



Welcome to this, our second Newsletter for 2019.

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From the President

Judy Webster – Life Member (RAAFA)

Since our last newsletter the Association was represented at the Vietnam Veteran's Day by Allan George, sadly I attended the funeral of our Patron's wife Dorothy May Evans. I was advised by his daughter that David Evans would be entering the University Canberra Hospital for further treatment, as to date I have not heard anything further.

As John Webster is no longer able to continue as Newsletter Editor the Committee has asked Simon Ozanne, whether or not he would take on this position permanently. Gladly I am happy to advise his answer was yes. Many thanks Simon.

An update on High Eagle, at the moment this has stalled as there was not a majority of Divisions who agreed to this concept. However, they were in agreement to have the Joint Board Support Group meet via face to face and then video conferences. Where this leads AFA Ltd I am not sure the first JBSG face to face is being held in Melbourne 27th to 29th November.

Everyone should have received a Xmas Luncheon invitation by now, if not, please contact me on 0408 772 640 or email actraafapres@inet.net.au (Edit: I have attached a copy at the end of this Newsletter). It is on 2nd December at Ainslie Football Club 12noon for

12.30 Cost \$25 for 2 courses, any dietary requirements need to be sent to Judy ASAP. Our Guest Speaker is Sharon Bown a RAAF Veteran Nursing Officer.

A message from the Treasurer, all invoices will be sent out via email or post for those without an email after the Xmas Luncheon.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 16th March 2020 at Ainslie Football Club: 11.30am AGM, followed by 12.30 lunch.

I wish everyone a Happy Xmas and a Healthy New Year.

Judy Webster.

About the Association

Air Force Association (ACT Division Inc)
PO Box 111, Campbell ACT 2612
Tel: 0428 622 105
www.raafaact.org.au

Mission: 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.

Meetings: Held on the third Monday of every second month at 1230 at the Ainslie Football Club. The next meeting being our Christmas Luncheon at 12.30 on 2nd Dec 2019.

Membership: Open to all serving and ex-RAAF, WRAAF and members of other Air Forces and those with an interest in aviation. ACT Division is active in the ex-service community and attends briefings on special topics by Department of



RAAF Association – ACT DIV Newsletter

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Veteran Affairs and attends other ex-service commemorations.

For membership and general enquiries please contact the Secretary.

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Division Patron: To Be Advised

From the Editor

Simon Ozanne

Judy has asked, and I have accepted the ongoing position as Editor. It is a privilege to do so, and I hope I can continue to deliver a quality product for you with each release.

You can assist greatly with this by providing information, waries and stories that you believe are relevant and interesting. I'm sure that amongst you there are numerous stories that should and could be shared. Feel free to email them directly to me at simon.ozanne35@gmail.com. Let's remember the Association mission; share those Air Force and aviation experiences.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Patron's wife Dorothy, and if the that David is/has entered Hospital for further treatment is true, then I wish him a speedy recovery.

I write this as I return from an observance ceremony for Veterans Day here in the United States (the Americans do not refer it is as Remembrance Day). I am here conducting some training and was overwhelmed by some of the exhibits, tributes, and the respect that is shown here. Hopefully some of our members were able to meet up on and observe Remembrance Day. And pls if you can...support the Poppy Appeal.

The wearying years toil onward
And the ways of the world are wide;
And you who have lost, remember,
Tho these whom you loved have died,
Neither death nor the years can part you,
Nor the width of the world divide;
And today, as you stand to salute them,
They too will be there by your side

Lest we forget!



AGM

The 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will held on Monday 16th March 2020. Minutes will be released to membership and a summary will be provided in the next Newsletter post.

*A sailor, soldier and an airman die. Soon,
they found themselves standing before*



God himself in Heaven. God tells them that before they can be admitted he must know they are of pure heart and that they have been good servants of the people. He says, "tell me what you believe".

"I believe in discipline, training, and loyalty to you, to country and the people" says the soldier. "Good. You indeed have been a loyal subject" says God, "take a seat to my left".

