



AIR MAIL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

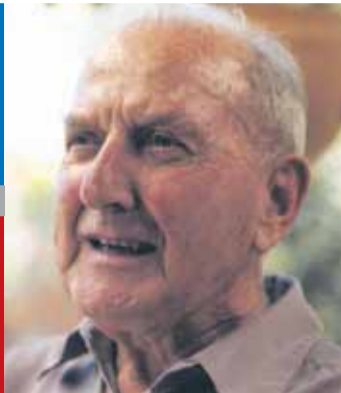
"Fostering the Spirit of Friendship and Perpetuating the Honour and Ideals of Her Majesty's Air Forces"

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> WHAT'S
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Vale Thomas Dean

The aged care facility at AFME, Dean Lodge, is a perpetual reminder of the great work Tom has done for the Association

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Mirage Terraces

The elegant new apartment building stands as a landmark at AFME and occupies a dream location for serious lawn bowlers

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Remembrance Day round up

Cambrai Village



Cambrai Village



Kings Park State War Memorial



RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs



RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs

Melville Memorial



RAAFA Estate Merriwa



RAAFA Estate Merriwa



AFME Bull Creek



Melville Memorial



Remembrance Sunday

By Maria Cassee

On a cold November Sunday morn, an old man sits a while
Looking through old photographs, he can't help but smile
They're all there, all the boys, with hair cut short and neat
Uniforms of khaki, strong black boots upon their feet.
They met as strangers but soon became like brothers to the end
Smiling at the camera, there could be no truer friends.
They all took the Queen's shilling, went off to fight the hun,
Soon learnt the pain of loss once the fighting had begun.
So many never made it home, lost on foreign shores
Many more were injured and would be the same no more.
The old man's eyes mist with tears as he remembers every face
Each of his fallen brothers and the killing which took place
He proudly dons his beret, his blazer and his tie
For today he will remember the ones who fell and died.
On his chest there is a poppy, a blaze of scarlet on the blue
He steps out into the cold, he has a duty he must do
Once at the cenotaph he stands amongst the ranks
Of those who marched to war and those who manned the tanks,
He bows his head in reverence, as the last post begins to play
And he wonders what will happen at the ending of his days
Will anyone remember? Will anybody care?
About the lads so far from home whose life was ended there?
I wish that I could tell him, that he should fear not
For this soldier and his brothers will NEVER be forgot
We owe a debt of gratitude that we can never pay
And this country WILL remember them,
on each Remembrance day.

Around the roundel



State President, Graeme Bland

By Graeme Bland

AGM outcome

OUR 17th Annual General Meeting was held on 29 October 2011. Having more than 350 people attending was a change from some previous years. You will find the

Annual Reports from myself, the CEO and the Manager Corporate Services, which were presented to the Meeting, on pages 4 and 5 of this issue of Air Mail.

Motion I for this AGM was not carried and Motion 2 was thus withdrawn. The total votes for Motion I (including postal votes) were 379 for the Motion and 532 against. Consequently, at RAAFA it is business as normal!

The two motions to be put to the AGM were of significant importance to all Members of the WA Division and I was extremely disappointed that of some 3,500 Division Members entitled to vote only a paltry 911 bothered. As I reported this time last year, this indifference is a concern for the future of the WA Division of RAAFA. However I do thank all who participated in the process for their interest in the future of their Association.

Constitution

All Members have a copy of the revised Division Constitution that was the subject of Motion 2 for the AGM but had to be withdrawn.

It would be useful if your concerns and/or comments relating to this Constitution be forwarded to myself or the State Secretary, in writing so they can be included in further deliberations. Obviously reference to the "Company" will be reviewed.

Division Council

As previously mentioned, the two Division Council positions were filled unopposed by the current incumbents. Division Council for 2011/2012, consists of:

State President – Graeme Bland
State Vice President – Ian Petkoff
State Secretary – Jim Carruthers

Division Councillors – Frank McCarthy, Colin Mounsey, Charles Geddes, Toni Stampalija, Tim Humphry and Karen O'Neill.

Christmas message

It is that time of year again when the festive season is nigh upon us. Judy and I both wish you all a joyous Christmas with your loved ones and may the new year be safe, bountiful and bring all you ask of it. If you are travelling over Christmas please take care but enjoy.

Remember 'Stay on your Feet'.

Japanese/POW friendship programme



Arthur and Eileen Gamble with the Consul-General of Japan, Kazuhiko Anzai

By Monica Goodlad

ON 30 October 1940 Arthur Raymond Gamble enlisted for military service at the Recruit Reception Depot, Claremont, WA, just five days after his 22nd birthday. From Claremont he was sent to Northam Army Camp where he was placed as a mechanic/transport driver.

While training as a despatch rider he was posted into the newly formed 2nd/4th Machinegun Battalion. Intensive infantry training was undertaken in Northam, Adelaide and Darwin before embarking for overseas service on 30 December 1941.

On 24 January 1942 Arthur disembarked at Singapore and was captured by the

Japanese at the fall of Singapore and interned at Changi Prison on 13 February 1942. From February 1942 until September 1945 Arthur was held in various POW and transit camps where he undertook direction from his Japanese guards. During this time

he worked for a period on the infamous Thai/Burma Railway where he formed part of a 'hammer and tap team'.

