



AIR MAIL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

"Fostering the Spirit of Friendship and Perpetuating the Honour and Ideals of Her Majesty's Air Forces"

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> WHAT'S
INSIDE



Vale Tom Offord

A resident of AFME Bull Creek since 1990, Tom was the driving force behind the establishment of the Chapel at Bull Creek.

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RAAF turns 90

On 31 March 1921 the Australian Air Force was proclaimed and the prefix "Royal" was approved the following June.

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WAAAF 70TH Anniversary Reunion Luncheon

Monday, 14 March 2011 at 10.30am

AFA Club, AFME Bull Creek

\$30 per person, carers welcome
at same cost

For more information phone
Gwen McCrae 9311 4238 or
Kate Quan 9311 4277

WAAAF 70th anniversary

THE Womens' Auxillary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) will be celebrating a very significant milestone on 14 March 2011. A decision had been made by the Australian War Cabinet in 1941 to establish the WAAAF and on that day, 70 years ago, the first women began enlisting.

On 23 March 1943, the WAAAF was constituted as a branch of the permanent Air Force and was the first of our Armed Forces to employ female technicians and administrative workers who were subject to Air Force law, service and discipline and secrecy obligations.

WAAAF replaced men who were needed to serve overseas. When the last WAAAF was discharged in 1947, 27,258 members had enlisted from all States and Territories, 3,345 of whom were from Western Australia.

They served in 73 different mustering – beside mundane tasks like messing and clerical duties, they literally lived up to the poster of that period – "Keep Them Flying".

To "Keep Them Flying" the young women of the WAAAF folded parachutes, worked on planes as fabric workers, painters, riggers, flight mechanics and instrument repairers. Meteorological Assistants kept track of the weather, and the whole coastline from Townsville to Geraldton was screened by radar with WAAAF on duty 24 hours at these stations. In fact WAAAF played a very vital role in all RAAAF communications. At one time there were 800 women on strength at Melbourne W/T Stations.



Specially selected telegraphists staffed Radio Direction Finding Units to guide aircraft home safely while a very select few flitted about the skies on photographic duties.

Nursing orderlies, x-ray and dental technicians staffed hospitals and medical units.

Transport drivers tackled any vehicle from a Ford Prefect car to a great truck or an oil tanker to refuel air craft.

There are 57 names of WAAAF who died while serving on the Australian War Memorial.

Around the roundel



State President, Graeme Bland

By Graeme Bland

A HAPPY New Year to all members of the WA Division. This year will be a very important year for the WA Division, its future and its survival. A lot of background work has been taking place on the changes required for a Constitution that will take the Division into the next 20 or more years. This work is about to take the next step with the consolidation of member suggestions and legal implications. A lot of careful thought and action will be required by Division Council, Branches and Members toward a final product.

For those who wish to view a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws, a copy is held

in each Estate Library and Office. Personal copies are available to individuals for a copying fee through the State Secretary.

Division Council

We have had six changes to Division Council and now can settle in as we welcome our two new appointed Councillors Karen O'Neill and Tim Humphrey who have, thankfully, agreed to help us.

Financials

Most Cost Centres are performing to Budget expectations and as expected most of our Clubs have been very busy over the past couple of months.

Branches

Often I am asked 'what do Branches do?' So on that note I wish to put forward some considerations regarding Division Branches. Firstly I regard the role of Branches is to assist the Division in carrying out the Aims and Objects as stated in the Division Constitution.

Branches are the backbone of the Division and as our membership diminishes, as it will, Branch operations will play a big part in the survival of the Division into the future. People ask 'what does the Division have to offer?' My reply is what do you have to offer the Division? If member numbers fall or Branches close we cannot leave all the responsibilities of the Aims and Objects to the small number of members on Division Council. The load has to be shared by all, just paying membership fees and sitting back doesn't get anything done, for example, like helping ex ADF persons get help through

the Department of Veterans' Affairs, helping those more frail than ourselves, doing hospital visits to sick members, assisting with the social wellbeing of others through activities. These things don't just happen they have to have someone do them. How many Branches have approved bus drivers?

To survive the Division needs Branches, the Branches need members and the members need to keep active. It all goes hand in hand and if a link is broken it will be bye, bye RAAFA! I urge all members to forget the 'what can I get?' and as the saying goes 'it is better to give than receive'. It is a great feeling to realise you have made a difference be it a cuppa with a lonely person and lending a sympathetic ear, being a part of a group that arranges outings or social events in a RAAFA Club or being a supporter of those who try to keep you active by participating and above all being a member of a Branch of the WA Division and supporting that Branch in its efforts to carry out its role.

Scammers!

In the December 2010/January 2011 edition of Air Mail there was a warning on Scammers and the way they are targeting Department of Veterans' Affairs customers (and possibly others). I wish to emphasize that DVA do their business in writing and if they require information from you they write to you accordingly. Should you have a suspicious request from DVA be it email or ordinary mail contact either DVA by phone (133 254 for metro callers or 1800 555 254 for non metro), a Pensions Officer/Advocate or a RAAFA Welfare Officer to confirm authenticity.

Visitations

I was very pleased to be able to present five Service Awards to members for their over and above contributions to their Branches. These are detailed elsewhere in this issue of Air Mail. I was also fortunate enough to attend many Branch Christmas functions reacquainting with many faces not seen for a while and also meeting many new faces. I hope to catch up with more Branches in the New Year. I was also very pleased to receive a donation for the McIntosh Fund during one of my visits. To me this reinforces the spirit of our Branches.

F-111 Farewell

Early December saw the end of another era with the retirement of the RAAF's F-111 fleet after 37 years of service. The occasion was marked with a farewell parade of some 400 No 82 Wing personnel in front of thousands of guests. The parade later formed an honour guard as a Piper led an F-111 being towed away.

Next day a memorial service, attended by over 2,000 persons, gave special respect to the 10 aircrew who had lost their lives in F-111 accidents and wreaths were laid at the Amberley Base front gate memorial. Vale 'the Pig'.

In closing, should you feel hard done by about fuel prices in Perth try \$1.80 per litre as at Balladonia.

Take care and remember to 'Stay on Your Feet'.



RAAF graduation

THE No 221 RAAF Advanced Pilots Course Graduation Ceremony was held on Thursday, 9 December 2010 and attended by the CEO, Gerry Warner.

Gerry had the pleasure in presenting the RAAF Association (WA Division) Trophy to Acting Sub Lieutenant Daniel Heffernan, the graduate who has shown the most improvement throughout the course.

Daniel was born and raised in Nowra NSW and completed high school at Bomaderry High School in 2006. He started a university degree at the University of Wollongong before joining the Royal Australian Navy in 2008. Daniel's interests include motorbikes, guitar and socialising with his mates from the course. Daniel has been posted to 723 Squadron to fly the Squirrel helicopter at HMAS Albatross.

The Reviewing Officer, Air Vice-Marshal Geoff Brown, AM, Deputy Chief of Air Force offered his congratulations to the graduates. He said, "Your graduation marks the start of a further challenging period of

your life as you embark on a rewarding career as a pilot and as an officer in the Australian Defence Force. You are joining the wider Air Force at a time of considerable change. We are extremely busy, both at home and overseas with exercise and operational commitments. Over the next 15 years or so we will replace almost all of our weapons systems and our Air Force is rebalancing and reshaping as we acquire these new capabilities. This process was most recently demonstrated with the arrival of the Super Hornet, which I am sure some of you will get to fly. All this will place great demands on your skills and abilities as aircraft are of little use without the personnel who fly and support them."

