruise and GM, Yacht Club, boarding 1145.

As advised by separate emails ACM Sir Angus Houston has advised that he will now be overseas on 20 June and can no longer attend the lunch as we had advertised.

General Meeting and Lunch: Monday, 20 June, 2016, Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla 1200 – 1230. Speaker: Mark Lax – History of the RAAF, 1972-1996.

This is an opportunity for many members to relive some of their time in the RAAF. Mark is a retired Air Commodore navigator with a longstanding interest and involvement in RAAF history and is currently researching and writing

a RAAF sponsored book covering the period 1972-1996.

He has written a number of books and papers and given many well researched and entertaining talks over the years, and this one promises to be no exception.

So come along, take in some recent history and enjoy a convivial lunch at the same time. If joining us for lunch remember guests are always welcome and minimum dress standard is smart casual.

As usual, lunch will cost \$30 and alcoholic drinks will be on sale at individual expense.

Lunch Payment. Payment is either to Doug Hurst, by:

* posting the attached proforma along with a cheque or money order to Doug at: *43 Percy Crescent, Chapman*, or

* calling him on 6288 6195 to arrange payment on the day, or

* by making a direct debit.

Details for Direct Debit are:

A/C Number 0342 0295 BSB 805 022

Name: AFC & RAAF Association ACT Division. Place "June 2016 GM Lunch" with your name in the reference section.

With direct debits, please send advisory emails to dhurst5@bigpond.com and to treasurer, Nadine Weight at nadine.weight@bigpond.com

This will confirm your booking and payment. Doug will acknowledge postal bookings by phone (so be sure to put your phone number on the proforma) and direct debits by email.

Note: All bookings must be in by 1700hrs Thursday 16 June 2016.

RAAFA-ACT Committee Meeting

The next meeting of your Committee will be held on Friday 17 June 2016.

If anyone has anything they would like to be raised and discussed please let me or one of the committee members know.

We will be considering a number of matters including the development of a new Vision & Strategy for the ACT Division with the major focus being on how we can become more relevant to younger members and attract and retain more membership.

National Council

The president will be attending the RAAF Association National Council meeting and AGM being held in Melbourne 7-8 June 2016. A report will be provided in the next newsletter.

Laddie's Story

I am sure many of you are already well aware of Laddie Hindley's story but the link below to a recent interview with Laddie on ABC Saturday Extra provides some interesting personal insights.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/saturdayextra/laddie27s-story/6698402>

Centenary of Nos 1, 2, 3 & 4 Squadrons, 28 October 2016, RAAF Williamtown. All four squadrons began in the AFC, but went on to earn respect and admiration as part of the RAAF over many years. Preparations are underway to mark this special day in the RAAF calendar with a "Parade and Family Day" for all veterans and families wishing to attend. The event will be by invitation only and more details can be obtained at WLM.Centenary@defence.gov.au

Scam targeting DVA clients.

DVA has been alerted by a Veteran's Home Care agency of a scam currently targeting veterans and war widows. Apparently, some people have been telephoned and told that some accounts for previous visits to doctors, for blood tests or for various other services are not being paid by DVA and payment is required. Many of the details mentioned are accurate, but such demands are almost certainly bogus and *no payment should be made without first checking with DVA.*

and another one

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is warning the public to be alert to scams offering fake gift cards or vouchers in return for disclosing credit card and other personal information.

This year, the ACCC's Scamwatch has received 1,175 complaints about fake surveys, emails and social media posts misusing the names and logos of big retailers such as JB Hi-fi, Bunnings, Coles and Woolworths, with \$2,600 in total reported lost. These losses are the tip of the iceberg as the scammer's target is your personal information to help them scam you again.

Scammers use fake gift card promotions to trick consumers into handing over their personal information such as banking details or passwords, which are later used to steal your money or your identity, or to on-sell to other scammers.

Protect your personal information by verifying whether an offer is legitimate by checking if it is listed on the retailers' official website or by calling the retailers' official customer service line.

