



AIR MAIL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

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

June/July/August 2011
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> WHAT'S
INSIDE



WAAAF 70th anniversary

145 attended the celebration on 14 March. The oldest was 99 and the youngest 84.

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RAAF turns 90 The war years

When Australia declared war on Germany the RAAF had only 164 operational aircraft.

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Celebrating volunteering

THE theme for this year's National Volunteer Week was "inspiring the volunteer in you".

The benefits of volunteering are well known and include:

- Learning or developing a new skill
- Being part of your community
- A sense of achievement
- New interests and experiences
- Meeting a diverse range of people

Volunteers with RAAFA

In the words of one RAAFA Estate Manager, "Volunteers are the glue that holds our caring community together".

There are hundreds of volunteers at RAAFA everywhere from Merriwa to Mandurah and beyond at Albany. Each day volunteers devote their time and energy in a quiet, unassuming and unselfish manner. They give of themselves and assist in so many different ways:

- They visit and welcome residents and patrons, arrange social activities and special events
- They drive buses, estate buggies and provide transport services
- They assist with maintenance, gardening and look after the swimming pools and bowling greens
- They recycle bottles, cans and papers
- They read the electricity sub-meters and assist with administration services
- They provide companionship and support to our lodge residents
- They serve on numerous committees
- They operate the library, chapel, computer room and residents' workshop
- They witness documents
- They help out in the clubs, decorate and set-up functions, and deliver food
- They help out in the many areas of the



State President Graeme Bland with Estate Manager Nick Walker and some of the Cambrai Village volunteers

museum, including shop, workshop, library, displays, restoration and as guides etc.

- They maintain an emergency evacuation plan
- They entertain others
- They collate and disseminate news information and mail
- They keep the flags flying ...and much, much more.

Are you thinking about becoming a volunteer or know someone who is?

If you are considering volunteer activities with RAAFA you can contact the relevant Manager in the first instance and they can point you in the right direction.

If you are considering other volunteer activities you can contact Volunteering WA on (08) 9482 4333.

A big 'Thank You' to one and all of our valued volunteers, we could not do without you.

RAAF wombats 1958 - 1960

By Eric Smith

IN JANUARY 1958 some 200 teenage boys aged 15-17 joined the RAAF at Forest Hill near Wagga Wagga NSW. Fresh faced, out for adventure and a new life, many were away from home for the first time.

Some were about to begin a 5 year Engineering Apprenticeship with the RAAF, 3 years at RAAF School of Technical Training, Forest Hill and a further 2 years at a RAAF base to gain accreditation as fully qualified tradesmen. Others were to complete training as Junior Administrative and Equipment Trainees and graduated after 18 months.

Many did not last the distance and 104 finally graduated from Forest Hill at a superb march out parade before parents, friends, and training staff. They were to be known as the Wombat Squadron.

Many served in Vietnam and other overseas postings, including USA, Hong Kong and United Kingdom.

To date 19 have been promoted to the ultimate RAAF Base in the sky during and after their RAAF service.

These young men in RAAF uniform have now retired. They celebrated their 50 year Intake Reunion in February 2008 and now plan a 50 year Graduation Reunion in September 2011 in Perth.

It is to be held over 3 days where many a yarn will take place. For further details contact Eric Smith on 0419 925 637.

There are said to be just two kinds of RAAF ex apprentice, WOMBATS, and those who wished they were.

Around the roundel



State President, Graeme Bland

By Graeme Bland

Annual Dinner

I WAS very disappointed that the decision had to be made to cancel the RAAFA Annual Dinner, but without the minimum number of tickets being sold it had to be cancelled. Where to next year? Is it perhaps worth trying a midday affair? I am open to suggestions.

Museum

There has been a lot of misinformation regarding the future of the Aviation Heritage Museum with the media being fed a load of unfounded nonsense about potential closure. I emphatically deny that there is any intention to close the Museum, let alone sell it off. As State President and a Division Council member over the last few years, I have not seen any formal documentation to indicate closure of the Museum. As a lot of this paranoia seems to come from Museum Volunteers maybe they have something in mind contrary to those of RAAFA's management. Over the past couple of years there has been a lot of work done around the Museum and there is more to come, so why would time, effort and expense be put into the Museum if it was to be closed?

RAAF 90th Birthday

Thanks to all who participated in our commemoration ceremony that was held at King's Park on 26 March 2011. We couldn't do much about the heat but it was great to see the response of members and Branches alike.

On behalf of RAAFA I was invited to the RAAF Birthday evening at Pearce on 29 March 2011. The speakers for the evening were most interesting as they made us aware of the work that RAAF personnel at Pearce were involved in, including the actions in Iraq and Afghanistan and the various disaster relief operations that unfortunately have occurred of late.

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day was successful despite crowds expected to be down due to it coinciding with the Easter break. The Dawn Services at Fremantle and Perth had excellent attendances and on your behalf we had wreaths laid at both venues. The Perth Dawn Service attendance was estimated at 45,000 and the number of young people and families was extremely noticeable.

Division Constitution

Praevia Consulting has provided Division Council with a draft constitution after some twelve months of consultation with RAAFA members and branches. The Division Council is now reviewing that draft including ultimately, legal input and clearance. I understand a final letter from Praevia has gone out to Branches thanking everyone who responded for their inputs, and I echo those thanks.

It is hoped that this will be a Constitution that will carry the Division well into

the future and its contents ensure the continuance of the RAAF Association (WA Division) Inc., its objects, aims and ideals. Although there is much still to be done, it is anticipated that this revised Constitution will be ready to send out with the papers for the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

Elsewhere in this issue is a report on the Division Constitution and the Public Company Limited by Guarantee.

Visits

Again I have had the pleasing duty of visiting quite a few of our Branches over the past couple of months, mainly to clarify details about the revised Constitution and pass on facts about the future operations of the WA Division. I thank those Branches for their interest in what I had to say, the respect accorded and the hospitality shown to myself and to my wife Judy when she has been able to accompany me.

On your behalf I also participated in the annual ceremony that Applecross RSL Sub-Branch organizes with the City of Melville for ANZAC Day and later the Coral Sea Ceremony at the State War Memorial that is organized by the Australian American Association. I also had the pleasure of attending the WRAAF 60th Anniversary luncheon held at Cambrai Club.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

I was fortunate to be invited to morning tea with Minister Snowdon. Some of the points that he covered were:

- The Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA) 2004 review is near completion and we should see many benefits from this. Unfortunately this Act only applies to military service post 2004;

- Expected improvements to the Transitional Management during the discharge process;
- Approximately 600 submissions have been received for the commemorations suggested for the 100th year of ANZAC and are being sifted through;
- Defence is pursuing stronger rehabilitation services emphasizing retention being preferable to medical discharging;
- The Minister advised strongly that he will not tolerate abuse of DVA Staff by Veterans. His advice to Veterans was to treat DVA Staff as Veterans themselves would want to be treated. The DVA Staff have a job to do and strict guidelines to follow.