Arthur suffered from various ailments during this time including beri-beri, dysentery, rubella, malaria and tropical ulcers. He miraculously survived a bout of cholera thanks to the unselfish assistance of his 'good mates'.

On 5 September 1945 Arthur was recovered from the Japanese at Changi POW camp. He weighed approximately 40kgs. On 19 September he embarked on HMS Arawa and arrived in Sydney on 6 October. He sailed with other Western Australian defence personnel

via Melbourne to return to Fremantle where he was hospitalised for ten days. On 13 December 1945 Arthur received his official discharge from the Australian Army.

The Federal Government previously awarded a compensation package to POWs of the Japanese. Arthur was a recipient and used the money for a trip to Thailand with his family to visit sites along the railway.

Recently Arthur and Eileen's daughter Leonie successfully nominated him for the Japanese/POW Friendship programme. A number of Japanese POWs will be traveling to Japan with a nurse, interpreter and their carers at the end of November as guests of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They will spend 4 nights in Tokyo and 5 nights in Osaka taking part in official functions and visiting places of cultural and historical significance.

Arthur is looking forward to the trip and says he does not hold any bitterness towards the Japanese.

As part of this visit, the Deputy of Mission, Consul-General of Japan Kazuhiko Anzai visited Arthur and Eileen at their unit in RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs prior to the trip.

Meadow Springs Craft Fair

By Eileen Oxley

THE Meadow Springs Craft Fair was held on Sunday, 16 October, and although it was an exceptionally hot day, the crowds still came.

The quality of the craft on offer was magnificent and varied.

Unfortunately, the sales were down a little on previous years, probably due to the heat, but all who participated enjoyed themselves.



Joan O'Driscoll, the principal organiser amongst her handiwork

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For submission deadlines please see page 10

Vale Thomas Dean 10 April 1924 to 13 September 2011

By **Denny Hains**

TOM was born at East Cannington in WA and attended East Cannington Primary School. An excellent student, he won a scholarship to Perth Modern School where he sat for the Junior Certificate.

On leaving school at 15 he started at the WA Government Railways. At age 18 he enlisted in the RAAF as trainee aircrew and was classified as a pilot. He was posted to Cunderdin WA for EFTS then onto Geraldton for SFTS, where he qualified as a pilot and received his wings. Tom had various postings in Australia where he completed courses in high altitude and navigation, finally posted to East Sale to convert to Lockheed Venturas at I3 Squadron.

Before leaving he married Teddy who was a WAAAF. He was posted to Moratai by way of Pt Pirie, Alice Springs, Darwin and Gove.

I3 Squadron did anti-submarine and reconnaissance patrols and after the war I3

Squadron carried out such jobs as flying POWs from Singapore and returning with fresh food. On completion of these duties I3 Squadron was disbanded, the aircraft ending up at Richmond NSW.

Tom, along with Teddy returned by train to WA where he was discharged, returning to Civvy Street. Tom requested and received his old job at the railways district engineers in Northam. Wanting to keep flying, he applied for aviation jobs but was unsuccessful, so he applied for a job at the Commonwealth Bank. Here he was successful and after training at the William Street Bank in Perth, started in Northam where he stayed for 20 years.

After being given a block of land in Applecross by his uncle, Tom applied for and received a Commonwealth Bank loan and built their new family home.

By this stage his family had increased somewhat with the birth of 3 daughters, 2 in Northam and 1 at Applecross. Needing a

change in lifestyle, Tom decided on insurance and went to work with the Teachers Credit Society as an adviser where he stayed until retirement in 1984 at age 60.

Not content to be idle, Tom joined the Australia Pacific Branch of the WA Division in 1967 and held positions as Treasurer, Secretary and President. In the mid 1970s he was selected to be a member of the RAAFA WA Division Council and later became a member of the Veterans' Homes Board.

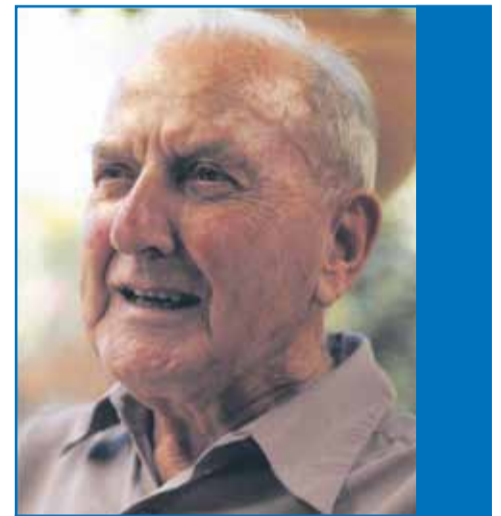
From 1978 to 1986 he was a member of the State Executive. After 15 years of active involvement in the affairs of the Division and the development of the Air Force Memorial Estate he was elected Junior Vice President in 1983, becoming Senior Vice President in 1985 and State President in 1987 until 1990.

During his time as the Division's senior officer he was involved in the final stages of the AFME development, major alterations of the Constitution and the realisation of the nursing

home project which upon completion was named Dean Lodge. A perpetual reminder to the great work Tom has done for the Association.

Tom leaves behind wife Teddy, 3 children and 11 grandchildren.

Rest in Peace Tom Dean, you are a legend.