"You will now also start to serve at your units as officers in your own right, with the expectations and special responsibilities that go with providing leadership to those with whom you will serve. You will be expected to set an example, indeed to lead by example. The career and vocation you have chosen will always be challenging, and is not without risk, but I am sure you will find it equally rewarding and satisfying. Be proud of what you have achieved so far but also be aware that this is only the start. One of the great characteristics of the career you are about to embark on is that there will always be challenges and opportunities to test your professional competence and to learn from."

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For submission deadlines please see page 10

Museum propeller to RAAFA Merriwa

By Dorothy Herrington

A WWII Douglas C47 Dakota propeller previously donated to the Aviation Heritage Museum at Bull Creek now enhances the memorial wall on RAAFA Estate Merriwa.

The prop was cleaned at the Museum by Malcolm Sweetman and transported by Jennie and her crew at "Show West" who spent many hours providing the engineering, transport, painting etc prior to relocation to its new home at the entrance to RAAFA Estate Merriwa.

Heartfelt thanks go to fellow Merriwa Estate residents, John and Joan Pell who instigated the work done by "Show West" over several

months, and Bill Barnes who sold the idea to the Merriwa Residents Branch Committee.

A brick enclosure was made by Alan Mynott to house the lighting, which beams rotating coloured lights onto the propeller at night. A plaque is also attached providing details of the propeller.

An afternoon tea was recently held in the Bluegum Restaurant at RAAFA Estate Merriwa where the Branch President, Mr David Peet took the opportunity to present a donation to the Aviation Heritage Museum Manager, John Park, in appreciation for all their work.



L to R John Park and Malcolm Sweetman show off the propeller

CONSTITUTION REVIEW

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS!

Draft now available for comment by members

Copies can be obtained by contacting Praevia Consulting on:

Telephone: 0417 951 814 or 9250 1085

Email: praevia@tinet.com.au

Feedback and comments need to be received by 28 February, so get your copy today!

66 years on – remains of RAAF Spitfire pilot located and identified



Henry "Lacy" Smith

Acknowledgment:
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

THE Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Science and Personnel, Warren Snowdon, announced that the remains of a pilot who went down 66 years ago off Normandy in France have been officially identified as Flight Lieutenant Henry "Lacy" Smith, of Number 453 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force.

"Flight Lieutenant Smith was lost to enemy anti-aircraft fire during the Second World War on 11 June 1944 whilst flying a patrol in support of the Allied invasion of Europe."

"I am very pleased to know that the remains of this brave pilot have now been accounted for and can now finally be laid to rest. Finding Flight Lieutenant Smith after over 66 years is an outstanding result for all concerned particularly the family," Mr Snowdon said.

The RAAF has contacted surviving relatives living in Australia, and arrangements are underway for the reinterment of Flight Lieutenant Smith's remains, with full military honours. This ceremony will occur in 2011, at a date yet to be set, in a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in France, in accordance with normal practice for recovered remains.

Background

Flight Lieutenant Smith's unit, Number 453 Squadron, was one of 17 RAAF squadrons formed under the Empire Air Training Scheme to bolster the Royal Air Force during World War II. It served at Singapore from August 1941 until Japan's invasion of Malaya forced its withdrawal and disbandment in March 1942.

The unit was reformed in Scotland three months later and fought over Britain and occupied Europe until the end of the war.

The unit disbanded in January 1946, but was reformed on 1 December 2010 when a new Number 453 Squadron took charge of RAAF Air Traffic Control in WA, SA, Vic and NSW. The squadron's motto is "Ready to Strike".

Over the six years of the Second World War, from September 1939 until August 1945, 39,366 members of the Australian armed services were killed or died from wounds or sickness. Just over 10,750 were members of the RAAF, including 884 who were recorded as "missing" rather than "presumed dead" at the end of the conflict. Many of those fliers have still not been accounted for in the decades since World War II ended.

Worldwide, about 1100 aircraft are on RAAF's missing aircraft register, almost all of them from World War II.

DVA complaints and feedback management process

Acknowledgement:
Department of Veterans' Affairs

THE Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Charter outlines the Department's obligations regarding the range and quality of services that the veteran and defence force communities expect from DVA. This includes the management of feedback, such as complaints and compliments.

Complaints, compliments and suggestions for improvement are the most immediate and effective forms of feedback that can assist efforts to improve services. DVA values and welcomes feedback from all who are affected by its policies and services, or if they have an interest in veteran matters. All DVA staff are responsible for accepting feedback, and to offer further assistance for those who may need support to provide their comments. DVA takes feedback seriously, and no-one will be disadvantaged by lodging

a complaint. Anonymous feedback can also be accepted, but this may limit the response that is provided.

DVA is upgrading its feedback management system that records and tracks complaints and compliments received by staff. One feature of the system is that those making a complaint will now be given a reference number that can be used if necessary to enquire about the original complaint. Further, a dedicated Veterans' Standards and Complaints Management (VSCM) team has been formed and will monitor and coordinate complaints and feedback handling across DVA.

In line with the system upgrade, a comprehensive Complaints and Feedback Management Policy has been developed, and this can be viewed on the 'Complaints, Compliments and Feedback' page at the DVA website:

http://www.dva.gov.au/contact_us/Pages/feedback.aspx

The policy should be read if anyone wishes to provide feedback (complaints, compliments or suggestions for improvement) to DVA. It contains the definitions of complaints and compliments, the contact details on how to provide feedback as well as the service standards of complaints resolution. Further, the policy provides DVA's actions when it receives specific types of feedback, and the alternative options that complainants may wish to follow if they are unhappy with DVA's responses.

To make a complaint or compliment, the following steps are suggested:

Step 1: If possible, you should raise the matter with the person you have been dealing with. To call DVA ring 133 254 or from regional Australia 1800 555 254.

Step 2: If you are not satisfied with the response, you should ask to talk to the Manager of that section.

Step 3: If you are still not satisfied with the response, please contact the VSCM team at DVA by:

- phoning the DVA feedback number on 1300 555 785 (this number is manned during normal office hours but if staff are busy they will call back within one working day);
- mail addressed to the VSCM team at GPO Box 9998 Sydney NSW 2001; or
- e-mailing feedback@dva.gov.au - if you choose to use this email facility your e-mail may not be secure. Please do not use this link to send DVA personal information. DVA will be unable to send any personal information via this link.

Staff awards Erin Stewart

AT THE Corporate Services Christmas lunch Erin Stewart was presented with a Service Award in recognition of her 10 years loyal service with RAAFA.

Many residents on AFME, Bull Creek have seen Erin's life progress along its happy journey. She joined RAAFA, as Corporate Services receptionist in July 2000 at the age of 23.

She met Sean, the man of her dreams who she later married in 2005. Her career also progressed to Corporate Services creditors. Erin deals efficiently with the voluminous daily paperwork which has increased with the growth of RAAFA over the years. Her ability to work alone, meet deadlines, as well as her willingness to help train and support others has been recognised and is greatly appreciated by all.

Erin is following the path of motherhood with the recent birth of her first child. Conor was born at the St John of God Hospital in Murdoch on 1 November 2010, at 7lb 12oz. Fortunately for the Stewart's, he is a very placid baby boy and was the star attraction at the Corporate Services Christmas lunch.

With what little spare time Conor allows, Erin enjoys catching up on her sleep and sneaking in a little retail therapy. Congratulations Erin.