The Contemptibles

CORR continues to circulate written material to our Estates and elsewhere. CORR material is inaccurate, misleading and libelous. This group has changed tack again from originally being anti-Constitution to their unfounded claims of the Museum closing and lately resorting to personal attacks on the CEO, Division Council and senior management.

Their only consistency is the untruths they try to spread; if it is said to be black CORR says it is white, if red CORR says blue. This group still do not have the fortitude to identify themselves among their rantings. Fortunately, the majority of sensible people have woken up to CORR and the intent of its Collection of Ridiculous Rubbish and immediately bin these letters.

In finishing just remember to 'Stay on Your Feet'.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

By J M Carruthers, State Secretary

A Special General Meeting of Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA Division) Inc. members will be held in the AFA Club at Bull Creek on Saturday, 18 June 2011.

THE meeting has been requisitioned by members pursuant to Rule 10.5(b) of the RAAFA (WA Division) Constitution. The Requisition requests that Division Council call a Special General Meeting to discuss the following business:

- 1.1 That the Division Council cease all action to form a public company limited by guarantee to conduct the Association's business operations.
- 1.2 The Association express its extreme concern as to the removal of some of the object of the Association in the proposed public company limited by guarantee, particularly clause 3.9 relating to the maintenance and operating of the Aviation Heritage Museum."

The Special General Meeting will be for the purpose of information and discussion only. No motions can be considered that are not part of the requisition.

Only members of RAAFA (WA Division) Inc. may attend the meeting and proof of membership will be required for registration.

Date	Saturday, 18 June 2011
Time	9.30am
Registration	From 8.30am
Venue	Langley Hall, AFA Club Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek Drive BULL CREEK WA 6149

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For submission deadlines please see page 10

RAAF Association (WA Division) Inc.

2011 Annual General Meeting

By J M Carruthers, State Secretary

9.30am, Saturday, 29 October 2011
Langley Hall, AFA Club, Bull Creek
Registration commences at 8.30am

Notice of Motion

HAVING regard to the rewrite of the Constitution the only Notice of Motion for the 2011 AGM will be the acceptance of the revised Division Constitution.

A copy of the revised Division Constitution will be sent to members eligible to vote under separate mail out.

Postal voting

If you are unable to attend the AGM in person you may apply for a postal vote to vote on the Notice of Motion. Application forms will be available in the September edition of Air Mail.

Division Council nominations

Division Council nominations must be in writing and received no later than 2pm, 22 July 2011 by the State Secretary, Air Force Memorial House, Bull Creek.

Nominations for office shall be in writing and signed by the Candidate and the Members

proposing and seconding the nomination.

The nominee must also be aware of the Constitutional restrictions of Rule 5.I in that not less than sixty (60) per cent of the members of the Division Council shall be members eligible under sub-clauses 5.I(a) to (e) inclusive, that is serving and ex-members of the RAAF, other Designated Services, Australian Air Force Cadets or Australian Air League who have served a minimum of six months.

Nominations must be on the official form available only from the State Secretary and must be accompanied by the nominee's Curriculum Vitae and a current photograph.



Current vacancies on Division Council are:
State Secretary - two year term
One Division Councillor - two year term

Voting procedure

Ballot papers for Division Council election will be sent to members eligible to vote under separate mail out.

2011 and beyond – update

By Division Council

IN THE April/May 2011 edition of Air Mail Graeme Bland reported on the review of our Division Constitution, and the Division Council decision to separate membership matters and the delivery of services consistent with our objects. This article updates that report.

Division Constitution

Praevia Consulting has provided a draft Division Constitution to Division Council following lengthy and comprehensive consultation. Praevia advised that consultation sessions were well-attended, genuine interest and involvement were evident, and considerable useful written comment was provided. We again record our appreciation for this participation in the Constitution review process.

It is perhaps worth sounding a note of caution at this time. Clearly not every wish and view, regardless of how genuinely or strongly put, can be accommodated. Division Council now has the task of reviewing carefully the Praevia draft Constitution and balance it against many legal and operational factors to ensure it meets the needs of members and RAAFA. RAAFA's legal advisers will assist in this important process.

The timeline for completion of the revised Constitution remains tight, but Division Council would like to present it to the 2011 Annual General Meeting for approval. Division Council looks forward to your support at that time.

Company

Previously the State President advised Division Council's decision to establish a Public Company Limited by Guarantee (PCLG) to better deliver our charitable services consistent with the objects of our Division Constitution. Space constraints precluded a detailed explanation but a PCLG is one of the structures that can be suitable for not-for-profit organisations. The features of a PCLG are:

- The company consists of members of the company rather than shareholders (RAAFA would be a member of the company).
- No shares are issued.
- Members of the company agree to provide a guarantee amount (usually \$10-\$100) to meet outstanding claims of creditors in the event the company is wound up.
- The company has a defined object or purpose which it must pursue.

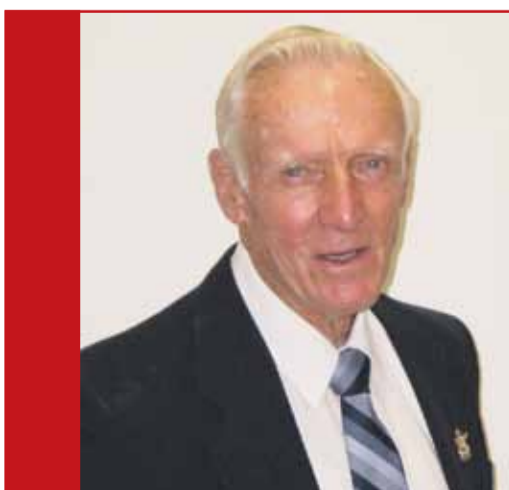
- Generally speaking, directors have the same duties and obligations as directors of a proprietary company, such as acting in the best interests of the company, and not misusing their position for personal benefit.

And in cases like ours where a PCLG has a charitable purpose:

- The company cannot distribute any operating surplus or assets to the members of the company. The assets and income must be applied for the charitable purposes detailed in the company's constitution.
- If the company is wound up, remaining assets must be distributed to another charitable organisation.

Division Council, in partnership with our legal advisers, is finalising the necessary constitution for the new PCLG, to be named RAAFA WA Ltd. RAAFA WA Ltd will exist only to meet the Division's objects, and great care is being taken to ensure the close alignment of the revised Division Constitution with the constitution of the PCLG.