Tom Dean

Korean War veterans return home from battlefield journey

Acknowledgement:
Department of Veterans' Affairs

A MISSION party, comprising eight members of the Korean War veteran community, has returned home after travelling to Korea to participate in commemorations marking the 60th anniversary of major engagements of the War.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, said it was a privilege to join the party and share the experience.

"The veterans represented all arms of service,

along with nurses, and also the son of an Australian soldier missing in action – all have unique and fascinating stories from their wartime experiences," he said.

"It was an honour to share what was a very personal and emotional journey for many of the participants. Visiting old battle grounds, the group said goodbye to mates and loved ones who were laid to rest in Korea.

"We also paid our respects to all those who served and died in Korea in a number of commemorative ceremonies in Busan, Kapyong, Maryang San, and Seoul.

The mission included a commemorative ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Korea, Busan, for the 43 Australian servicemen listed as missing in action in the Korean War, and a United Nations Day Ceremony with other nations.

One of the highlights of the trip included the dedication of the newly restored Australian Monument, first built in 1998.

"The Monument is a lasting tribute to all Australians who served in the Korean War and stands alongside other memorials dedicated to the thousands of Commonwealth Allies and United Nations forces who paid the ultimate sacrifice," Mr Snowdon said.

More than 17,000 Australians served in the Korean War and post-Armistice until 1957. Of those, 340 lost their lives during the war and 18 more died in the post-Armistice period. More than 1,200 were wounded, 30 became prisoners of war and 43 were listed as missing in action.

The Korean War was a significant event in Australia's military history – marking the first collective military action by the United Nations, an organisation of which Australia had been a founding member.

"Australian sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses won international respect for their courage, endurance and professional skills in Korea," he said.



Mike Skennar delivers a reading at the Australian Monument Dedication, at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan in Korea

RAAFA Welfare

CHRISTMAS holidays are quickly approaching!

All Welfare Offices will be closed during the Christmas long weekend - Friday 23 December until Tuesday 27 December.

As most community services also close over this time, it may be wise to check now with your current Service Provider about what support will be available over the holiday period.

The Welfare Service is not an emergency service. Below are some telephone contacts that may be helpful to keep by the telephone.

Useful numbers

- Emergency On an Estate - Members residing on any RAAFA Estate please use the in house emergency system
- Emergency Off Estates - Members residing Off the Estate please dial 000
- Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre - 1800 052 222 or 9204 7801, assistance for those caring for another
- Crisis Care - 1800 199 008, 24 hour crisis service
- Health Direct - 1800 022 222, free 24 hour Health Advice Line
- LifeLine - 13 11 14, 24 hour Counselling Service
- Family Helpline - 1800 643 000, 24 hour help line

We wish all Members and their Families, a joyous and safe holiday season from your Welfare Officers Maureen, Betty, Fiona, Di & Helen



State President's Report



State President, Graeme Bland

By Graeme Bland

DIVISION Councillors, CEO and Members of RAAFA. I have the pleasure of presenting the State President's report for year 2010/2011.

Division Council

Firstly may I introduce the Division Councillors present today: State Vice President Ian Petkoff, State Secretary Jim Carruthers, Councillors Karen O'Neill, Colin Mounsey, Frank McCarthy, Charles Geddes and Tim Humphry. Toni Stampalija is unfortunately away on business.

During this past year Division Council has continued reviewing our Constitution to bring it up to date, incorporate regulatory changes and produce a governing document to take the Division well into the future.

Membership

Our Division membership as at 30 June 2011 stood at 3,396 ordinary, 1,277 social, and 106 other, being a total of 4,779. Our total at 30 June 2010 was 4,988.

Of concern is the inevitable reduction in our membership which is a concern nation-wide for all ex-Service Organizations. We keep coming across the excuse that "Someone Else" can do it but I cannot find this faceless person who has no address. I have attended many Branch meetings and it is disturbing to see Branches, which have large numbers on their register, invariably only have less than twenty persons actively participating and those active members are approaching burnout. How do we turn this around? There's one challenge for next and future years.

Division Awards

One of the highlights of being State President is being the person who gets to present Achievement Awards to nominated and eligible volunteers. Both the Association and the Division are appreciative of the time and devotion our volunteers put into their many and varied tasks. On behalf of the WA Division I sincerely thank our quiet achievers who just get on with it without fuss.

Division Council vacancies

This year we had two vacancies for Division Council, being that of State Secretary and one Division Councillor. We received 2 nominations and an expression of interest which unfortunately we could not accept due to our Constitution's 60% proviso ruling for Division Council.

Fortunately, Jim Carruthers and Charles Geddes re-nominated to fill the vacancies unopposed. I should mention that this proviso has been removed from the revised Constitution draft.

National Council

This year National Council designed Certificates of Membership for persons who have cumulative years of being RAAFA Members for 15, 25, 35, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65 years respectively. We have had a few Certificates awarded already so if you consider yourself eligible write to the State Secretary. National Council joined the Alliance of Defence Service Organizations (ADSO) to present a united front of Defence issues of mutual concern to serving and former Defence members. Main issues of late have been the 'Fair Go Campaign', establishment of the Military Court of Australia and the various Military Superannuation issues.