F-35B Video

This video link is fresh (for the public).

It was made just six weeks ago in the Atlantic, just off Newport News (Hampton Roads), Virginia. These are the latest sea trials of the F-35B on the USS Wasp.

They were very successful, with 74 VLs and STOs in a 3-week period.

The media and the program critics had predicted that it would burn holes in the deck and wash sailors overboard. Neither of which happened.

You will notice a sailor standing on the bow of the ship as the jet rotates. That was an intentional part of the sea trials.

No catapult...no hook.... It's a new world out there!

Click here:

[F-35 B](#)

or type in the following to your search engine

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Ki86x1WKPM>

70th Anniversary – Footy Match

Thursday 2 June was the 70th anniversary of an AFL footy match held at Bofu, Japan just after the close of WWII between 481SQN and 381SQN.

Today, 81WG Combined Workshops (CWKS) is essentially the old 481SQN, minus the engine workshop. The current CO of 81WG CWKS, WGCCDR Terry Pridham challenged CO 381SQN to a 70th anniversary re-enactment of the game held at Bofu. He is looking to make this an annual event.

Unfortunately no record is available of the result of 70 years ago. No 381SQN won the match last week but score not yet provided.

No. 76 SQN End of RAAF Maintenance Functions

As part of the current Air Force reshaping to introduce future capabilities, Number 76 Squadron will transfer aircraft maintenance responsibilities to BAE Systems from 01 July 2016. This will see the end of uniformed maintenance capability within 76SQN for the first time since the SQNs inception.

To acknowledge this milestone and to celebrate the SQNs distinguished maintenance history, an official dinner will be held on Thursday 23 June 2016 at the Stockton RSL. Cost for dinner is \$35 per head with refreshments available throughout the evening at members' own cost.

The Stockton RSL was selected as the event venue due its long association with many members, as the local Squadron haunt.

The maintenance dinner will be complimented with a 76SQN family open day coincident to the graduation of the current Introductory Fighter Courses on the following day - Friday 24th Jun 2016.

Please note that while the evening will primarily focus on a maintenance theme, all 76 Squadron members; past and present, are equally invited to celebrate this end of an era.

Interested members are asked to register their interest as early as possible if this has not already been done.

Payment is via bank transfer and due by 17th June. Further Details are: Time: 1830 for 1900 Dress: Smart casual (RSL attire)

Memorabilia: Will be available on the night.

Payment details for Bank Transfer Account Name: Panther Club BSB: 803 205, Acct : 2050 9998,

Please include Maint Dinner as the descriptor with name, rank and initials.

ADSO Media Statements

Two recent media statements from the ADSO are attached for information.

RAAF 95th Anniversary

The RAAF celebrated its 95th anniversary at the Memorial Grove on Thursday 31 March 2016.

This event continued the strong support the RAAF provides to the Memorial Grove and the commitment by the CAF to hold this significant event at the Grove every 2nd year.

The event was well attended again with a very large attendance by both serving and retired members of the RAAF as well as other dignitaries.

We wish to thank the site workers who were working on the Gun Clubs access road and the adjacent truck parking bay who gladly moved their vehicles to allow unrestricted access to the Memorial Grove area.

Majura Parkway and New Access Road

The new road from the Majura Parkway via the Gun Clubs access road has been completed (but is not yet open to the public).

As previously advised, once this is open, we will no longer need to travel to Eaglehawk to do a u-turn but will exist the Federal Highway at the Horse Park Drive exit and turn right if travelling north from Canberra or do a u-turn at the lights if travelling on Majura Parkway and go to the Gun Clubs road which will bring us out to the Hughie Edwards VC rest area.

There will be ample parking on the verge adjacent to the Hughie Edwards VC area on in the existing layover parking area.



Work of the truck parking bay area is well underway.