While not wanting to labour the point, the proposed structure will consist of both RAAFA (WA Division) Inc. and RAAFA WA Ltd, of which RAAFA (WA Division) Inc. will be a member and will be represented on the company's board of directors.



Your Division Councillor

Mr Colin Mounsey, BA, BEd, Dip Ed Admin

COLIN Mounsey was elected to Division Council in October 2010, having been a member of the RAAF Association since 1945.

He has contributed in a range of roles in the Association including President of the City

of Perth Branch 1990-2000, and Secretary of that branch 2000-2010. He was Editor of Air Mail, the official publication of RAAFA (WA Division) Inc. from 1990-2010.

Colin served in the RAAF during World War II as a trainee wireless operator/navigator.

His subsequent career was in education, with appointments as a classroom teacher, college lecturer, headmaster, Superintendent of Education and Acting Regional Director of Education.

Mini-Mart success

By Ian Fraser

THE Aviation Museum Branch held its first Mini-Mart for the year in early April, which was ably supported by volunteers and helpers.

Shaded by the lea of the south wing of the museum, the Mini-Mart was graced by wonderful weather and therefore the prospects of good patron attendance. As it happened, Museum Manager John Park kept a swelling throng of would-be buyers at bay until the 9.00am opening time.

The Mini-Mart has attracted a strong core of buyers over the years and they were with us once again.

It is fair to state that the patronage started to peter mid-morning, but there were still newcomers buying goods right through to closing time, during which sausage sizzles, cups of tea and scones, jam and cream were consumed by patrons and volunteers alike.

Thanks are extended to all volunteers who helped. The Mini-Mart went like clockwork: a job well done!

The next Mini-Mart will be held either in October or November. Just a reminder; any unwanted goods can be dropped off at the museum at any time, during the week or weekends.

RAAF's 90th birthday

THE Royal Australian Air Force celebrated its 90th birthday this year and RAAFA took part by organising a commemoration ceremony at Kings Park on Saturday, 26 March 2011.

The ceremony was well attended by approximately 150 ex-service, invited guests and interested people.

RAAFA (WA Division) Inc. Branches proudly displayed their banners to stirring

background music provided by the AFA Melville Brass Band. Following inspection of the Flight by Wing Commander Russell Page (Senior ADF Officer, RAAF Base Pearce), invited guests and Branch representatives proceeded to lay floral tributes around the Flame of Remembrance.

Wing Commander Russell Page provided the address, outlining the 90 year history of the RAAF. He said, "...the job is arduous and challenging and requires perseverance.

But with every success comes confidence, determination and recognition that the Royal Australian Air Force is truly the best small Air Force in the world."

"Today we acknowledge the valiant efforts of our predecessors. We commemorate those who lost their lives protecting Australia and celebrate the contribution that our Air Force has made to the security of Australia through operations both here and overseas".



RAAF flight at the commemoration ceremony

Certificate of merit

JOAN O'Driscoll and her husband Frank joined the RAAF Association and became residents of RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs on 5 March 1999.

As an estate resident, and as a RAAFA member, Joan has demonstrated a strong sense of community and a volunteer spirit. She has been a pivotal member of the Estate Craft Group and over the years has participated in fundraising for the Bowling Club, AFA Club and other groups on the estate.

For more than 11 years Joan's pre-eminent contribution has been the leadership and coordination of the Table Ladies, who decorate the AFA Club restaurant for functions throughout the year. All involved make a valuable and widely appreciated contribution, but Joan's personal role has been both sustained and outstanding. The hallmarks of Joan's work are her attention to detail, cooperation, active involvement on the floor, appropriate formality and personal generosity.

As a volunteer Joan has brought pleasure and benefits to residents, members, visitors and external individuals and organisations using estate facilities. Through her sterling efforts Joan has enhanced the reputation of not only Meadow Springs AFA Club but also RAAF Association more generally. She has also saved RAAFA considerable money and been a positive influence and example in her community.

WA Division, without reservation, strongly recommended that Joan O'Driscoll be awarded a certificate of Merit. This was presented to Joan in March 2011.



10 years service

SHEILA Yardley's was presented with a Staff Service Award in recognition of her 10 years committed loyal service with RAAFA. She commenced employment with RAAFA in 2000 at Karri & Tuart Lodges, Merriwa. In her time with the organization she has worked in a variety of roles including therapy assistant, care manager, residential co-ordinator, and facility manager.

Sheila has been facility manager of Karri & Tuart Lodges, Merriwa for the last 7 years. This aged care facility provides care to 107 residents consisting of 48 high care and 59 low care ageing-in-place beds.

Sheila's high personal standards and clear pursuit of excellence has made a difference to residents, staff and other key stakeholders in the Merriwa Lodges, a fact which is often acknowledged through compliments sent directly to Head Office.

Recently Sheila was nominated for the Aged Care Association Australia Excellence in

Management: Aged Care Manager of the Year Awards, making it through to the finals. This was a superb effort as it included managers from all over Australia.

Sheila's goals are to continue developing her managerial and leadership skills.

On a personal note, Sheila is passionate about football and all things Collingwood, her husband, 2 children and 2 grandchildren.



Sheila Yardley

WAAAF 70th anniversary celebrations

By June Perry

A LETTER of thanks from former president of the Branch, Kath Adamson who is 95 years of age, sums up the thoughts of those who came to the Bull Creek, AFA Club on 14 March 2011 to celebrate the WAAAF's 70th Anniversary.

"Dear Friends,

The tumult and shouting dies – the captains and the kings depart. WOW!!! What a party – WAAAF surpassed itself in bringing this delightful day to bloom. There seemed to be so few to organise such a tremendous function. Every bit was so good. The presents, the prizes, the certificates, the souvenir mugs etc, etc. Never have so few done so much for so many! (with apologies to Winston).

It was one of the best parties I have ever attended and I know that my wartime mates were just as happy.

It was lovely to see the RAAF girls from Pearce present – though I wouldn't want to wear those hot dark trousers!

Thank you for the honour and privilege of letting me help cut the cake".

145 attended, 115 were WAAAF and sister wartime Services. The oldest WAAAF present was Phyl Worth aged 99, and the youngest 84. The extra numbers present were made up of four women currently serving in the RAAF, carers, essential service war workers (UK) who live on the AFME, five VIPs and two entertainers. Lorna Palmer came from Ringwood, Victoria, escorted by her two daughters, and regular visitor Norma Handmer made the trip from Canberra, ACT.

WAAAF Branch WA had been planning this occasion for over 12 months and had a special souvenir mug designed to be given to everyone attending the lunch. WAAAF Branches in other States



WAAAF ladies enjoying the celebrations

ordered quantities of the mugs and our Treasurer, Rose Howard, approached Qantas Airways Limited who most generously air freighted them free of charge.