Proud mother with Conor

15 years staff award

VICKI Browne was presented with a 15 year Staff Service Award at the Dean Lodge Christmas function in December.

Vicki commenced as an Enrolled Nurse in Dean Lodge in 1995 and her high personal standard and continual pursuit of excellence within the nursing team has been recognised.

She is originally from Victoria and has been living in Perth for the past 39 years.

Vicki loves the outdoor lifestyle and enjoys getting out and seeing the countryside at every available opportunity.

She enjoys travelling, 4WDing and camping. When not travelling Vicki likes to garden and

spend precious time with her family. In short, she loves her life to the full!

Vicki lists the highlights in her life as marrying her husband, having children and now enjoying all the grandkids.



Vicki Browne

Surprise award

THE State President, along with representatives from the WAAAF Branch executive, made a surprise visit to Moline House in Karrinyup to present a Certificate of Appreciation to resident Catherine Lehane.

Catherine Lehane or Molly as she prefers to be called, joined the RAAF Association in 1997 and has been an active member of the WAAAF Branch since that time.

She took part in all WAAAF Branch activities including commemoration services and ANZAC marches until recently due to poor health.

In 1993 she joined the NORWAAAF Group, a group of WAAAF ladies who live north of the river, and for the past six years Molly has been Treasurer.

She has encouraged the ladies to keep together as a Service group and participate in the afternoon teas with the WAAAF Branch.

The ladies of the NORWAAAF, although a small group, have raised money in support of several local charities under the name of WAAAF

Congratulations and best wishes.



State President, Graeme Bland with Molly Lehane

Erskine Grove awards

TWO Erskine Grove residents' efforts were recognised at the Branch Christmas celebrations with the presentation of Certificates of Service by the State President, Graeme Bland to Keith Evans and Bette Schmidt.

Keith Evans joined the RAAF Association and became a resident at Erskine Grove in May 2004.

He has been the hard working President of the Estate Residents Liaison Committee since it was formed in 2005, working tirelessly, spending countless hours with his Committee to gain benefits for the residents of the Estate.

Keith is an active participant in all aspects of village life and volunteers his services whenever the need arises.

Bette Schmidt became a resident at Erskine Grove in November 2004. Since 2005 she has been the coordinator of the craft room, encouraging residents to "spread their wings" and try new ideas.

She organized an extremely successful "Craft Extravaganza" in 2006, which showcased the artistic talents of the residents.

The many and varied projects Bette has organized, including decorated Easter Eggs, have raised a large amount of money for the residents' fund. Apart from the many hours spent each week on craft work Bette is also willing to do clothing alterations for residents, the proceeds of which also go into the residents' fund.



L to R Keith Evans and Bette Schmidt

Congratulations and thank you for all your work. It really is appreciated.

Certificates of service for City of Perth Branch

ON 9 December at the City of Perth Branch Christmas luncheon, two of their members were awarded with Certificates of Service.

The State President, Graeme Bland, surprised both Claire Clark and Barbara Mounsey with the presentation of their awards at this sociable annual event.

Claire Clark has been a very active member of the City of Perth Branch since she joined the RAAF Association in May 1987.

During the period when the Branch conducted its very successful "Trash and Treasure" stall at the annual RAAFA Fete, Claire assisted by both manning the stall and collecting saleable goods.

Claire has been a major contributor in organizing Branch social meetings and events; preparing ticketing for monthly meeting raffles; and making, obtaining and preparing gifts to be raffled at the Annual Christmas Social.

Barbara Mounsey has been a stalwart of the City of Perth Branch since 1986 and has made a valuable contribution to its maintenance as a viable Branch of the RAAFA (WA Division).

Since becoming a member of the RAAF Association in March 1990, Barbara has assisted in the preparation and running of the Branch stall at the annual RAAFA Fete; assisted in conducting the regular monthly raffles and the Branch AFA Club raffles; and assisted in organizing Branch social outings and special events.

Barbara has also made the delicious Christmas cake for approximately 12 years, which is shared by Branch members at the Annual Christmas Social.

Both Claire and Barbara have been and continue to be major supporters of Branch meetings and events. Congratulations and thank you for all your work.



L to R Barbara Mounsey and Claire Clark with their Awards

Staff award John Kelly

A 15 year Service Award was presented to John Kelly at the Merriwa Staff Christmas lunch in December.

John was born in Manchester, UK, in 1959 and with his parents and 10 siblings migrated to Australia in 1964.

They boarded at Fairbridge Farm School for the first 2 years, before moving to Collie. They then made the move out of the country to the suburbs of Scarborough and Kelmscott.

John started work at the age of 14 and was employed in a variety of jobs, primarily in the building industry. He approached RAAFA for a "filler" job in 1995, when the Merriwa Estate was being developed and has remained with us ever since in a variety of roles including Groundsman, Weekend Security and Maintenance Supervisor.

John has extensive knowledge of the Merriwa Estate, both the people and the infrastructure and he has made an enormous contribution to the security and wellbeing of residents at both the Merriwa Estate and Cambrai Village.

John is married to Liz who works in the banking sector and they have a daughter, Laura, who is currently studying for a Nursing Degree at TAFE.

Congratulations John on achieving 15 years service with RAAFA.



John Kelly

Your Division Councillor – Karen O'Neill, MBA, GAICD

KAREN accepted an appointment as a Division Councillor in 2010 and will also serve on the Audit Committee and State Executive. Karen brings with her a strong compliance background balanced with commercial acumen as a finance and governance professional. Karen has over 20 years experience in a variety of industries including resources, investment banking and professional services and has held senior positions with international companies.

Karen's career began with Ernst & Young where she completed her accounting articles. She moved from professional services to

gain invaluable experience in the investment banking sectors in the UK and Luxembourg. In Australia she was introduced to the Not for Profit sector and held an executive management role with a co-operative based organisation, trading internationally, with member purchases of over AUD800 million a year. A key project Karen undertook with this organisation was to convert from a co-operative to a public company limited by guarantee.

Currently Karen holds a senior management role as Commercial Manager for a USD400 million engineering and construction project

with a resources company listed in Canada and Australia. In this role she is responsible for contractual and commercial systems and processes, contract negotiation and administration as well as cost control.

Karen has a Master of Business Administration from the Australian Graduate School of Management and a Bachelor of Accounting Science Degree. She is a Graduate member of both the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Chartered Secretaries of Australia.

Christmas Eve

By Graeme Bland

CAROLS were sung on Christmas Eve at the RAAFA Estate Merriwa. Seven travelling singers cruised from street to street in the Mustang, much to the surprise of many Residents who came outside to greet and encourage the "talent".

The Mustang was especially decorated for the occasion and a CD player was used to accompany the carollers. They really enjoyed

cruising from street to street in the village, ringing the bell to alert residents of their presence. They received some applause and cheers on the way, together with a few nibbles and a bottle of wine. Jingle Bells proved to be very popular, being sung in every street.

Residents who "volunteered" to sing were in order of seating were, driver Margaret Purchase and bell ringer Dorothy Herrington. Second row Pat Volich, Doreen Richardson

and Margaret O'Malley. Back row Trevor Richardson and John Purchase.

At 7.30pm the carollers completed their evening of joy, feeling they had given some Christmas spirit to the Village.

Father Christmas and his helpers were seen travelling around the RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs on Christmas eve, getting into the spirit of things, spreading Christmas cheer and singing carols.