However, contrary to initial advice, we will now not have direct access to that parking area from the Gun Clubs road. The reasoning being that there is ample parking space on the verges of the gun Clubs road adjacent to the Hughie Edwards VC area.

Memorial Grove Report

The planning is now well underway for the opening of the new plinth/plaque to recognise the contribution made over the years by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to the RAAF.

The ceremony will be held at the front entrance of the Memorial Grove on Wednesday 6 July 2016 starting at 1000 hrs.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The No 18 Engineering Apprentice Intake plaque has just been ordered and will be installed within next couple of months.

We are in the early stages of planning for a "reflection area" on or near the rocky knoll to the East of the Rond Point viewing area. The idea is to have some form of seating where members and visitors can sit and reflect with a commanding view down the Majura Parkway

while under the flight path for the Canberra Airport. We will keep you all informed as we progress this project.

DVA Factsheets

We regularly receive copies of the latest DVA Factsheets which can be accessed from the DVA web site.

<http://factsheets.dva.gov.au/factsheets/>

DVA Factsheets provide information about DVA benefits and services.

Presentation: Factsheets are presented as PDF and HTML. For more information about viewing PDF documents,

Viewing and printing: Use the PDF versions of Factsheets for viewing and printing. You can print to your Windows default printer.

Viewing and printing for the visually impaired: The HTML versions of Factsheets are provided for screen-reading software for visually impaired readers. You can print to your Windows default printer.

Locating a Factsheet: Once on the web site there are three navigational methods available from the blue menu bar on the left of the screen:

- [Topic Index](#)
- [Keyword Index](#)
- [Numeric Index](#)

DVA Budget

The following link will take you to the DVA media statement of 3 May in regard to the DVA budget.

http://minister.dva.gov.au/media_releases/2016/may/va035.htm

Key items include:

- \$37.9 million to extend the non-liability health care initiative, which expands eligibility for treatment of mental health conditions to all current and former permanent members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), irrespective of how long or when they served, or the type of service.
- The 2014–15 Budget measure to end the three month backdating of veterans'

disability claims will not be proceeded with, reinstating funding of \$37.8 million over the forward estimates.

- \$1.0 million to continue training members of the broader ex-service community to recognise and assist those at risk of suicide, and to pilot a new suicide prevention initiative.
- A major overhaul of DVA's ICT systems to improve the way the department conducts its business and, consequently, provides services to veterans and their families.
- \$23.9 million to enable DVA to maintain its critical compensation processing systems.
- \$7.5 million to refurbish and rebuild 3,800 war graves and memorials in Australia and Papua New Guinea, and to undertake essential safety and maintenance work at the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum in Thailand to accommodate the significant number of people who visit this commemorative site.

Additional Budget measures for veterans include:

- \$5.5 million to ensure that eligible veterans receive incapacity payments through to 'pension age' as it progressively advances to 67 years in July 2023
- \$2.7 million for a new case management system for the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) that will streamline processes and reduce backlogs
- \$2.1 million for the Kookaburra Kids Foundation to support children whose parent/s are a serving ADF member or veteran affected by mental illness, including PTSD [Note: trial only]
- \$10 million to support the Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience travelling exhibition.

CONTACT US

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RESERVATIONS PROFORMA

GM/Lunch, 20 June 2016

1200-1230, Commonwealth Club, Yarralumla.

Name:

Ph: (for postal bookings only)

Number attending

Cost: \$30 per member and guest

TOTAL AMT \$

Cheque - (made out to **RAAF Association ACT Division**); or

Direct Debit* - (Account No: **0342 0295** BSB: **805 022**)
Add '**June 2016 GM Lunch**' and your name in the reference section.
Send email advice to **dhurst5@bigpond.com** and **nadine.weight@bigpond.com**

When paying by cheque, post this proforma to arrive by 1700 hrs Thursday 16 June 2016 to:

Doug Hurst, 43 Percy Crescent, Chapman ACT 2611

Note: There is no capacity for last minute arrivals and lunch can only be provided for those who have pre-booked