On the day, luckily committee members were there early, as the first guest arrived at 9.15am. This WAAAF had left home early, caught a bus, then the train to Bull Creek and walked around from the station, not waiting for the bus to bring her to the estate gate!

The official program began at 11.30am with a special commemorative service conducted by the Reverend David Oxley, and a wreath to honour those who died while serving was laid by Branch President, Eileen Atherden.

Reverend John Bowyer said Grace before the lunch, then there was the usual traditional toast and an address by the State President of RAAFA, Graeme Bland.

Certificates are available from the internet to all those who served in WWII, and WAAAF Joan Sheridan had been very busy for weeks printing a Certificate of Service as a special surprise for all those attending. The actual printing, although time consuming, was simple but with most women now married, some more than once and using another surname, identifying everyone was not an easy task! Also, some were now using a different or modified Christian name! The book "Roll Call" that contains the names of every WAAAF who enlisted in WA was a

great help, but if the person had enlisted in another State they were harder to trace. Certificates are now being printed and posted for those who missed out.

WAAAF Branch President and Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this day such a success.

The only near disaster we had – which caused quite a little consternation – was when the time was getting near to cut the cake. There was no cake! Delivery had been promised at 9.30am on the day and nobody had noticed that it hadn't come. A frantic search for the right phone number ensued and the cake arrived just in time.

Colin Steer - Estate Manager, Erskine Grove

COLIN Steer is a born and bred West Australian.

After growing up through the 50's and 60's in the western suburbs Colin commenced work with the Commonwealth Government.

In 1974 he married his first and only wife Christine. They had two sons and the family has now grown to include two daughters-in-law and three beautiful grandchildren. In 1990 the family made the move to reside in Mandurah.

After nearly 30 years with the Commonwealth Government, Colin changed direction and took to breeding cattle on a property he and his wife purchased south of Pinjarra. At the same time he worked for the RAC assessing tourism properties for their Star ratings. This job took Colin to many interesting places throughout WA, NT and Queensland.

After 10 years of extensive travelling, it was time to spend more nights at home. Colin

then moved into working for a number of not-for-profit organisations which included both RAAFA Meadow Springs and Erskine Grove. He took over the reins at Erskine Grove in March 2011.

Outside of work Colin loves taking his runabout out in the Mandurah waters catching crabs and if really lucky a few fish. He is also a proud, loyal and passionate member of the Fremantle Football Club.



Colin Steer

The Padre's Piece



By Padre David

LAST year the United Reformed Church (URC) in the UK conducted a survey of music within its member churches. The URC is the union of Congregational, Presbyterian and Churches of Christ in England and Wales that was inaugurated in 1970. It's the successor to the Congregational Church in which I was ordained. Amongst the results of this survey was the fact that nearly 30% still maintained a choir or singing group; 42% had a pipe organ and 46% an electronic organ while 22% had instrumental

groups. The Report of the survey says "Music, in some form or other, is essential to the human spirit and to the communication of human beings with each other and with God. There are very few people who would claim that music never touched them in some way, though we vary greatly in the type of music we appreciate. Music plays an even more important role in the communication between people and God. When words are inadequate to express our understanding of God, music can lift us beyond words to experience God's presence more richly".

One of the lasting memories of my growing-up years is of my Yorkshire home village's "Sing". The choir of the parish church joined forces with the choirs of three village chapels, two Methodist and the Congregational chapel which I attended, for a public celebration of hymn singing. The combined choir used to be seated on an open tiered stand at the local cricket ground and with an amateur orchestra which included the musicians

of the Salvation Army, most of the village gathered on a Sunday afternoon in summer for this annual event. We always sang the great hymns like Cwm Rhonda 'Guide me O thou great Jehovah' and Diadem "All hail the power of Jesus' name" which has that marvelous bass line at the end of each verse. The finale was always the Halleluiah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah".

It was Carlisle who called music the "speech of angels" and Schumann said "Music is to me the perfect expression of the soul" and it was J.S.Bach who said "The aim and final reason of all good music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit".

There is a story told that about the time of the First World War, the foreign minister of Great Britain, Sir Edward Grey, spent an evening with some friends and listened with them to the music of Handel. The following week he sent one of his friends a letter in which he wrote,

"Europe is in the most terrifying struggle it has known in civilized times, and no one knows what will be left at the end, but the music of Handel will survive".

Paul writing to the Christians at Ephesus said "...be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5: 18b - 20).

I can think of many occasions when I have been upset, concerned about many things, tired and anxious, and music has helped me to a better frame of mind, I found new energy and I was thankful for it. I am not sure that my experience is universal but I think many of you might agree. I would affirm that for me such experiences illustrate a powerful connection between God and music.

Shalom

Meadow Springs Estate Ex-Servicewomen's Branch

By Dorothy McPhail

ON WEDNESDAY, 13 April, members of the Meadow Springs Estate Ex-servicewomen's Branch responded to a call from their President, Jean Newton, to front for a photo-shoot by photographers from local community newspapers. They happily linked arms at the direction of the photographer, and then sat around a table and regaled the reporter with tales of life and conditions at the various military establishments during WWII.

The Branch was launched in 2001 by resident Jean Newton, who became their first President, and has again undertaken that role this year. Although membership is now rather depleted, due to death, age, infirmity and changes in circumstances, members continue to enjoy the company and interests of the group. As well as a dedicated President, the Branch has an outstanding Secretary who keeps members informed of meetings and items of general interest.

Over the years the branch has contributed to many worthwhile causes, donating monies raised by various means.

This year celebrates the 70th year of the WAAAF in Australia.

Terrace apartments update



Illustration of apartment balcony

The tower crane will remain on site until it is more economical to use smaller mobile cranes to remove lower-level scaffolding.

Finishing trades are taking around two months to complete each floor. Already the ground and podium levels are virtually finished with only the carpets to be laid in those apartments.

When all the apartments on a floor are completed they are locked-up in readiness for final cleaning. Painting and carpeting of central corridors is left until all other work is complete and there is limited movement throughout the building.

According to BGC the building remains on track to be completed towards the end of the year.

More information

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 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.

Apartments named

IN LINE with the nomenclature of many other residential buildings at AFME, the official title for the terrace apartments has been named after an aircraft synonymous with the RAAF.

'Mirage Terraces' has been adopted by RAAFA's Division Council to be the official name of the new apartments.

Construction

It won't be long before our new apartment building emerges from behind its scaffolding and turns into the impressive piece of architecture that we've all been expecting.

The Zinalume roof above the top floor is now finished and covers an area around 2,200m², or half an acre in the old

money, while Colorbond roofs dress the areas above the entry points.