Carollers at Merriwa



Santa and his helpers at Meadow Springs

Vale Tom Offord (1920-2010)

By Ian Petkoff

DOREEN'S beloved husband Tom, a long standing RAAFA member, passed away on 30 December 2010.

Thomas Elliss Offord (O52927) was born in Perth on 9 April 1920 and enlisted in the RAAF on 6 January 1941. He served as an Air Gunner, undertaking his training at No. 5 Initial Training School at RAAF Station Pearce and then at No. 1 Wireless Air Gunners School at Ballarat Victoria. He was posted to serve with Royal Air Force squadrons in East Africa, the Middle East and Burma, flying in Vultee Vengeance and Dakota aircraft. He was then posted to No. 12 Squadron that operated B-24 Liberator aircraft from RAAF Station Darwin.

He met Doreen in Perth on 9 September 1944 and they were married in St Georges Cathedral in 1946.

Tom was discharged from the RAAF on 16 April 1946 and he and Doreen moved to Rivervale. He was then employed as a Manager in an insurance company.

He was an Instructor in the Air Training Corps for 25 years.

On 10 September 1962, Tom's younger brother Ron, a graduate of No. 6 RAAF Academy Course in 1956, was killed at Butterworth, Malaysia, when the jet engine of Sabre aircraft A94-958 stalled following multiple bird strikes and he attempted to eject outside the designated performance envelope.

Tom and Doreen moved to AFME Bull Creek in 1990 where Tom became actively involved in the work of the Association and was the driving force behind the establishment of the Chapel at Bull Creek.

Tom was a Freemason and also an active member of the Aircrew Association.

Tom was one of nature's true gentlemen and he and Doreen were happily married for 66 years.

He is remembered for his great sense of humour.



Vale Tom Offord

90th Anniversary of the formation of RAAF

Saturday, 26 March 2011

You are invited to attend the 90th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Air Force which will be commemorated by a wreath laying ceremony on **Saturday, 26 March 2011.**

The ceremony will take place at Kings Park Flame of Remembrance, commencing 10.00am.

The ceremony will include a parade of unit/branch banners, the wreath laying by invited guest and Branch Presidents, the Last Post and a short address.

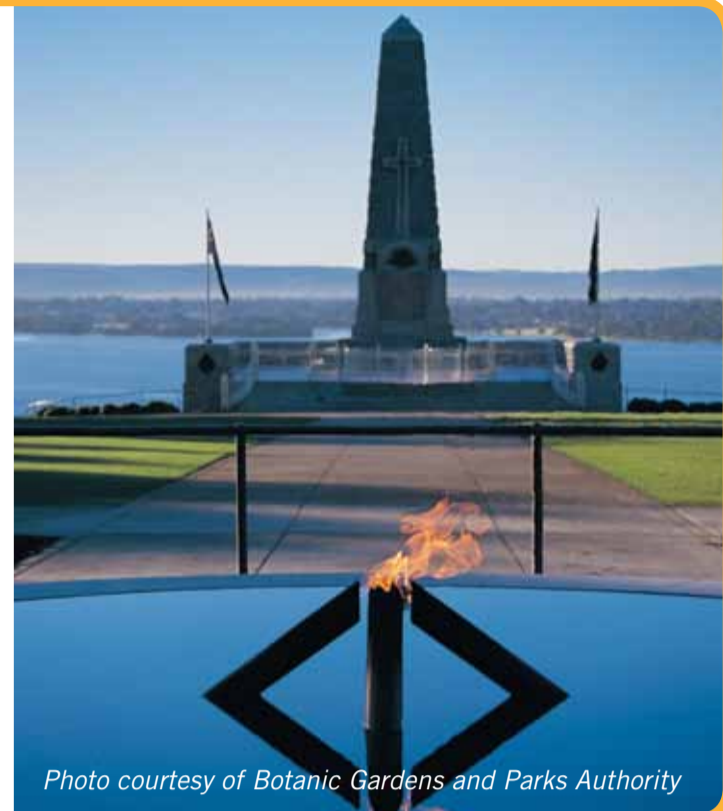


Photo courtesy of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

The RAAF turns 90

By Graeme Bland

JUST prior to the commencement of the Great War (1914-18) the Australian Government became aware of the potential of air power in times of conflict. As a consequence land was made available at Point Cook, Victoria and in 1914 the Central Flying School was founded. On 17 August 1914 training began with four Army Officers. These trainee pilots were taught to fly in Bristol Box Kite aircraft which by today's standards was extremely primitive. Lieutenant Richard Williams (later to become Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams) was first to qualify as a pilot and he eventually became the first RAAF Chief of Air Staff.

The Australian Flying Corps (AFC) came into being during July 1914 and its first operation was when Lieutenants Harrison and Merze as pilots, several mechanics and two aircraft joined an Australian Expeditionary Force which seized German New Guinea in late 1914. The Germans gave up easily and the aircraft were not used.

The Middle East

The AFC was first blooded when a 'Half Flight' was sent to Mesopotamia (Iraq), arriving on 26 May 1915, to support the British Army advance up the Tigris River. Lieutenant Merze was the first pilot of the AFC to die in action when he was killed by hostile Arabs. On 29 April 1916 nine Australians of the 'Half Flight' were taken prisoner at Kut.

No 1 Squadron, AFC, was formed in July 1914 and intended to have 12 aircraft in three Flights operating in Fighter/Bomber and Reconnaissance roles. No 1 Squadron arrived in Egypt on 14 April 1916 under the command of the 5th Wing, Royal Flying Corps and equipped with BE2c aircraft. In July

and August during the Battle of Romani the Germans raided Egypt heavily. The Australians were outclassed in direct dog-fighting but made effective damage with bombing raids on ground forces. On 22 December 1916 ten Australian aircraft supported the ANZAC Mounted Division in its capture of Magdhaba by aerial bombing Turkish Forces. On the 20 March 1917 Lieutenant Frank McNamara was awarded the first Victoria Cross earned by an Australian Airman for his feat of landing, behind enemy lines near a Turkish Mounted Force and although himself badly wounded and weak from blood loss, rescued a fellow Squadron pilot who had been forced down.

By March 1918 No 1 Squadron found itself equipped with Bristol Fighters and was able to keep the Middle East skies clear of enemy aircraft due to availability of new aircraft and expert technical backing. Further successes followed with the addition of a Handley Page twin-engined bomber, piloted by Captain Ross Smith, capable of carrying sixteen 50 kg bombs. No 1 Squadron took part in the decimation of the Turkish Army in the Wadi Fara on 21 September 1918. No 1 Squadron returned home in February 1919.

The Western Front

In 1916 another three AFC Squadrons were formed and were considered ready for combat in France. No 2 Squadron was given a Fighter/Scout role and formed in Egypt and went to France on 21 September 1917. No 3 Squadron with a reconnaissance role was formed at Point Cook and deployed to France on 9 September 1917. No 4 Squadron had a Fighter/Scout role and also formed at Point Cook and deployed to France on 18 December 1917.

In England during 1917 No's 5, 6, 7 and 8 Squadrons, AFC, were formed as Training



Bristol Box Kite

Squadrons. On 20 November 1917 No 2 Squadron took part in the Battle for Cambrai and lost six aircraft during daring low level attacks. No's 2 and 4 Squadrons were mostly utilized in offensive flying roles and earned a lot of respect from the enemy and allies alike. No 4 Squadron became the most successful unit by destroying 199 enemy aircraft whilst No 2 Squadron was credited with 185 kills. With a distinguished record all eight Squadrons were disbanded in 1919 and personnel returned to Australia.