Committee for an Open and Responsible RAAFAWA (CORR)

Late in 2010 a highly secretive person or group who went by the title of 'CORR' appeared on the scene expounding their theories on how the Division should be run but only signing off as "a concerned RAAFA Member". By 2011 CORR started to make absolute false statements targeting many, not all, Estate residents. Not content with their falsehoods and innuendoes CORR then started targeting individuals of Senior Management staff and Division Council making outlandish statements and character assassinations still not having the fortitude to identify themselves except with varying combinations of initials. It was disgusting to think that RAAFA Members or whoever CORR are, had to stoop so low as to target many of our vulnerable widows, living alone and not understanding what CORR was putting forward but

being scared of their future as residents on RAAFA Estates.

CORR created a major distraction to Division Council and senior Management resulting in a lot of wasteful time and effort in assuring residents, members and the community at large that the issues raised by CORR were not based on fact and in most cases contrary to various regulatory Acts that the Division has to comply with.

CORR also caused much expense to the Division for legal advice, investigations into the source of CORR and man hours better spent on our charitable operations.

Investigations into CORR are still ongoing but how does such an unethical group operate so secretly without so many fellow members being aware of who CORR really is?

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my fellow Division Councillors and our management group for the efforts they have made trying to bring the Division into the 21st century. Further I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Hugh Zimmerman, the Independent Member of our Audit Committee. I also thank members and Branches for their support this year and for what will be needed in the future. I also take this opportunity to publically thank my wife Judy for her massive patience, support and understanding, which has been second to none.

Irrespective of the outcomes of today's meeting the Division Council and management group have a challenging year ahead.

State Treasurer's Report

By Kim Pascoe

STATE President, Mr Graeme Bland, members of Division Council and members of the Division, good morning. It is my pleasure to present the Treasurer's report for the year 2010/2011.

Overall

The increase in Total Equity this year of \$711K is represented by an increase of \$2.26M in revenue from ordinary activities and an increase in expenses from ordinary activities of \$3.6M. Subsidies were up but offset by wages increasing by \$3.38M.

In regard to the Balance Sheet, Current Assets decreased by \$10.6M and Non-Current Assets increased by \$17M. Our Total Assets now stands at \$226.9M. Against that amount our Total Liabilities

stood at \$199.5M (of which \$189M relates to Bonds and unit refund liability). This resulted in our Net Assets standing at \$27.4M.

On a Cost Centre breakdown the results including capital income were:

Retirement Villages (ILUs, Clubs & Estate Facilities): Collectively made a loss of \$368K. However, after removing depreciation and capital retentions there are some villages that made a small operating profit and residents can determine how to treat the surplus in accordance with the Retirement Villages Code.

Aged Care Facilities: Aged Care Facilities collectively made \$1.25M. Subsidy income increasing to \$17.5M (up \$1.7M on 09/10). This increase helped to offset new enterprise bargaining agreements that were

negotiated with staff and negatively affected the bottom lines of all facilities.

Other Cost Centres: Home Care cost centre made a profit of \$177K. The Museum prior to depreciation was \$23.4K. The Museum also obtained a \$10K capital income deposit on the sale of an aeroplane during the year.

Cash Position: Our Cash Assets decreased by \$10.4M because we spent \$22.2M on capital development. As Mirage Terraces payments cease in November and income flows in from sales our cash holdings will remain strong.

The future

- Orion Terraces is in marketing phase at Bull Creek.
- New Aged Care Facility is in the planning phase at Bull Creek.

Audit report

The auditors have reported no items that may affect this result and are generally satisfied with RAAFA's accounting processes.

As can be seen from the above, and information from our CEO and State President, the future of RAAFA is looking positive in growth and all managers continue the hard work of ensuring the residents and members funds are used wisely.

In closing I wish to thank all staff and the Division Council Members for their support and assistance over the year.

Mr Chairman that concludes the report and I thank members for their attention.





Chief Executive Officer's Report



CEO, Gerry Warner

By **Gerry Warner**

STATE President, Division Councillors, members of RAAFA, I am pleased to present the Chief Executives Officer's Report for the year ended 30 June 2011.

Financial results

The Manager Corporate Services will present the Annual Financial Report, but some preliminary comments are appropriate. RAAFA produced a pleasing result for the year with a \$711K profit, in very testing circumstances. This profit was predominantly due to an enormous effort to maximise subsidy returns in the Aged Care Facilities.

Our cash holdings have been reduced during the year after the expenditure of \$23M on buildings and significant capital projects. With the first apartment tower due for completion in November 2011 we should see a significant increase of funds as new residents move in.

Our retirement villages have performed better than the original budgets set for the year. Four estates recorded a budget surplus on their operating account after adjustments, namely AFME Bull Creek, Cambrai Village, Erskine Grove, and RAAFA Amity Village Albany. The surplus will be returned for the benefit of the residents in accordance with the Retirement Villages Code.

I now report on a number of matters of significance. Although reporting on the year ended 30 June 2011, I reflect today's situation to avoid confusion where appropriate.

McIntosh and Swetman

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship and the Swetman Aviation Education Fellowship were awarded to deserving candidates. The 2011 McIntosh was awarded to Ashlee Dent who is studying in her second year for a Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Notre Dame University. Ashlee's great grandfather, Flight Lieutenant Charles Frederick Dent was in the RAAF during WWII having enlisted in Perth in 1940. Philip French who is completing the Year 12 Aviation Program at Kent Street Senior High School was awarded the 2011 Swetman Fellowship.