The glass curtain walls for the lobbies are expected to arrive by ship shortly along with the building's two elevators.

Scaffolding has started to be removed as external plastering, cladding and painting is completed.

Mirage and Orion names unveiled

Acknowledgement: Mike Mirkovic

FOR the very first terrace apartments, the opportunity was grasped by Division Council to align the building names with the generational change in the buildings themselves.

Mirage Terraces has been adopted by Division Council as the official name for the new apartments, with Orion Terraces tagged for future development.

Mirage

Mirage commonly means an optical illusion, something illusory or unreal, and is consistent with the very different retirement accommodation rising on the Air Force Memorial Estate. As an aircraft the RAAF Mirage represented a quantum change in capability and performance. The Mirage served the RAAF from 1964-1988 with more than 40 aircraft lost in training accidents.

The Mirage was the first supersonic aircraft to serve in the RAAF and resulted from a requirement to replace the Sabre as Australia's front-line fighter. 100 single seat Mirage IIIO fighter/fighter bombers and 16 two seat Mirage IIID operational trainers saw service in the RAAF.

The Mirage IIIO entered service in August, 1965 with 75 Squadron at Williamtown; 76 Squadron in September, 1966; 3 Squadron 1967; 77 Squadrons in 1969 and finally 79 Squadron in March, 1986. They were based at

Williamtown, Darwin and Butterworth and flew Air Defence and support for the Army with annual exercises such as Pitch Black series and Cope Thunder series with our Allies in the region.

The remarkable Mirage had a top speed of more than twice the speed of sound and even at sea level was capable of Mach 1.1 (1390km/h). At ferrying speeds it had a range of nearly 4,000km.

The Mirage IIIO/Ds were gradually replaced by the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18A/B Hornets from 1985 until the last official flight on 8 February, 1989. A small number are on display at RAAF Williamtown and the RAAF Museum at Point Cook.

Orion

The name of a constellation, named for a Greek legend famed as a hunter. Variants of the Orion have served the RAAF since 1969. The role of the current upgraded Orions has expanded beyond the original maritime surveillance with the aircraft supporting ground operations in Afghanistan. Orions represent leading edge technology, flexibility and contemporary employment, and so the name resonates with our early apartment towers.

The Orion aircraft was ordered originally in 1964 as a replacement for II Squadron's P-2E Neptunes in the Maritime Patrol/Anti-Submarine role.



Mirage fighter/bombers



Orion maritime patrol aircraft

Orions have been operated by 10 and 11 Squadrons, and have been further upgraded with new electronic, radar, ESM systems and weapons upgrades, and are now known as AP-3C Orions.

The Orion may work alone, or in conjunction with other aircraft or ships and is the RAAF's

most flown operational aircraft outside the transport fleet. It has been involved in the Gulf War and is currently flying anti-piracy patrols off Somalia and Kenya. Orions also assist in search and rescue missions around the Australian coast, by conducting search and survivor supply missions.

New exhibition 'Rats of Tobruk, 1941' honours 70th anniversary

Acknowledgement: Australian War Memorial

THE Australian War Memorial has brought together a unique collection of photos, artworks, personal mementoes and battlefield relics to mark the 70th anniversary of the famous Siege of Tobruk.

Several of the items, such as the uniform and medals of one of Australia's top commanders Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Morshead, are on public display for the first time.

Curated by the Memorial historian and WWII specialist Dr Karl James, the new exhibition Rats of Tobruk, 1941 pays tribute to a legendary episode in Australia's military history.

"The harbour town of Tobruk in north eastern Libya, became the site of one of the most bitterly fought campaigns of the Middle East and Mediterranean fronts and which saw Australia's army, navy and airmen in continuous action for most of 1941," said Dr James.

"The year began with a series of impressive British and Commonwealth successes against the Italians but a rapid German offensive under the command of then Lieutenant General Erwin Rommel quickly reversed these early victories. All that stopped the Germans' march on Egypt was the defiant garrison at Tobruk, comprised mostly of Australian troops.

"From April to December 1941 the Australians along with their British, Polish and other allies withstood tank attacks, artillery barrages, and daily bombings from the Italian and German forces. The besieged men lived in dug-outs, caves, and crevasses for months on end, enduring searing heat during the day, bitterly cold nights and hellish dust storms.

"The defenders of Tobruk did not surrender nor retreat. Their determination, bravery, and humour, combined with the aggressive tactics of their commanders, became a source

of inspiration during some of the war's darkest days. In so doing, they achieved lasting fame as the Rats of Tobruk.

"Among the items on exhibition is the German machine gun captured by Corporal Jack Edmondson VC in the action that saw him awarded posthumously Australia's first Victoria Cross of WWII. Alongside it is his grieving mother's scrapbook of memories and tributes. The exhibition also reveals the personal stories behind many of the 'Rats'.

"I hope that visitors to this exhibition will come away with a better understanding and appreciation of what their forebears experienced and how this generation of Australian service men and women upheld the legend of the ANZACs," said Dr James.

The exhibition is open until 16 November 2011.

The RAAF turns 90 – the war years

By Graeme Bland

ON THE 3rd of September 1939 Australia declared war on Germany after its invasion of Poland. The Royal Australian Air Force had 310 Officers, 3,179 Airmen and 246 aircraft of which only 164 were operational. The RAAF also at this time had 13 Squadrons on strength.

When war was declared the RAAF had members of No 10 Squadron in Britain taking delivery of Short Sunderland Flying Boats, which became the first Commonwealth squadron to go into active service.

WWII resulted in 2 RAAF VC awards, Flight Sergeant RH Middleton after a bomber raid over Italy and Flight Lieutenant WE Newton in the South West Pacific area with No 22 Squadron.

The war in Europe resulted in 6,636 RAAF personnel being killed operating against Germany and Italy, 3,486 of these served with Bomber Command. RAAF 460 Squadron alone lost 1,019 personnel. 3,912 RAAF airmen were lost in the war against Japan.

The RAAF formed 12 squadrons in Britain and 5 in the Middle East as well as providing aircrew for the Royal Air Force, the Royal Canadian Air Force and other foreign squadrons. 30 Australians flew in the Battle of Britain 15 of who died.

To meet the requirements of training 923 Aircrew every 4 weeks, the RAAF established 5 Initial Training Schools, 8 Flying Service Training Schools, 12 Elementary Flying Training Schools, 3 Air Navigation Schools, 2 Air Observer Schools, 3 Bombing and Gunnery Schools and 3 Wireless Operator-Air Gunner Schools.

The Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) was devised to overcome the shortage of Aircrew and began in Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Rhodesia, providing up to 50,000 Aircrew per year. The scheme concluded in June 1944.