Total enlistments of the AFC during World War I were 460 Officers and 2,234 Other Ranks. Casualties were 78 killed, 68 wounded and 33 taken prisoner.

The Imperial Gift

With a surplus of aircraft after World War I the British Government decided that it would make a gift, not exceeding 100 aeroplanes, to each Dominion and India. Australia, Canada, South Africa and India took up this offer to form their own independent Air Forces. This gift of aircraft also included, at no cost, spare parts, 13 Bessoneau Transportable hangars,

Leyland lorries, Crossley tenders, guns, cameras, bombs and subsidiary equipment, even oils. The public of Australia had donated 41 aircraft to Britain during the course of WWI and for this consideration the British Air Ministry offered Australia another 28 aircraft coming to a total of 128 aircraft and 186 engines. Australia's share of the "Gift" of aircraft ended up as 30 DH9a's (fighters), 35 SE5a's (fighters), 35 Avro 504K's (fighters) and 28 DH9's (bombers).

This "Gift" provided the ordinance base for the first decade of the Australian Air Force (later RAAF).

General Legge, Chief of General Staff, in 1918 suggested an 'air service' of 200 aircraft to oversee Australia's 36,000kms of coastline, a task considered beyond the Naval capacity. This consideration was backed by the then Prime Minister, Billy Hughes and on 31 March 1921 the Australian Air Force was proclaimed and the prefix 'Royal' was approved the following June. The Royal Australian Air Force had 21 Officers, 130 Airmen and 160 aircraft.



RAAF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER SATURDAY, 9 APRIL 2011

The Annual Dinner for the RAAF Association (WA Division) Inc, will be held on

Saturday, 9 April 2011 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm,
in Langley Hall, AFA Club, Bull Creek.

The evening will include light music and an informative address from a notable guest speaker.

You are invited to join us for this celebration.

Tickets are \$45 per head.

Includes pre-dinner drink, 3 course dinner, tea and coffee.

Drinks during the meal will be available for purchase from the bar.

Please advise any special dietary requirements when purchasing your ticket.

Dress: Men – dinner suit, lounge suit, mess dress

Ladies – after five wear, mess dress

Miniatures may be worn.

Tables of ten (your own or we will form)

Tickets will be available from

Tuesday 1 March 2011 until 3.00pm Thursday 31 March 2011

from the Estate Offices at Bull Creek, Merriwa, Cambrai,
Meadow Springs, Erskine and Amity.

Buses can be provided from various estates if required.



Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin

Sunday, 20 February 2011

You are invited to attend the annual ceremony marking the Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin (19/02/1942).

The ceremony will be held under the Spitfire at the Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek, on
Sunday, 20 February 2011,
commencing at 9.00am.

The ceremony will include the laying of crosses by invited guests and Branch Presidents, a short address and will be followed by tea and coffee in Langley Hall.

Medals may be worn.

Please advise your attendance by
Friday, 11 February
to Julie Stearne on 9311 4449 or jstearne@raafawa.org.au.

Erskine Grove gift appeal

By *Rae Lothian*

For the past two years residents of Erskine Grove have demonstrated their Christmas spirit by thinking of others and donating gifts for underprivileged children.

This appeal was initiated by fellow residents Mike and Penny Woods who recently moved

to Tasmania. Residents were asked to donate wrapped gifts for girls and boys.

Erskine Grove's Chapel Committee has taken on the responsibility of distributing the large amount of parcels received and they were passed on this year to the Mandurah Salvation Army who were delighted to receive them.



L to R Major Michael Cossington, Mrs Kath & Major Ted Ferguson and Graham Wilson (Erskine Grove Chapel Committee Chairman)

WANTED

AIR MAIL EDITOR REQUIRED

With the retirement of the current editor a vacancy exists.

This volunteer position involves the proofing of material for this publication.

For further information contact Julie Stearne 9311 4449 or Colin Mounsey 9450 3958.

WELFARE OFFICERS AVAILABLE

The Royal Australian Air Force Association Welfare Service is client directed and available to all Association members. The main aim of this service is to assist members to maintain or improve their quality of life whilst also encouraging independence and choice by providing information, referrals and support as needed.

Please note this service is not an emergency service.

Contact a Welfare Officer as soon as you think you may need assistance or guidance:

AFME Bull Creek	Bettyna Clark	9311 4562
Cambrai Village	Bianca Briggs	9304 5280
Erskine Grove	Helen MacBeth	9582 5369
RAAFA Amity Village Albany	Dianne van Clarke	9841 8311
RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs	Helen MacBeth	9582 5369
RAAFA Estate Merriwa	Bianca Briggs	9400 3778

The Padre's Piece



By Padre David

NEVER mind the weather, snow storms and blizzards in the northern hemisphere, torrential rains and flooding in Australia, in December all the headlines of all the news media have been about Oprah and her visit to Oz. So as we enter a New Year 2011 in the life of our Association

maybe Oprah's toast to the New Year is appropriate. "Cheers to the New Year, and another chance to get it right".

2011 will see the presentation and debate of the new Constitution for our Association and getting it right should give us a firm basis and clear directions for the future of our Association. 2011 will also see our individual lives facing many challenging decisions where getting it right will be a personal issue.

One of the Christmas gifts that I received is a copy of the latest book by the Australian social commentator Hugh Mackay called "What makes us tick?" in which he examines ten of the desires that drive us as human beings. He is particularly concerned about what he calls the "social" desires whereby we gain a sense of our personal identity, relate to others and understand our place in society. He has a chapter on communication and our desire to connect with others

Many comment about the importance of communication within an Association like ours; and you have heard me regularly stress the importance of caring and sharing and personal communication within our close relationships - family members or the immediate groups we are involved with - or of its importance within the wider community.

However communication is more than knowing what others think or making your own thoughts known. Mackay makes a vital observation, and I quote him. "Connecting with others takes courage. Relationships have a way of changing us and the risk of being changed can be a daunting, even frightening prospect. But good listeners are prepared to run the risk. The key to connection is acceptance of the other person and respect for their point of view".

Within the Church we are now in the Season of Epiphany, which is a time when

we reflect on the manifestation or showing forth or communication of Christ to all people. The bible story upon which we focus is the story of the Magi - the wise men being lead by the star from the ends of the earth to discover Christ. The message of Jesus is for all. There is a universality within the Christian faith. The Church lives and witnesses in nations and cultures around the world. When John in his Gospel explains the birth of Jesus he says "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and lived amongst us".

Christmas and Epiphany is the message of God communicating himself to us all. If we are to get things completely right in this New Year we ought once more open ourselves to this communication.

Shalom

'Dear Welfare'

Dear Di

I have noticed recently that I cannot hear so well, especially around larger crowds. What are my entitlements as a pensioner and can you tell me about the different hearing aids now days?

Signed
Hard of Hearing



Dear Hard of Hearing

The Australian Hearing Services Program provides

Pensioner Concession card holders, DVA card holders or dependants of these with a comprehensive range of hearing services, free of charge. This includes a hearing test, advice and fitting of a hearing aid. You can apply

for a hearing services voucher through your doctor, attending a hearing service provider who is contracted to the Office of Hearing Services or call 1800 500 726 and an application form will be sent to you.