"What about you Jack" asks God of the sailor. "I believe in duty to you, loyalty unto death to my country, honour in service and that people must come first. "Excellent, you may take a seat to my right" says God.

God looks at the airman asking "And you. What do you believe?" The pilot looks God straight in the eye and politely says "I believe you're in my seat!"

Air Force Today

Air Force support to the community

The RAAF is leading the ADF efforts in supporting emergency services to assist with firefighting efforts in north-eastern New South Wales. In fact, several aircraft on static display at the Edinburgh Airshow, were called on to assist with the movement of emergency service personnel into NSW. At the conclusion of the day's activities on the Saturday, aircraft departed on task, returning later in the evening and repositioning to be ready for static display on the Sunday. A fine example of the agility of Air Force today.

Additionally, Air Force is providing several flypasts in support of Remembrance Day services all over the country.

Edinburgh Airshow

Around 60,000 attended the Edinburgh Air Show 2019, making it a resounding success.

All of the RAAF's aircraft were on display along with some international and civilian visitors. Highlights of the Airshow are available at <https://www.youtube.com/ausairforce>.

Air Force has a new WOFF-AF

There's a new Warrant Officer of the Air Force (WOFF-AF)! Today WOFF-AF Rob "Swanny" Swanwick handed over the reins and responsibility of being our most senior airman to WOFF-AF Fiona "Fee" Grasby.

WOFF-AF is an important job. As Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, Chief of Air Force reminded everyone at the handover ceremony, "it's a position that provides understanding and guidance for our enlisted force. I rely on that position on a daily basis."

Roulettes perform their first routine with the new PC-21

The Air Force Roulettes performed their first full-team display in the PC-21 at the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix yesterday. Your turn next Adelaide, South Australia; you can catch them at the Edinburgh Air Show 2019.

The team recently transitioned from the PC-9/A to the PC-21, one of the most advanced training aircraft in the world.

Local takes out Pathfinder award

FLTLT Pete Lambert of Canberra's No. 34 Squadron has taken out this year's Pathfinder Award.

"The Pathfinder Awards recognise what it takes for us to safely get people, equipment and cargo to their destinations – whether it's the individual



leading within their workforce, to the collective effort of a squadron.”

In 2019, No. 34 Squadron introduced a fleet of three Falcon 7x aircraft as a replacement for the smaller CL604 Challengers flown by the unit at Defence Establishment Fairbairn in Canberra since 2002.

Flight Lieutenant Lambert displayed exceptional drive, forethought and technical mastery during the Falcon 7x's introduction, according to Wing Commander Jason Pont, Commanding Officer of No. 34 Squadron.

“The five-person transition team was responsible for 34 squadron activities associated with the introduction to service,” Wing Commander Pont said.

“He was often required to provide specialist aircrew technical advice during the transition, beyond the scope of his role. He established strong working relationships with external agencies, both within Air Force and Defence, and with Industry, and these relationships were pivotal to ensuring a smooth transition.”

Congratulations Pete.

Wares and Stories

Call for submissions

Submissions and requests for topics of discussion for your newsletter should be sent to your Newsletter Editor, Simon Ozanne (simon.ozanne35@gmail.com). Of particular interest are personal stories and anecdotes (with pictures preferably).

July 1940. Sir Hugh Dowding gives heroic double leg amputee pilot Douglas Bader an inspiring pep talk.

BASICALLY DOUGLAS, WE HAVE THE HUN ON THE BACK HEEL. IF WE GIVE THE BOYS A LEG UP WITH NEW AIRCRAFT WE CAN GIVE THE GERMANS A GOOD KICKING. SO IT'S BEST FOOT FORWARD AND GET THE BOOT IN. MAKE SURE THE BOYS HIT THE GROUND RUNNING AND TOE THE LINE ON TACTICS. NOW LEG IT BACK TO YOUR SQUADRON AND TELL THE CHAPS TO KNEE JERRY IN THE DANGLY BITS AND MAKE HIM FOOT THE BUTCHER'S BILL.