Aged care

The aged care facilities have maintained reasonable occupancy levels throughout the year with some softening of demand becoming evident later in the year in McNamara Lodge and Vivian Bullwinkel Lodge. Enterprise Agreements for Residential Care and Nursing Staff were successfully negotiated during the year and I am pleased to report that this resulted in more competitive remuneration levels for our staff. There has been a reduction in staff turnover from the previous year which has been pleasing to note.

Plans are now underway to redevelop the Bull Creek Aged Care Facilities subject to approval by Division Council. This redevelopment would involve demolition of Dean Lodge as it currently stands to make way for a multistorey development that would replace both Dean and Gordon Lodges. It is anticipated that if approved, this development would commence around July 2012. Management is currently working with residents and families in Dean Lodge to support them in any relocation activities that may become necessary closer to the time.

All accreditation requirements have been met throughout the year and resident satisfaction with services has been pleasing.

AFA Care has continued to deliver services to the veteran and private community through Veteran's Home Care and Community Nursing Services contracts. The Veterans Home Care contract will cease on 30 November 2011. However, AFA Care will continue to deliver Veterans community nursing in addition to private community and nursing services.

During the reporting year RAAFA maintained appropriate interest in the Productivity Commission inquiry and report, "Caring For Older Australians". Together with other aged care providers we await the Government's response, direction and changes.

Aviation Heritage Museum

The Aviation Heritage Museum operated normally throughout the year and again produced an operating profit. I wish to acknowledge the important part played by our dedicated and professional volunteers who contributed some 26,747 hours in support of the Museum. Pleasingly, excellent volunteer levels were maintained during the year.

The Museum continued the development and refinement of its displays and internal processes, and progressed a variety of internal and external projects that have improved the efficiency, aesthetics, safety and security of the Museum. The Museum continues to experience difficulties with its accounting software and more appropriate alternative products will be considered.

Acquisition of an ex-ADF Iroquois helicopter, the iconic aircraft of the Vietnam War, remains a very high priority.

Grants

RAAFA received several grants during 2010/2011 and I gratefully acknowledge them this morning - a Government of Western Australia ANZAC Day Trust grant for \$12,000 providing a range of welfare and assistance to members and residents, a Department of Veterans' Affairs BEST grant for \$7,085, a Lotterywest grant of \$17,345 for a sound system for the Cambrai Village Club, a City of Wanneroo grant of \$750 for an ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast at Cambrai Village and a City of Melville grant of \$1,000 for the printing of Museum brochures.

Estates

RAAFA estates provide members with retirement living facilities and services. There are six estates and over 1,300 retirement living units which are home to nearly 1,900 resident members.

Occupancy levels have been maintained across the estates but there has been a slight increase in the vacancy rates because of delays caused by the slowdown in the real estate market. RAAFA unit selling prices have been kept at a sustainable level and are considered to be relatively affordable at \$140,000 (1-bed unit) to \$319,000 (3-bed unit).

There are four licensed AFA Clubs that provide hospitality services to residents and members, provide services to our aged care facilities and they also host a variety of functions.

Last year I referred to a review of the club services, prices and costs. This review was necessary because the clubs form part of the common facilities on the estates with consequent accountability requirements. I am pleased to report there has been a significant improvement in the operations and finances of the clubs.

Redevelopment of AFME Bull Creek

The redevelopment is progressing in accordance with the approved Master Plan. The first apartment building, Mirage Terraces, will be completed, on time and on-budget, at the end of next month. This building comprises 66 retirement apartments and two short stay / motel type units. All but a few of the apartments were pre-sold and we look forward to welcoming the incoming residents in the coming months.

The second apartment building, Orion Terraces, will be situated on the western side of the AFA Club and will comprise 40 retirement apartments, three short stay (motel) units, and common facilities for the estate (including medical rooms, hair salon, library, meeting rooms and estate offices). RAAFA members will be offered

the opportunity to reserve these apartments next month and construction is expected to commence next year.

There are various other capital works currently in progress and these include an upgrade of the Memorial Wall and garden areas, and a new car park for the Museum. I take this opportunity to thank the residents and many others for their cooperation and patience during the redevelopment of Air Force Memorial Estate.

Council rates

The issuance of rate notices to retirement villages that are operated by Not-For-Profit/Charitable organisations (such as RAAFA) has become more prominent in recent years.

Three of the RAAFA estates were issued with rate notices and RAAFA lodged objections with the relevant local government councils. I am pleased to report that the rates objection for AFME has been successful and the general council rate notices have been withdrawn by City of Melville.

Unfortunately the objections are still unresolved for the Mandurah estates because City of Mandurah has not yet given an answer for Erskine Grove, and has indicated that RAAFA has no good cause to object to the rates notice for Meadow Springs.

There are complex legal issues involved and the RAAFA solicitors have been instructed to demand that the objections be dealt with as a matter of urgency given the extraordinary delays.

Statutory review of retirement villages legislation

The Final Report was tabled in the State Parliament in November last year but there have been no substantive announcements from the Minister for Commerce regarding the future regulation of the retirement village industry. Until this occurs, it is difficult to plan ahead for any changes without knowing the Government's response to the specific recommendations in the report.