Hearing aids vary in types and also in additional features. For some additional features you will be required to pay the "Top Up" to the service provider. Different types include,

Behind the Ear (BTE), In the Ear (ITE), In the Canal (ITC), Open Fit, and Receiver in the Canal (RIC). The audiologist will tailor a device that meets your individual needs including your ability to manage the device.

It is recommended that you enter into a maintenance agreement with your service provider. For an annual fee they will maintain your aid and supply batteries.

A new home for Legacy

ON 8 November 2010 Perth Legacy moved into its new home at 1130 Hay Street, West Perth.

The official opening was performed by His Excellency, Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia and was attended by dignitaries from the varying groups that connect with Legacy and its work.

Legacy is dedicated to caring for the families of deceased veterans. Their support and services now extend to include

the dependents of members of today's Australian Defence Force who lose their lives as a result of their military service.

Perth Legacy and sister club Fremantle Legacy currently have registered more than 7,000 widows and widowers, as well as 50 children, students and disabled dependants.

Legacy is dedicated to enhancing the lives and opportunities of families through innovative and practical programs aimed at:

- the protection of individuals and families basic needs;
- advocating for their entitlements, rights and benefits;
- assisting families through bereavement; and
- helping people thrive, despite their adversity and loss.



The Governor cutting the cake at the official opening

Resort-style living at AFME



Illustration of typical interior layout

RAAFA's brand new terrace apartments under construction in Bull Creek offer complete privacy and security while being part of an active and established retirement estate where personal independence is respected and protected.

The appeal of this development is reflected in the fact that most apartments have already been reserved. The remaining apartments in this six-storey building represent great value with prices still being held at 2009/10 levels.

While the thought of moving may be a little daunting new residents can be comforted by the knowledge that RAAFA is very experienced at helping to make the transition as smooth as possible. And moving to one of our terrace apartments is an easy decision if your house has become a little too large, the maintenance too demanding, and the security a little worrying.

Stylish living

Each superbly finished and comfortable apartment features two bedrooms/two bathrooms. All have spacious indoor and outdoor areas for relaxed and low maintenance living.

The open plan design promotes interaction and informality while the high quality fixtures and fittings set a new benchmark in contemporary retirement living standards.

The galley kitchen features scratch and stain resistant bench tops, glass splash backs and

stainless steel appliances. The bedrooms have built-in robes while the laundry is discreetly located in its own room.

Some apartments have a separate room for a study while others feature a study nook with space for a desk, computer or hobby equipment.

Staying connected

The latest technology is incorporated to help you stay connected. All apartments are pre-wired for telephone, free-to-air TV, cable TV and broadband internet connections.

Your personal safety and security is RAAFA's top priority. Each apartment features a monitored emergency call system, smoke detectors and fire alarm. A security access system ensures your privacy.

Comfort plus

Naturally, each terrace apartment has its own reverse cycle air conditioning system for year-round comfort. And within the building, lifts provide effortless access to all floors.

Below in the secure car park, generously sized storerooms provide space for bicycles, golf clubs, luggage and other items not needed every day.

Convenient and accessible

AFME is located near three shopping centres, two movie complexes, sport and

leisure facilities, St John of God Hospital and specialist centre, plus the new Fiona Stanley hospital and medical complex that are scheduled for opening in 2014.

A personal swipe card provides convenient access to the Bull Creek rail station while the Kwinana Freeway is only two minutes from your secure undercover car park.

Great company and amenities

Moving to the terrace apartments means you've become part of our caring, friendly and close-knit community where traditional values of responsibility, mutual respect and concern for neighbours are shared by all residents.

You will also enjoy our heated pool, tennis court, gymnasium, bowling green, licensed club, restaurant, chapel and the large tree-lined lake that is the centrepiece of our beautifully landscaped gardens.

It's the ultimate lifestyle for nesting or travelling – just lock up and leave if you want to. Your apartment will be safe and secure until you return.

Act now for your fresh start

Perhaps now is the time to simplify your life and inject some good, old-fashioned fun.

Choose from the few remaining apartments in this stylish new building that is scheduled for completion in October 2011 and you could be enjoying next Christmas in your new home.

Prices from \$550,000

For an information kit or more details contact Maureen Winton on 9311 4488 or go online to www.raafawa.org.au where you'll find a link to the terrace apartments.

Maureen would also be pleased to send information to any friends or relatives you think may benefit from living in a brand new apartment at AFME.



PHOTOS

A reminder that due to the printing process, photos to be published in Air Mail need to be high resolution.

Most digital cameras have different settings that control the number or quality of the

photographs stored in the camera.

When taking photos that might make their way to this publication it is best to set your camera to record the highest quality images possible. This enables the photos

to be stretched to fit the available space without losing clarity.

Hard copy photographs are OK provided they are printed on quality photographic paper.

MUSEUM HOURS



10:00am - 4:00pm daily

(closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and Good Friday)

ADMISSION:

Adults: \$10.00

Pensioners, Students and Senior Citizens: \$7.50 (card holders)

Children: \$5.00
4 to 16
(under 4 free)

Family Group: \$25.00
(2 adults and up to 4 children under 16)

Group: \$6.00
(adult)

Group: \$4.00
(child, student, pensioner, senior citizen)

WA Division Member: \$5.00

CONTACT:

Phone: 9311 4470

www.raafawa.org.au/wa/museum



Notes From Branches and Groups

AAFC Branch

Del Willmott

Rifle Shooting & BBQ. Our Spring rifle shooting day in October was again a great success with around 25 shooters. Members were joined by friends and family to enjoy the pleasant weather at the Perth Lever Action Rifle Club at Wanneroo. It was good to see the ladies and young people participating, some having their first experience of this once popular sport.

Upcoming events

Sunday, 6 March, Twilight Dinner, Runway Café, Royal Aero Club, Jandakot Airport, 5.30pm. Booking essential with Graeme on 9330 5701.

Airfield Construction Squadrons' Branch

Val Lopaten

The Xmas Lunch on 2 December was enjoyed by a small, but happy group.

The participation by our ACS Branch in the 2010 Graduation parade of the Local 707Sqn Australian Air Force Cadets on 11 December was much appreciated. The turn-out by the Cadets and the Band was of a very high standard despite the warm weather – well done Flt Lt T Lawrence.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 17 February 2011, ACS Annual Picnic Lunch, North Dandalup Dam, all BYO. The General Meeting normally scheduled for mid-January has been deferred a month and will be held in conjunction with the picnic – that should prove a challenge for the Chairman.

Thursday, 17 March 2011, General Meeting, 10.30am, Meadow Springs, followed by lunch in RAAFA Club. Most members should have returned from the ACS National Reunion on the Gold Coast by then.

Australia Pacific Branch

Denny Hains

As this is the first branch news for 2011, on behalf of President Frank Fergusson, who is still in Canberra, I would like to wish all members a very Happy New Year.

A good start for a New Years resolution for some of you tardy members would be to attend a few more monthly meetings. Surely an hour a month would not take up too much of you time. See you there.

Upcoming events

Monday, 28 February, Branch Meeting, Admin Building, 11.00am.

Monday, 28 March, Branch Meeting, Admin Building, 11.00am.

Aviation Museum Branch

Ian Fraser

The President and Executive of the Aviation Museum Branch extends to all members a Happy New Year.

All Branch Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month except February. New members always welcome. Please make enquiries at the museum.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 10 February, Branch Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 7.00pm.

Sunday, 3 April, Mini-Mart, 9.00am. Volunteers are required for stalls. Donated goods for Mini-Mart can be dropped off at the museum any time. All welcome.