In 1940 RAAF Squadrons Nos 1, 8 and 21 were sent to Malaya to relieve British Squadrons whilst No 3 Squadron was sent to the Middle East to be later joined by 450 Squadron and later again No 1 Air Ambulance Unit and Nos 451, 459 and 462 Squadrons.

During 1941, due to the drain on manpower for overseas service, the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) was formed. These women took on all sorts of trades and occupations from servicing aircraft and vehicles to clerical tasks. Over 27,200 women enlisted during WWII.

The RAAF Air Training Corps was formed in 1941 for boys aged 16 to 18 for pre-entry training to the RAAF. This Corps

resulted in 6,704 aircrew and 5,285 ground crew joining the RAAF.

Japan attacked Pearl Harbour and invaded the east coast of Malaya on 7 and 8 of December 1941. In March 1942 the RAAF increased from 34 squadrons to 72. Darwin was first attacked on 19 February 1942 and 23 aircraft were destroyed.

No 75 Squadron with 17 Kittyhawk aircraft transferred to Port Moresby on 19 March 1942 and defended Port Moresby against Japanese attack. For the next 44 days 75 Squadron continually kept up the raids destroying 35 enemy aircraft, losing 12 of their own pilots, with only three serviceable aircraft.

On 25 August 1942 Nos. 75 and 76 Squadron attacked the Japanese invasion force at Milne Bay, killing 28 enemy and scoring direct hits on the Nankai Maru. During the night the Japanese landed on the north shore of Milne Bay and next day the RAAF attacked landing barges with gunfire and bombs. The battle for Milne Bay went on until 5 September when the Japanese withdrew.

By November 1944 Beauforts of Nos 6, 8 and 100 Squadrons were flying strikes against the Japanese at Rabaul up to 9 days before the 5th Division landed at Jacquinot Bay.

No 10 Operational Group was formed, commanded by Group Captain Scherger, with its Headquarters in Moratai and consisted of 2 Fighter Wings, Nos 78 and 81 Wings, No 77 Attack Wing, 2 Airfield Construction Squadrons and later a new No 86 Attack Wing. They took part in air assaults of Tarakan, Labuan, Balikpapan, New Britain, Bogainville and New Guinea.

By 1945 the RAAF was being used in mopping up operations following General McArthur's island hopping strategies.

By 1944 the RAAF activities helped prepare occupied Europe for the planned Allied invasion by being part of a campaign bombing German gun fortifications, communications and potential obstacles for Allied Forces. 1,000 Bomber Command aircraft bombed coastal defences on the night of 5 June 1944. RAAF Squadrons were predominant in actions against German and Italian forces in Europe, North Africa, the Mediterranean, Middle East, Malta, Sicily, Italy and Burma. Nos 10 and 451 (Sunderland) Squadrons were busy in the sea lanes around Britain providing protection against U-Boats. Coastal Command lost 408 RAAF members.

On 7 May 1945 Germany committed to a complete and unconditional surrender of its Forces. The war in Europe had ended. RAAF bomber and transport aircraft and crews were now committed to mercy missions bringing prisoners-of-war out of Europe and dropping supplies to starving populations.

It was not until 14 August 1945, after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the instant losses of over 100,000 Japanese lives, that the Japanese Government finally surrendered. The formal surrender by Japan was signed on 2 September 1945.

From 19 September 1945 some 90 RAAF aircraft were engaged in repatriation flights bringing personnel back home to Australia. The world was a peace again.

During WWII the strength of the RAAF peaked at 20,000 Officers, 144,000 Airmen, 18,000 Airwomen, 3,037 operational aircraft and 2,808 training aircraft. RAAF personnel saw service throughout the world, through all seasons. This period saw aircraft become bigger, faster and more reliable. Bomb loads increased and the damage done culminated with the introduction of the Atom Bomb.

The Royal Australian Air Force had come of age.

Vietnam Veterans Day 18 August

A Vietnam Veteran

Author unknown

I watched him limp as he walked my way;
There was sadness in his eyes.
His clothes were ragged and wrinkled
And time seemed to have passed him by.

He seemed like he didn't belong here,
And yet, he had been a part
Of a time when the turmoil around us
Tugged violently at all of our hearts.

I tried to offer some comfort,
But he gave me a half-hearted grin.
He said, "No matter how hard I try,
I just can't seem to fit in."

He looked much older than his 50 years;
I thought back to a time long ago,
When he was a handsome young soldier.
Oh God! What if we'd only known.

If we had known of the outcome
Would things be different today?
Would we have turned our backs on the world
Or still sent our young men away?

The man said I shouldn't be worried,
And he hoped that he wouldn't offend,
But if he had it to do all over,
He'd do it all over again.

He'd be willing, again, to shoulder a gun
And put his fears and his hurt aside.
After all, he was defending his country.
His eyes glowed with the soldier's true pride.

The mental scars were more painful
When the soldiers came home from the war.
Our country considered them outcasts,
And cast them aside all the more.

It seems like it was just yesterday
When I spoke with this man who'd been brave.
Now with tears mixed with pride and yet sadness,
I kneel praying at my brother's grave.



Kittyhawk

ANZAC Day 2011



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

1. Amity Village 4. Cambrai Village
2. Perth city parade 5. Meadow Springs
3. Merriwa

Remember them

By Ruby Metcalf

It's many, many decades since our soldiers sailed away,
And thousands lie in foreign fields to this very day.
The nurses tended to them, when they were in pain.
Their care and selfless giving, with no thought of gain.
I can shut my eyes and see them anchored in the bay,
The band and people cheering as they sailed away.
The anchors raised and heavy hearts, watched them as they left,
And many wives and mothers felt lonely and bereft.
The years went on and World War Two and Vietnam raised its ugly head,
And many more of our brave men are overseas and dead.
Wars may come and wars may go and we will remember them.
The nurses, soldiers, sailors, airmen whom hatred tried to stem.
Why can't we learn a lesson, that love gives so much more,
The nurses in their uniforms, which they proudly wore.
The way they helped the wounded and the shell shocked men,
And if they were needed, would do it all again
Let's bow our heads and give thanks, to all who serve our nation.
From outback towns and city streets regardless of their station,
Who keep us safe and keep us well, with acts both brave and daring,
With their love and comradeship, their friendliness and caring.

No "FOOLS" at Amity Village on April "No Falls" Day

By Di van Clarke

ON FRIDAY, 1 April, twenty RAAFA Amity Village Albany residents participated in a walk around the village with a difference. Two teams headed in opposite directions to unravel the cryptic clues hoping to find the elusive orange envelopes which were hidden within the gardens amongst trees, gnomes and rocks. One of the clues - "Pass Eve's downfall", proved tricky as the one apple on that tree was no longer there!