Representation

Throughout the year I represented RAAFA on the Department of Veterans' Affairs WA Consultative Forum, and also served as one of the three Trustees of the WA Government ANZAC Day Trust.

Finally, I sincerely thank our dedicated volunteers, and our committed and professional RAAFA members of staff, for their sterling service throughout a challenging, busy but successful year. We ask much of them as they continue to pursue RAAFA's vision for the benefit of our members and residents - "A financially secure, adaptable organisation growing on a broad base of caring and supportive services".

The RAAF turns 90 (part 5)

By Graeme Bland

AFTER Korea it wasn't long before the RAAF was on the move.

Antarctic

In 1956 the Antarctic Flight was formed for aerial survey duties. But the Flight's Beaver and Dakota aircraft were destroyed by a storm in 1961 and the Flight was disbanded.

USA

Also in 1956 five Canberra aircraft made a goodwill visit to the United States of America for Armed Forces Day celebrations in Washington D.C. The aircraft left on 12 May, took three days staging across the Pacific, and another three days flying across America arriving on 18 May. The Canberras participated in the celebrations on 19 May and returned to Australia by 6 June.

Malaya/Malaysia

In 1958 No 1 Squadron was withdrawn from Singapore. No 2 Squadron, equipped with Canberra bombers was sent to RAAF Butterworth, together with No's 3 and 77 Sabre Fighter Squadrons. They resumed activities against Malayan terrorists. These squadrons were actively involved in the Indonesian Confrontation against Malaysia between 1963 to 1966. During this period No 3 Squadron sent detachments to Singapore and No 77 Squadron sent a detachment to Labuan for combat patrol duties. RAAF Butterworth Units were placed on constant operational alert.

No 2 Squadron was transferred to the Vietnam conflict in 1967. No 3 Squadron was withdrawn in 1967 but returned in 1968 after being re-equipped with Mirage aircraft. No 77 Squadron was withdrawn in 1969 and was replaced by No 75 Squadron.

Both No's 3 and 75 Squadrons were withdrawn by 1986 and a reformed No 79 Squadron replaced them until 1988.

Thailand

The Australian Government made a commitment in 1962 to help protect the South East Thai border, against Communist activities within Laos and Cambodia. No 79 Squadron, with eight Sabre aircraft, was active here until 1968 when the squadron was withdrawn when Ubon became overcrowded with aircraft. The Squadron was affectionately known as 'teeny weeny airlines' due to its fleet of eight aircraft compared to the near 100 Phantom F-4's of the USAF. 79 Squadron personnel left a legacy of civil aid programs carried out in nearby areas of the Base.

Vietnam

In June 1964, six Caribou aircraft on delivery from Canada to Australia were diverted from RAAF Butterworth to Vietnam to form RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam. The Flight was later renamed 35 Squadron.

The Squadron was known as 'Wallaby Airlines' and over eight years it carried over 700,000 passengers and 41,000 tonnes of freight. The squadron flew 79,739 sorties, clocking up 47,000 flying hours but during this time three Caribous were damaged beyond repair.

In June 1966 No 9 Squadron and its Iroquois helicopters arrived and stayed for over five years, usually operating under enemy fire in their role of close support of ground troops and medivacs and again enhancing the respect of RAAF squadrons and personnel. The RAAF lost seven Iroquois in Vietnam.

No 2 Squadron arrived with its Canberra bombers in 1967 and proved very effective with low level bombing techniques. The RAAF lost two aircrew and two Canberra aircraft. Two other aircrew remained MIA until 2010. During its time in Vietnam No 2 Squadron flew 11,963 operational sorties and dropped 76,389 bombs (750 pounds each). No 2 Squadron was withdrawn in March 1971 and was the highest decorated RAAF Squadron, being awarded a U.S. Presidential Unit Citation, a Republic of

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and a USAF Outstanding Unit Commendation.

Thirty one RAAF pilots also flew with the USAF as Forward Air Controllers pin pointing hidden targets at low level for other attacking aircraft.

No's 36 and 37 Squadrons' Hercules aircraft provided the supply route from Australia to Vietnam and were invaluable in their medivac role bringing home Australian wounded. Over 3,160 patients of various services were medivac'd out of Vietnam.

More than 4,400 RAAF personnel served in the Vietnam War.

The Gulf War

RAAF C-130 aircraft provided supply support to the Royal Australian Navy when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Afghanistan

The RAAF deployed our F/A-18 Hornets to Diego-Garcia in 2001 to provide air defence for the USAF base there. In March 2002 two B-707 air-to-air refueling aircraft were deployed to Manus Base Kyrgyzstan. By September 2002 they had transferred 27,000 tonnes of fuel during over 800 air-to-air refuellings. The RAAF provided surveillance using two P-3C Orions patrolling the North Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Over seven years the RAAF flew more than 16,500 hours and completed more than 1,750 missions.

In 2005 the RAAF assumed the manning of the Kandahar Control and Reporting Centre with a 75 person strong detachment. Logistical support for Afghanistan operations has been handled by RAAF C-130 and C-17 Transport aircraft. RAAF Medical teams have been based at Tarin Kowt.