City of Perth Branch

George Winnett

Welcome to 2011. What a year was 2010 – floods, fires and drought, lets hope things are now settled down. This is a hard country and its people re-build from such set backs with a strong determination. If any of your family or friends has been affected we wish them well for the future.

The City of Perth Branch is prepared for the oncoming year and our past secretary, Colin, issued every member with a copy of the calendar of meetings and events for 2011. Please keep this safe and enter coming events in your diary.

Plan a happy and healthy new year and try to meet with your fellow Branch members at our functions.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 17 February, General Meeting,

Ev Nicholls Room 11.00am. Lunch follows in the AFA Club for those who so desire. See you there.

Thursday, 17 March, Social Lunch at Kardinya Tavern. This is the first social event for the year, mark it in your diary and make every effort to be there. More details later.

Thursday, 21 April, General Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room 11.00am. Lunch follows as usual.

Monday, 25 April, ANZAC Day.

European Area Branch

Clive Naylor

Best wishes to everyone for a healthy and happy New Year.

Upcoming events

Wednesday, 2 February, Branch Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm. An important date for your diaries when we hope to be able to give a true update concerning the review of the Association's Constitution, following the Branches Forum which will have been held on 19 January. We could then have more information on the status, legal and financial, of the Association and its Objects, should the business side be split off. We would not ask our members to complete the questionnaire attached to Praevia Consulting's Update Number 2 without this knowledge.

Wednesday, 2 March, Branch Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 6 April, Branch Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm.

Mandurah Branch

Ruth Poat

The Branch held its Annual Christmas Luncheon in the Middleton Hall on 9 December and 112 members attended. It gave us much pleasure to welcome RAAFA State President, Graeme and his wife Judy Bland, Craig and Liz Boyd (DVA) and Alan Waters and partner Denise (RSL) to share in the festive spirit which prevailed. It was also an opportunity to present several Branch awards in appreciation of service to the Branch.

The President also announced that Hugh Brett had accepted the position of Deputy President. Thanks Hugh.

The bi-monthly General Meeting was held on 16 December which was followed by BYO Christmas gathering in the Sports' Bar where great camaraderie prevailed. 52 members attended.

We are also pleased to report that the Mandurah Branch once again sold 1st prize in the Nulsen Haven 2010 Beer and Lobster Raffle.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 17 February, General Meeting, Edwards/Newton Room, AFA Club, Meadow Springs, 3.30pm. Sausage Sizzle will follow the meeting.

Thursday, 24 March, Lunch at the Clansman. Cost approx \$30. Bus departs 12noon for 12.30pm lunch. Two buses available (first 36 bookings). For bookings or details, contact either Hugh on 9582 5043 or Ruth on 9582 5257. All monies to be paid by Monday, 14 March.

Meadow Springs Residents Branch

David Oxley

Herbie

The estate 6 seater buggy christened "Herbie" several years ago is now available for the sole use of the Residents Branch. A roster of drivers has been established and residents only have to call 5364 and a lift is available anywhere on the Estate. Arrangements are currently for use between 10.00am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday, but if help is need outside these times, all a resident has to do is contact the driver while they are on duty.

Upcoming events

Friday, 18 March, General Meeting, 3.30pm

Friday, 20 May, General Meeting, 3.30pm

Friday, 15 July, General Meeting, 3.30pm

Friday, 19 August, Annual General Meeting, 3.30pm

SUBMISSIONS FOR AIR MAIL

All Branch Scribes, please note that Branch Notes can be submitted for all issues and you are most welcome to submit prior to the deadline. Additional articles of interest are also welcomed.

Deadlines are:

4 March for April/May issue

6 May for June/July/August issue

5 August for September issue



Cambrai Club

Phone: 9304 5000

Trading Hours

Tuesday
4.00pm to 8.00pm Fish and Chips/
Quiche and Chips

Wednesday
10.00am to 11.00am Morning Tea
5.00pm to 6.00pm Happy Hour
6.00pm to 8.30pm Dinner

Friday
Bistro/Theme night once a fortnight –
2nd and 4th Friday of the month
(subject to change – contact bar staff)

Contact Bar Staff on 9304 5000 at any
time for bookings or information

Meadow Springs Club

Phone: 9582 5375

Trading Hours

Monday
11.30am to 2.30pm Bar
12noon to 2.00pm Lunches

Tuesday and Thursday
11.30am to 5.00pm Bar
12noon to 2.00pm Lunches

Wednesday
11.30am to approx 9.00pm Bar
12noon to 2.00pm Lunches

Friday specials
12noon to 2.00pm Lunch
1st Friday 5.00pm Fish & Chip night
2nd Friday 6.30pm Dining in Beaufort
Restaurant
3rd Friday Bar until 5.00pm unless
Dinner booking
4th Friday 6.00pm Entertainment night,
Buffet \$21.50 per person

Bookings to be made at the bar or call
on 9582 5375

Saturday and Sunday - Ring bar for details

Tasty Tuesday Lunch Special

Fish and Chip from \$13.00 per person
Counter menu also available

Chase the Ace, Bingo & Horse Racing

5.00pm to 8.00pm Wednesday, meal
available

Bull Creek AFA Club

Phone: 9311 4460

Trading Hours

Monday and Thursday
11.30am to 6.00pm Bar

Tuesday
11.30am to 2.30pm Bar

Wednesday and Friday
11.30am to 10.00pm Bar

Saturday
3.00pm to 6.00pm Bar

Sunday & Public Holidays - Closed

Counter Meals

11.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday

Wings Restaurant – Closed

(only open for functions and
A la Carte every 4th Wednesday of the
month 6.00pm to 10.00pm)

Chase the Ace

4.00pm to 5.30pm Monday

Friday Dinner Dance

Raffles on sale from 5.00pm
Dinner 5.30pm to 7.00pm

Band Roster

1st Friday – Colin & Muriel
2nd Friday – Robert Fern
3rd Friday – Colin & Muriel
4th Friday – John Callander
5th Friday – Dinner only in the
members bar

Merriwa Club

Phone: 9400 3640

Trading Hours

Tuesday
12noon to 2.00pm Bar
5.00pm to 8.00pm Bluegum Restaurant
theme night

Wednesday
12noon to 2.00pm Bar
4.00pm to 6.00pm Bar
4.30pm to 5.30pm Happy Hour

Thursday
10.00am to 11.00am Morning Tea
12noon to 2.00pm Bar
4.00pm to 6.00pm Bar

Friday
12noon to 2.00pm Bar
4.00pm to 6.00pm Bar
5.00pm to late Bistro

Saturday
12noon to 6.00pm Bar
2.00pm to 3.30pm Afternoon Tea

Counter Meals

Available Tuesday to Saturday, last orders
taken 1.30pm daily

Tuesday Theme Night, Bluegum Restaurant (please book)

Different 2 course menu every week
\$17.50 per person

Wednesday Offal Club, Bluegum Restaurant (please book)

4th Wednesday of every month 12noon
to 2.00pm \$13.00 per person

Thursday Morning Tea

Tea /coffee with sandwich and cake
\$6.00 per person

Friday Night Bistro

Orders taken from 5.30pm to 7.00pm
Raffles, lucky wheel and horse racing

Saturday

Fish and Chip lunchtime special \$9.00
per person
Afternoon tea, coffee and cake \$5.00
per person

Bingo, main hall

2nd Wednesday, eyes down 7.30pm

Correction

By The Editor

25th Anniversary of the Mokine Memorial
Service

I apologise for two errors in the above article
which appeared in the December 2010 /
January 2011 edition of Air Mail.