The fun did not stop there. Three of the team members were armed with the "Stay on Your Feet" booklets, ready to help answer questions found in the envelopes. Questions included naming hazards inside and outside the home that could contribute to falls and side effects of medicines that need attention.

The answer - "two glasses of white wine", given to the question "name two factors that may affect your balance" earned extra points for good humour.

An enjoyable morning was had by all. One resident expressed her thanks for getting her out and about while having lots of fun.

The morning event was not complete without a well deserved cuppa and a delicious morning tea.

Spot prizes, freebies and information brochures were picked up from the displays sending out a clear message of No Falls for Amity Village residents.

1. Gisela Demarteau (front), Beryl and Bert O'Keefe
2. Margaret House, Barbara Hicks, Pel House and Zetta Brazier
3. Elli Wawrecki, Dot Pryor, Barbara Hicks, Margaret House and Jack Welton
4. Val Hanna, Gisela Demarteau, Molly Docking, Ruby Metcalf and Bert O'Keefe



1.



2.



3.



4.

Notes From Branches and Groups

Airfield Construction Squadrons' Branch

Val Lopaten

2011 ACS national reunion

Some 200 people attended this enjoyable event, held on the Gold Coast on 11 and 12 March. A list of members who attended is available.

It was reluctantly agreed at the National Conference by all State and Territory representatives that no more national events would be organised. Details of future State and NT Annual ACS Reunions are to be posted on Tom Wilson's ACS Flying Shovels website – interstate visitors are always welcome.

ACS WA annual reunion

It was decided at the last general meeting that a BBQ lunch be held on Thursday, 20 October 2011, Sails Area, AFA Club Meadow Springs. Catering will be provided by the AFA Club, details of costs and times to be advised.

ACS newsletter

The next Newsletter will issue in early June and will include nomination forms for next year's committee.

Vale

Brian "Bomber" Corkhill passed away on 24 April 2011. "Bomber" was our Motor Trimmer with No 5 ACS at Tindal and Learmonth.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 14 July, Committee Meeting, Flight Deck Meadow Spring, 10.00am. Please advise the Committee of any topics you intend to raise, so that it can be looked into in advance.

Thursday, 21 July, General Meeting, AFA Club Meadow Springs, 10.00am. Followed by AGM and luncheon.

Thursday, 21 July, Annual General Meeting, AFA Club Meadow Springs, 11.00am following General Meeting. Luncheon in the AFA Club will be arranged.

Thursday, 20 October, ACS WA Annual Reunion, BBQ Lunch, Sails Area, AFA Club Meadow Springs. Further details to be advised.

Australian Air Force Cadets Branch

Del Willmott

ANZAC Day

This years ceremony was the last public event for the popular retiring Governor of WA, Dr Ken Michael AC. It was a fine day and large numbers of the public, including many children, assembled along the way to wave flags and pay tribute to the servicemen and women who fought for and secured the Australia we enjoy today. We returned to the AFA Club at Bull Creek after the service to enjoy lunch.

ATC/AAFC biographies update

A number of biographies have already been received, but we would like more to increase the value of the project. The amount of detail provided is up to you. Submissions and enquires to Charles Page 9305 1582 or 0417 966 974.

Please give your support if you were a member of the ATC or AAFC.

Upcoming events

Saturday, 14 May, Shooting Day, Wanneroo Shooting Complex. Instruction and assistance available for novice shooters. Enquiries Graeme McGlashan 9330 5701.

Sunday, 19 June, Perth Mint Visit, followed by lunch at the Grosvenor Hotel. Enquiries and bookings to Graeme McGlashan 9330 5701 or bericem@tpg.com.au.

Aviation Museum Branch

Ian Fraser

The President and members thank all those who volunteered at the Branch's April Mini-Mart fundraiser.

Next Mini-Mart due October, date to be confirmed.

Meetings are held every second Thursday in the Ev Nicholls Room at 7pm prompt. All members welcome for lively discussion on fundraising, exchange of ideas and ongoing events at the museum. New members always welcome. See you in June!

Please note the fundraiser on 16 July has been postponed until further notice.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 9 June, Branch Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 7.00pm

Thursday, 14 July, Branch Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 7.00pm

Thursday, 11 August, Branch Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 7.00pm

City of Perth Branch

George Winnett

Our social events have gone off very well this year. There is a good spirit in the Branch. The next three meetings are general business meetings and are of importance to members so please try and be there. The meeting in June will be followed by our Widow's Luncheon, when we say to our Branch Widows – we do not forget.

Don't forget our Saints & Sinners themed Social Night to be held on Saturday, 16 July at 6.30pm. \$25 per person includes a buffet meal with music by Colin & Muriel. Tickets available from the bar or Judy on 9311 4401.

To all members, keep well and warm during the coming months.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 16 June, General Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 11.00am. Followed by our annual Widow's Lunch at the AFA Club at 12.15pm. This is an important date.

Saturday, 16 July, Saints & Sinners themed social night, Langley Hall, AFA Club, 6.30pm.

Thursday, 21 July, General Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 11.00am, followed by lunch in the AFA Club for those who wish.

Thursday, 18 August, AGM, Ev Nicholls Room, 11.00am. All branch office bearing positions will be declared vacant. Please consider offering your services to the Branch for 2011/12.

European Area Branch

Jo Naylor

I would urge as many members as possible to make the effort to attend our Branch meetings to discuss the changes that are taking place within the Association – in

particular the reasons for the formation of a public company limited by guarantee.

Upcoming events

Wednesday, 1 June, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 6 July, General Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 3 August, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 7 September, General Meeting, Ev Nicholls Room, 7.30pm.

WRAAF Branch

Judy Bland

Upcoming events

Tuesday, 7 June, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.00pm followed by a casserole meal (BYO casserole or sweet to share)

Tuesday, 5 July, AGM, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm, all positions will be declared vacant.

Friday, 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 July, Club Raffles AFA Club, 4.45pm to 6.15pm, volunteers needed.

Tuesday, 2 August, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm

National Reunion 2013 – dates have been set for 11 to 13 October.

Museum youth club visit to Pearce

By Alan Rye

THE Museum Youth Club was invited on an escorted tour of RAAF Base, Pearce. The visit took place on Friday, 29 April.

As our buses carried us around the various sites and across the runway, W/O Chinnery and LACW Ingrid Balac were there to describe what we were seeing.

It was an active and exciting day with aircraft roaring overhead and being shown through the training site and maintenance hangars.

At each location helpful Air Force members described their operations and answered our many questions. In the lecture rooms we were told of the training system and what aspiring would-be pilots should do.

The highlight of the day was being shown the PC9 turbo prop trainers, the Bae Hawk jets and a Bell 412 rescue helicopter and being allowed to climb up to peer inside and ask many questions of the crews.