Iraq

The RAAF role in Operation Bastille (to disarm Iraq in 2003), began with C-130 aircraft ferrying personnel and equipment to the Middle East. Eventually three C-130's

were based there for airlift operations in the area.

In March 2003 fourteen Hornet aircraft of No 75 Squadron were deployed initially (as part of Operation Falconer) to protect air-to-air refueling operations but were soon retasked to air-to-ground attacks against Iraqi troops and facilities.

In July 2003, at the start of Operation Catalyst, RAAF Air Traffic Controllers were used to reopen Baghdad International Airport.

Peacekeeping

Over many years the RAAF, mainly using Caribou and Iroquois, has been involved in many peacekeeping locations throughout the world, such as the border areas between India/Pakistan, Sinai Desert, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, Solomon Islands and supporting the Pacific Islands Regiment from Port Moresby.

Humanitarian

Probably the RAAF's biggest test was Cyclone Tracy which wiped out the city of Darwin. No 36 Squadron flew 554 hours carrying 1.3 million tonnes of freight and No 37 Squadron flew 700 hours carrying 4,400 passengers and 590 tonnes of equipment. Since then the RAAF has responded to many regional disasters including floods, fires, earthquakes and tsunamis. RAAF aircraft have also been used to evacuate populations caught up in civil unrest in places such as East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

The present and future

The RAAF will continue to participate in combat, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. Its training roles are second-to-none and with the availability of modern aircraft and state of the art weaponry the RAAF will continue to be a fine-tuned, mobile and efficient air force maintaining the respect of the world's armed forces.



Sabres in formation



C17 Globemaster III

Mirage Terraces residents move in



The Mirage Terraces location is a dream come true for serious lawn bowlers

EXCITED residents of Mirage Terraces have started moving into their sparkling new apartments on Air Force Memorial Estate.

For many this has been a long time coming having made the commitment and paid their deposits in July 2009.

The two-year construction period started in late 2009 and now the elegant building stands as a landmark adjacent to the bowling greens on the Estate.

Through December and early 2012 the Estate administration team will work with new residents to plan and facilitate the move into their new homes to avoid the inevitable bottlenecks that would arise if too many removal trucks arrived on the same days.

Before the big move, Estate staff give apartment residents a personalised briefing about their apartment, the Mirage Terraces building and life on AFME.

Booklets are provided to new residents

covering dozens of topics about the Estate, its facilities and resident services, social life and useful information about day-to-day life in Mirage Terraces.

These briefings and publications are just part of RAAFA's commitment to making the transition to life on AFME as easy and enjoyable as possible.

Of the 66 apartments in Mirage Terraces only a few remain available.

If you think living in Mirage Terraces could be a good option for you please contact Maureen Winton on 9311 4488 to view one of the available apartments.

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

You can also get more information online at www.raafawa.org.au where you'll find a link to "terrace apartments", which is now named Mirage Terraces.

First bowl of the season

By **Kevin Thomson**

RAAFA State Vice President, Ian Petkoff delivered the first bowl on Saturday, 10 September to officially open the 2011/2012 Bowling Season and the 39th year of the Bull Creek AFA Bowling Club.

Ian and his wife Fiona, together with life member George Anning, members and guests enjoyed a luncheon in Langley Hall where they were welcomed by Branch President Jim Derries. Life Member David McCrae and wife Gwen, unfortunately were unable to attend.

The first bowl was followed by the traditional "spider" with members delivering bowls from the four sides of the green, towards the spider located in the center. Prizes were awarded to the bowl nearest the spider and four other lucky locations.

Members participated in an 11 end drawn game to compete for the Presidents Cup. The winning team was skippered by R Boase, 3rd J Kelly, 2nd H Lindsay, Lead R Addison. Other novelty prizes were awarded to lucky teams.

The bowling club has been in existence for 39 years. The first President was Ron Carter, Secretary Norma Carter and Pam Day was the Treasurer. In the beginning

of the estate there was only one bowling green. Due to the increasing membership from estate residents and outside bowlers, it was necessary to add "B" green. The work was done by the dedication and hard work of club members and much of the materials for the greens and surrounds were "scrounged" from various sources.

The addition of "C" and "D" greens increased the green number to four. David McCrae, who was the green manager for 16 years, spoke of the time when he and 2 other members sunk a bore to provide water for the greens. All the work was done by hand.

In 2005 RAAFA undertook a major expansion programme necessitating the removal of all four greens. These were to be replaced by 2 carpeted greens with a 133 bay car park located under the greens.

The Bowling Club was forced to make a decision about the future of the Bowling Club during construction. Where were they to go? Negotiations proceeded with the Riverton/Rossmoyne Bowling Club and they offered to be the "host club" allowing our membership to use their club.

This proved most beneficial to both clubs allowing us to stay together while they benefited by an increase in membership fees.

After 20 months at Riverton/Rossmoyne, the club returned to the Bull Creek AFME Estate to continue their association with RAAFA.

Club membership has declined over the years mainly due to natural attrition as members get older. The club is currently in a membership drive and the new apartment block nearing completion has resulted in many enquiries to join.

Our two magnificent carpeted greens with undercover parking and first class club facilities, makes the Bull Creek AFA

Bowling Club the envy of other Bowling Clubs in the state.

Enquiries regarding membership can be made by contacting the Bowling Club on 9311 4465 or Club President on 9332 7813. Coaching is provided free of charge for all new members. Experienced bowlers are always welcome.