RAAF involvement with Canberra Airport – a short history

In the beginning – 1920s

In early 1924 a paddock (now playing fields near the inner Canberra suburb of Dickson) was the 'designated' airfield for Canberra and known as the Northbourne Aviation Ground. However, as Canberra was not a scheduled destination, it was mostly used for emergency landings for aircraft on domestic routes such as Sydney to Adelaide.

In late 1926, with the opening of Parliament House approaching and celebrations with a Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF) flying display, the Dickson airfield was considered unsuitable to host the variety of aircraft expected. Instead, a



paddock in the Majura Valley owned by the Campbell family, graziers at the time, was deemed by Airforce Captain Henri Petre to be 'absolutely ideal for flying', with landing distances of 'not less than 1000 yards in all directions'.

So, in 1926 this site at the corner of the Majura Valley Road and the Queanbeyan-Duntroon Road was leased to the Department of Defence. Four years later it was handed over to the government's then-civil aviation control.

The early days – 1930s to 1998

RAAF may have erected a wooden hut for service personnel attending the opening of Parliament House, but the first building formally documented at the 'Duntroon Aerodrome' (later to become Canberra Aerodrome) was a large hangar in 1936 at the site where the northern end of Canberra's present terminal stands.

By 1939 work had already begun on construction of a military base on the opposite side of the aerodrome from the civilian hangar.

Today

From this time until 2003, when the RAAF base was decommissioned, the airport operated for the needs of both defence and civil aviation. The remaining defence presence on the north-eastern side of the airport continues to operate the Prime Minister's VIP fleet of aircraft.

Historic Vickers Vimy

On the eve of the 100th anniversary of the first international flight from England to Australia, Ex-RAAF man Lyall Jaensch (Edit: Lyall's son is also ex-RAAF and friend of mine) has constructed a 1:8 scale of the aircraft to complete the flight: the famous Vickers Vimy.

Mr Jaensch said he had been an aviation enthusiast since primary school and wanted to

shed light on the important history of this particular plane.

"I was just interested by the fact that this huge, lumbering, flimsy looking thing - which was actually quite strong because of the wires - only made a trip to Australia 15 years after the Wright brothers flew their first machine," he said.



The Vickers Vimy was built as a bomber for World War I but was finished too late for active service.

In 1919 a competition was announced by Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes who offered £10,000 for the first all-Australian crew to fly from London to Darwin in under 30 days.

Ross and Keith Smith from Adelaide were the only team to do so in the time frame leaving November 12 and arriving December 10 1919 in the Vickers Vimy, with the 100-year anniversary of the flight this year.

Mr Jaensch visited the original aircraft earlier this month and used the visit to adjust his model's accuracy.

He said he had been building the model for about three months and now intends to display it at the Nautilus Arts Centre on November 22 and 23 but will not finish the coverings before then.



Maintainers – the backbone of air operations



Vietnam – the helicopter war

Vietnam is oft referred to as the helicopter war. Before the RAAF (or the United States) arrived with helicopters to Vietnam, Valerie Andre had already flown numerous helicopter 'missions' in Indochina.

Valerie is the first woman to have piloted a helicopter in a combat zone. She arrived in Vietnam in 1948 as a surgeon, and qualified parachutist and pilot. Quickly she realised that the most difficult part of her duties was retrieving the wounded who were often trapped in thick jungle. Valerie returned to France to learn to fly helicopters before flying one back to Indochina. From 1952-53 she piloted 129 missions in it, rescuing 165 soldiers in the process. On two occasions she even completed parachute jumps into the jungle to treat soldiers who needed immediate treatment.



The Albatross & the Buffalo

Some of our members may be interested in a crowd-funding venture that seeks to recreate an enduring record of the story of 9 and 12 Squadrons of the RAAF.