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:

5 August for September issue

9 September for October/November issue

4 November for December/January 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
4.00pm to 5.00pm Happy Hour
6.00pm to 8.30pm Dinner

Friday
12noon to 1.30pm Lunch
5.00pm to 6.00pm Bistro/Theme
Night Happy Hour 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
11.30am to 2.00pm Bar - See winter
specials

Saturday and Sunday
Ring bar for details

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

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

Friday Winter Specials (June & July)

1st Friday – Fish and Chips night
2nd Friday – Dinner in Beaufort
Restaurant A la Carte Menu
3rd Friday – Bar until 5.00pm unless
Dinner booking
4th Friday – Roast night \$12.00 per
person

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 - 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



Jane Donald

banned from driving a forklift for the mental
wellbeing of the company truck drivers.

Jane also qualified and presented radio
programmes for 3 years at Curtin University
and in Fremantle. These were interesting times
which included broadcasting from a water
tower in East Fremantle and having to feature
I CD for a whole morning's broadcast,
because all the other music had been left
behind at someone's house.

She has co-authored a manuscript on Western
Australian placenames and co-produced a
series of oral histories as projects during
Perth's Bicentennial.

For about 20 years she has worked in various
State and Federal Government departments.

Currently Jane also volunteers at Save the
Children and is co-librarian at the library on
AFME Bull Creek.

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

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

Bingo, main hall

2nd Wednesday, eyes down 7.30pm

Southern village quilters

By Iris Bradbury

Our quilting group is based at the
RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs and
has been working for the past three
months making quilts for people in
need.

There seems to have been one tragedy
after another and all our members enjoy
helping others, so we started make
quilts for those in need. These include
quilts for the victims of the Australind,
Rolystone and surrounding district fires
and the flood victims in Victoria and
Queensland.

The smaller quilts we make are going
to cancer patients and the "eye spy"
quilts are for foster children. Children
are placed in foster care for a variety
of reasons and frequently have very
few possessions, being moved from
one family to another. We hope they
will get comfort from their own special
quilt which they can always take with
them wherever they go.

Our members enjoy making the quilts
and get great satisfaction in helping
others and I am sure the recipients also
enjoy their quilts.



L to R Iris Bradbury, Shirley Esser,
Angela Boast and Denise Smith

Our new editor

A new editor for Air Mail has been found!

FIRSTLY, we would like to take this
opportunity to thank Colin Mounsey for
all his advice and hard work over the last 20
years as editor of this publication. We wish
him well with his future endeavours and know
he won't be a stranger.

Now to introduce our new editor, Jane
Donald. Jane is a resident on AFME, Bull
Creek and has had a varied and colourful past.

Jane started out as a librarian in public
and educational libraries in Lancashire
and Northern Ireland UK, and went on to
become Acquisitions Officer for the City of
Melbourne in the early 70's.

Moving to Perth in 1974 with her young
family, Jane joined the fledgling oil and gas
exploration industry as an Invoice Clerk
in a supply warehouse, where she ensured
everything from workers' boots to \$M
drill bits were dispatched on time. She was



SOCIAL NIGHT

Hosted by City of Perth Branch
Saturday, 16 July 2011 at 6.30pm
Langley Hall, AFA Club, Bull Creek
\$25 per person includes Buffet style meal

Theme – Saints & Sinners
Come dressed as a saint or sinner, villain
or hero or as you are for a night of fun,
prizes and raffles.

Music by Colin & Muriel 

Tickets available from the bar or
Judy on 9311 4401

'Dear Welfare'

Dear Fiona

My frail aged Dad has been hospitalised, and is due to be discharged soon. Dad has lost some ability to function fully independently, so I will need to provide some level of ongoing care for him. This is a new role for me; do you have any information that may assist me?

Signed Where do I start



Dear Where do I start

Family members play an enormous role in the life and ongoing care of friends and/or family in need. Care can range from assistance with shopping, preparing meals or checking in 2-3 times a week, right through to 24 hour care.

Carers Australia (WA) has put together a "Prepare to Care" resource pack to assist in preparing for this caring role. The aim is to assist carers to feel better prepared for their role once their family member or friend is discharged. This information helps to reduce stress, burnout, and lower the rates of admission for the family member or friend.

The Prepare to Care pack contains:

- "Information I need to know" page
- Health and medicine diary
- Question & answer sheet
- Going home checklist
- "What does it all mean" information sheet
- Brochures on Carers WA

If you would like a FREE resource pack, contact the Hospital Program Coordinator, Stephanie Fewster on 1300 CARERS (1300 227 377).



Being silly never felt better!

Red Nose Day Friday, 24 June 2011

Acknowledgement: SIDS and Kids

RED Nose Day, one of Australia's favourite fundraisers, is calling on support from people across the nation this June.

Every day in Australia:

- Nine children under the age of four die suddenly and unexpectedly from a range of causes including sleeping accidents, drowning, motor vehicle accidents, sudden onset illness, SIDS and stillbirth.*
- An average of six families experience having a stillborn baby.**

The unexpected death of a baby or child has a devastating impact on the surrounding community.

For every baby or child that dies, more than sixty people may require counselling and support.***

Since Red Nose Day began in 1988, SIDS and Kids has supported thousands of families and friends affected by the death of a baby or child.

By purchasing a red nose in June you will help fund:

- a 24-hour bereavement support service
- research into areas such as SIDS and stillbirth, and

- community education to reduce incidents of SIDS and fatal sleeping accidents.

SIDS and Kids offers anyone affected by the death of a baby or child free nationwide bereavement services – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Every year SIDS and Kids receive over 10,000 calls for support and education, with many people also participating in peer support groups.

The Wiggles, Eamon Sullivan, Deb Thomas and a host of other ambassadors will wear a nose for Red Nose Day this June to raise awareness that the tragic experience of the death of a baby or child can happen to any family, anywhere.

Stick on a red nose, slap on a smile and be silly for a serious cause this June.

What? SIDS and Kids calls on all Australians to support Red Nose Day

When? For the month of June and on Red Nose Day – Friday, 24 June 2011

How? Buy a red nose or any Red Nose Day product, donate via the website or hold your own fundraising event.

Why? SIDS and Kids provides vital counselling and support to the many Australians affected by the unexpected death of a baby or child each year.

References:

* Data collection from Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, National Perinatal Statistics Unit and the Australian Bureau of Statistics

** National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU), 2008

*** Anecdotal evidence based on calls to the SIDS and Kids bereavement hotline. This includes family, relatives, friends, work colleagues, school community, playgroup mothers, emergency services staff, hospital staff, maternal & child health nurses, clergy etc.

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	Fiona Doak	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	Fiona Doak	9400 3778

