

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT JUDY WEBSTER

Dear Members,

I hope this finds you well and coping with the cold and the never ending COVID restrictions.

Since our AGM in March, we have had a few issues that have caused the lateness of communications with you our members.

Sadly, James Elsbury needs to have a break from Secretary duties due to his ongoing serious health issues. Good news is that once all treatments etc are finished and he is well enough to return it will be as a valued committee member. We also had Simon Ozanne resign as newsletter editor due to workload.

Wing Commander Sharon Bown (Rtd) stood down from being re-elected as the Vice President of AFA National, however, will remain as an ACT Division committee member, National did bestow on her the title of AFA Ambassador.

Some good news, Group Captain Mac Cottrell DFC (Retd) has been awarded the United States Silver Star Medal, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed forces as Forward Air Controller directing fighter aircraft near Lai Khe, Republic of Vietnam On 10th June 1968. I have sent him our sincere congratulations from the ACT Division members.

Annual General Meeting News

The AGM was held with a great turn out of members.

I have enclosed a copy of the Annual Report for those who couldn't attend.

We have 2 new members on the committee, Wing Commander Dave Appleby (Rtd) who is now Treasurer and Sandrine McHugh (pronounced Sondrine) as a committee member.

A couple of matters were discussed and I would like to share them with you.

In the town of Moonta S.A. a statue is being built of the father of the Air Force Sir Richard Williams and Divisions were asked for a donation as it is to celebrate the Air Force 100 years, members voted that we donate \$1000.

Also, we were asked to donate towards Air Force Cadets badges, due to them purchasing more expensive ones, members felt \$250 would be suitable considering the small numbers we have.

Activities

I was very privileged to be invited to attend the following Centenary of Air Force celebrations;-

- The dedication of a plaque at our Memorial Grove which was instigated by the ACT RSL with the help of AVM Mac Weller (Rtd) celebrating the 100years of the Air Force.
- The ceremony at the Air Force Memorial which was attended by mostly serving members with a smattering of ex Air Force members.
- I did not attend the service at the Rond, but chose to watch the flyover with my husband John at the lakeside end of the National Museum.
- The dinner at the National Convention Centre was absolutely outstanding, once again many serving members, however quite a few more ex Air Force members were in attendance.

The Air Force 2021 Team & the Air Force certainly did Canberra proud, considering the challenges they have faced and still are.

Group Captain Allan George (Rtd), Group Captain Ernie Walsh and Wing Commander Dave Appleby (Rtd) participated in the ANZAC DAY Banner Parade on our behalf.

Group Captain Ernie Walsh represented us at the War Widows Field of Remembrance Ceremony at Lyneham.

Wing Commander Sharon Bown (Rtd) is doing a great job of rostering members and others to ensure we have a presence at all Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremonies commemorating fallen airmen. A big thank you to those members who have been representing our Division. It would be wonderful if we could share out the load a bit more, so please if you would like to participate let Sharon or myself know.

Future Events

In late August we are planning to have a luncheon at the Ainslie Football Club with a Guest Speaker, I will send an invitation with all the details once I have them.

Also, we are hoping to have an End of Year luncheon which will be an early Xmas one in the middle of November, hopefully to get away from other Xmas functions. Details will go out early October for bookings.

Memorial Grove

I am happy to advise we are getting enquiries and subsequently more plaques being placed in our Memorial Grove. At every event attended, we are promoting and reminding there is still plenty of room for more plaques.

AFA National

Please read our President's Reports on the website, as Carl is putting everything that can be printed on it for all to read. Here is the link, <https://raafa.org.au/presrepfeb20/>

The Air Force Association National are fully supporting the Suicide Commission even though originally the idea of this was not met favourably.

Air Force Association National Foundation & the Alumni are now in the process of being set up with CAF's agreement.

In May the Board of Directors met face to face for the first time in over 12 months at the Vibe Hotel where the AGM & general meetings were held.

Air Commodore Peter McDermott (Rtd) was elected at Vice President of AFA National and I was elected the ACT Division Director for the next 3 years or sooner if I retire as ACT Division President before then.

Filling ACT Division Vacancies

We will be having our next meeting on Monday 12th July at Legacy House starting at 10am.

I am inviting anyone who would be interested in the positions of Newsletter Editor and Secretary to attend this meeting.

It would be beneficial if you could let me know before attending due to COVID restrictions.

Note from Zoe Ellis Air Combat Systems.

Air Commodore Leanne Lee Director General of Aerospace Combat Systems Branch is trying to contact all members from GPCAPT to AVM engineers with the view of holding an event for retired and current serving senior RAAF Engineers.

If you are interested, please contact Zoe Ellis on 0468 654 001 or email zoe.ellis@defence.gov.au for more details.

Hopefully, I have covered everything.

Please stay safe, healthy and warm.

Kindest Regards,
President Judy