In a nutshell:

- The aim is to produce a 60-minute documentary about 9 and 12 of the Royal Australian Air Force, covering the last formations of the squadrons from the Vietnam war forward.
- The documentary aims to capture first-hand accounts from surviving squadron personnel while they are still here to tell their stories.
- The documentary will leave a lasting story of the legacy of both squadrons and the men and women who served in them.

More information can be found at:
<https://perfektstudios.com/raaf/>



How confusing...



A PERPLEXED A3C Dennis A. White hesitates worriedly at the entrance to his commander's door at Langley Air Force Base, Va. The door—and title—belong to Lt. Col. Charles Sergeant, commander of the 4,500th Air Base Wing supply unit. White, 19, is a supply clerk and joined Air Force in January, 1966 after he graduated from high school in Schoharie, N.Y. (AP)



Information for Members

Air Force Alumni and Associations

A full list of associations and groups enabling ex-RAAF personnel to maintain contact with former colleagues can be found at this [link](#).

AVCAT Scholarships

AVCAT scholarships provide up to \$4000 per year, for three years, to full-time students at university, TAFE college or registered training organisation. To be eligible a student must be the child, stepchild, foster child or grandchild of an ex-serving Australian veteran.

Applications for the 2020 AVCAT scholarships and the Long Tan Bursary open on August 18, Vietnam Veteran's Day, and close 31st October 2019.

Visit www.avcat.org.au for more information.

Air Force Holiday Apartments

The RAAF Welfare Recreational Company (RWRC) is Trustee of RAAF Central Welfare Trust Fund. The Company is a not for profit organisation that provides access to discounted recreational accommodation for current and former RAAF members, their families and other eligible persons at the Ambassador Apartments on Chevron Island in the heart of Surfers Paradise.

Visit www.raafholidays.com.au for more information.





Reunions

- Seeking those who served in Amberley in the 70's and 80's for a future reunion. Contact Paul Noble, (07) 5679 8744.
- National Gunnies: for all retired and current RAAF armourers. 1-3 Nov 2019, Wagga. Contact: Bob Cornwell at ngr19@bigpond.com.
- WRAAF - 70th Anniversary Reunion. 23-26 Apr 2021, Canberra.

For those members on Facebook, a full list of reunions can be found on the 'RAAF Reunions' group page.

Online publications

Members may be interested in the following online publications:

- [Air Force News](#)
- [Wings](#) – Official Magazine of RAAFA
- [VetAffairs](#) – DVA's Newspaper for the Veteran Community
- [Camaraderie](#) – The official journal of the DFWA
- [The Orderly Room](#) – Advocacy Training and Development Program blog

Book Recommendation

Night Witches – A World War II Story:

16-year-old Valya knows what it feels like to fly. She's a pilot who's always felt more at home soaring through the sky than down on earth. But since the Germans surrounded Stalingrad, Valya's been forced to stay on the ground and watch her city crumble. When her mother is killed during the siege, Valya is left with one burning desire: to join up with her older sister, a member of the famous and feared

Night Witches-a brigade of young female pilots. Using all her wits, Valya manages to get past the German blockade and find the Night Witches' base . . . and that's when the REAL danger starts. The women have been assigned a critical mission. If they succeed, they'll inflict serious damage on the Nazis. If they fail, they'll face death . . . or even worse horrors.

Events

Please note: members are welcome to attend future Committee Meetings.

2

DEC
2020

Christmas Luncheon

16

MAR
2021

Annual General Meeting

31

MAR
2021

Air Force 100



ACT RAAFA DIVISION INC
Invites All Members, Partners & Friends to our

**ANNUAL XMAS LUNCHEON &
WITH OUR GUEST SPEAKER
VETERAN SHARON BOWN**

AINSLIE FOOTBALL CLUB
Monday 2nd December, 2019
12noon lunch at 12.30
Cost is \$25 for 2 Courses

Payment & Numbers are due on 25/11/19
either by mail, P.O. 111 Campbell ACT
or direct deposit BSB 805 022 A/C 03420295
Please state names