Mr James Garrihy was referred to as the
President of the Bakers Hill Sub-Branch of
the R&SL. His office is that of Secretary.

The President of the Branch is Mr Hugh
Williams.

The spelling of Mr Garrihy's name was also
incorrect.

Attention all NASHO's

By Graeme Bland

THE Nasho's League of Western Australia
(Inc.) will hold an unveiling and dedication of
a National Service Commemorative Memorial
at Memorial Drive, Cunderdin on 14 February
2011. Muster will be at 10.40am for Parade
of Veterans at 10.50am followed by a Service
at 11.00am.

A social gathering at the 'Ettamogah Pub' will
follow at 12noon. Contact Eddie Freeman-
Smith (08 9622 1485).

Also the National Servicemen's Association of
Australia, Western Australian Branch (Inc.) will
hold a Wreath Laying Ceremony to mark the
60th Anniversary of National Service at the
State War Memorial on Monday, 14 February
2011. Fall-in at 10.50am for 11.00am start.
Contact Brian Prangnell on (08) 9562 1502.

Nasho's Remembered

Over 287,000 former Australian National
Servicemen who served between 1951 and

1972 were honoured by having a thousand
invited guests at a national reception at
Parliament House, Canberra in September
2010.

The first National Service Scheme from 1951
to 1959 did not entail active service.

However during the second scheme running
from 1964 to 1972 saw over 63,000 called up
for 2 years service. Many Nasho's under this
second scheme saw service in Borneo during
the Indonesian Confrontation whilst others
saw service in Vietnam.

The bad stats show that over 200 Nasho's died
and over 1,200 were wounded on active service.
Many more now suffer mental disorders and so
the Nasho's made significant contributions and
sacrifices which are not often realised.

A National Service Memorial was also
dedicated at the Australian War Memorial.

Come when you are able

By June Perry

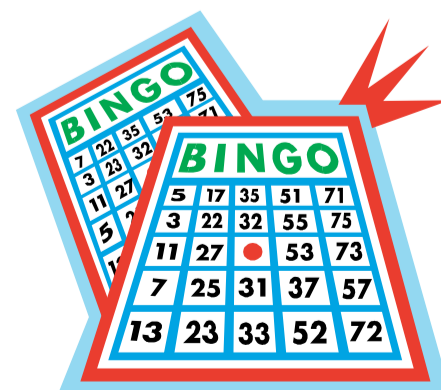
It is great when a group of residents get
together regularly to share a meal and a chat.
There is one such group at the AFME in Bull
Creek. They call themselves the "come when
you are able" group and they meet at the AFA
Club every Tuesday for lunch.

Sometimes there's only six and at other times
it's 16. If it is a special occasion and it is
someone's birthday, the group make a special
effort to attend and the "birthday girl"
provides a cake.

This photo shows some of the girls celebrating
a pre-lunch drink before Christmas.



L to R Irene Quinnett, Joy
Vaughan, June Perry, Mavis
Darcey, Suzette Peterson, Ethel
Ibbotson and Jane Donald



National Glaucoma Week 6 – 12 March

Acknowledgement: Glaucoma Australia

... ONLY half those with glaucoma know they have the disease.

Australia is among the best in the world for the diagnosis and treatment of potentially blinding glaucoma but 50 percent of Australians with the eye disease still remain undiagnosed.

Glaucoma is commonly referred to as “the sneak thief of sight”. It irreversibly destroys vision silently and gradually, starting with the side vision. Fortunately, if detected early enough it can be arrested or at least slowed by appropriate treatment.

World-wide figures show glaucoma remains undiagnosed in as many as 85 percent of

an estimated 65 million people with the disease. It is even higher in India with 90 percent undiagnosed while the Asian region accounts for between 60 to 80 percent of people yet to be diagnosed. The USA matches Australia with 50 percent of people unaware they have the disease.

Glaucoma Australia’s National Executive Officer, Beverley Lindsell, said while Australia was a leader in the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma, 50 percent of Australians or about 150,000 people were still unaware they had glaucoma which was still alarming.

“This is a disease that irreversibly destroys eye sight. You can’t get back what vision you have lost to glaucoma. The only way to detect glaucoma is to have regular eye check-

ups with your optometrist or ophthalmologist at least every two years, Mr Lindsell said.

National Glaucoma Week aims to create awareness about the harmful affect of the eye disease that has blinded 10 million people, according to a 2005 report. Australia has 7,000 residents blinded from glaucoma.

“The major concern is that glaucoma blindness can be largely prevented if the disease is detected early enough and treated. It is so critical for people to be aware of the need for a simple eye check-up every two years or more regularly if you have a family history of glaucoma or diabetes, high blood pressure or have suffered from an eye injury,” Mrs Lindsell said.

“Awareness is the only way we can hope to limit the affect of this dreadful, but easily treated disease. There is no need to lose your sight to glaucoma. Often, people who don’t have regular eye check-ups only find out they have the disease after they have lost considerable peripheral vision. This can have negative consequences including losing your driving licence or suffering injuries by falls or hitting into unseen obstacles.”

The Perth Glaucoma Support Group invites you to attend their meetings held at the Lions Eye Institute, Nedlands on Saturday, 19 February, 16 April and 20 August between 2-4pm. For further information or bookings phone Glaucoma Australia on 1800 500 880 or 9445 7244.

DonateLife Week 2011 – Raising awareness for organ and tissue donation. Have the conversation!

Acknowledgement: DonateLife

ORGAN and tissue donors save lives. Your wish can save a life, but only if you tell someone. It is DonateLife Week, 20-27 February 2011, a time to discuss your wishes with those closest to you.

Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, Ms Catherine King MP said that one in three people recently surveyed, who had not discussed their donation wishes with family members, said they did not know how to go about starting the conversation.

“New research from the Organ and Tissue Authority shows that while the majority of Australians (81%) feel it is important for their family to know their donation wishes, for many people it can be difficult to start a memorable discussion on the topic,” Ms King said.

A recent DonateLife campaign generated an increase in actual family discussion about organ and tissue donation wishes by 10%, with 83% of people rating the discussions as memorable.

“At the same time, a gap remains between people who believe they have told family of their donation wishes and family members knowing the donation wishes of loved ones,” Ms King said.

Ms King said the majority of Australians surveyed (78%) are generally willing to become donors, yet Australia’s family consent rate remains at less than 60%.



“Memorable family discussion is the key to increasing donation rates, with research showing that 93% of people aware of their loved ones’ donation wishes saying they would support those wishes.”

“In Australia, family consent to organ and tissue donation is always sought. The most important thing for families to know in making a decision is the donation wishes of their loved ones.”

“We need to make it OK to talk about organ and tissue donation. If we can normalise the conversation, we could significantly increase our organ and tissue donation rates.”

Ms King said that between January and October 2010 there was an increase in organ donation rates to 258 donations - a sustained improvement over the same period of any year in Australia’s donation and transplant history.

To discover more about organ and tissue donation, what to do when you decide to become a potential donor and suggestions

on how to discuss your wishes with your family visit www.donatelife.gov.au

Alternatively please contact DonateLife WA – The WA Agency for Organ and Tissue Donation for any further information or to request a registration brochure to be sent out to you on 08 9222 0222.



donatelifeweek
Sunday 20 – Sunday 27 February 2011