We look forward to a successful pennant season and a friendly social bowling competition.



State Vice President, Ian Petkoff delivering the first bowl of the season

The Padre's Piece



By Padre David

THIS issue of my Padre's Piece is a very special one to me. It is just 10 years ago – December 2001 - that my first "Piece" was published in Air Mail in that old duplicated A4 format. Thank You for the occasions when you have contacted me with a word of appreciation, and Thank You that no one has ever complained and demanded that the Padre's scribbles be consigned to the waste paper basket!

It's a very noticeable development over the last 10 to 15 years that whenever the Church or religion becomes a news item (whether it is something like the sexual abuse of children in church schools or care homes or something like the Archbishop's Easter message) there will always be some correspondent who will attack not only the Church and Christians but who will also assert that God and religion have also been discredited, and they will quote every

instance they can find where God and religion have been associated with cruelty and fanaticism. Our atheist skeptic will make great play of the fact that we live and find meaning in the physical world and not in metaphysical ideas. He will say that God is a meaningless word.

Martin Huber was a Jewish religious thinker who died in 1965. Born in Austria he escaped Nazism in 1938 and became a Professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His great contribution to religious thinking was to emphasise that relationships are at the heart of religious experience – one person's relationship with another and a person's relationship with God. In something he wrote he asked the same question as our modern atheist. "Why continue to use the name of God – no word has been so soiled and mutilated. We cannot cleanse the word and we cannot make it whole. But defiled and mutilated as it is, we can raise it from the ground and set over it 'an hour of care'".

In other words we should nevertheless care for the words that express our faith; and for me the mystery of life as I experience it requires some concept, some name or God. That's what I have tried to share with you over these 10 years. Life as I look at it and reflect on it holds many glimpses of God.

Let me suggest three of these glimpses to

you out of modern Australian experience:

Firstly: Have you ever heard young people use the phrase "It's awesome"? They have been sharing some sort of experience that has made a great impression on them, and there are similar sorts of experiences we have as we sense the dramatic, the wonderful, the awesome – the sky on a clear night or the pounding of surf at the beach. Or it may be a very human experience – the clutching finger of a new born baby, or some experience of music or of art and something within us says "Wow". Whether we acknowledge it or not we have had an opportunity to glimpse God.

Secondly: How many times have you heard that unique Australian phrase "Fair go, mate"? We live in a world where so much is unfair. People are disadvantaged, penalized because of their colour, ethnic background, age or sex. There exists political string-pulling, unjust laws, inequities in the economy and the evil intent of others. But there is something within us that says "Fair go mate". Australians still have a strong passion for justice and a fair go for all, in spite of materialism and the drive to accumulate power and wealth. In the burning desire that others should have the right thing done by them; in every expression of commitment to work for the benefit of others and in our social

awareness and conscience, we get glimpses of God.

And thirdly: Haven't you, more than once, looked out beyond yourself in a particular set of circumstances and asked "Could you give me a hand please? Thanks so much". In spite of a strong, particularly Australian, emphasis on personal responsibility and self-sufficiency, we are dependent upon each other in our needs; and we reach out to God in our moments of extremity.

A sense of being family or of belonging to a community is still strong in our Australian society; and I believe, as an Australian survey of a few years ago found, there is still a majority who would say they pray or meditate, at least occasionally. There is evidence that we hold on to the hope that there is Someone, Something, who can respond to our deepest yearnings and human needs. And when we have got some relief, or personal satisfaction or fulfillment somewhere within us there stirs a "Thank God" as well as our thanks to those individuals who have come to our aid.

One of the best definitions I have come across for Faith is "Betting your life there is a God". I've made that bet.

Shalom and a very happy and blessed Christmas to you all.

Merriwa Librarian recognised



Branch President, David Peet presents Eva Sinclair with her award

EVA Sinclair joined the RAAF Association in November 1993 and moved onto the Merriwa Estate in September 1995.

In 1997 she became involved in the running and organisation of the Library.

Over this time she has worked tirelessly for the good of the Estate, keeping track of books brought in and making sure that the residents are happy with the terrific collection she has gathered.

Eva's expertise covers cataloguing the many books, ordering suitable material including videos, DVD's etc and making sure that all the books are in good order and condition.

The library is one of the most popular places on the Estate and is a great asset.

Although Eva is in poor health she still runs and organises the library and the Merriwa Residents' Branch had no hesitation in nominating Eva Sinclair for the award of a Certificate of Service.

Mini-Mart not thwarted by rain or Royal Show

By Ian Fraser

DESPITE the threat of rain, and a layer of cloud over the museum and the Royal Show, the Aviation Museum Branch had a most successful fund-raising Mini-Mart, held outside the south wing of the Aviation Heritage Museum in early October.

There was a healthy throng of patrons, waiting patiently to grab a bargain. Museum Manager, John Park relented, and at ten minutes before 9am, the barriers were removed.

Quite a few bargains were bagged, be it bric-a-brac, light furniture or aviation prints, as well as glassware and linen goods. Branch members freely moved around from stall to stall, eager to snap a bargain as well as take a break and have a sausage sizzle or scone.

Once again, the Branch witnessed some fresh volunteers, relatively new to the Mini-Mart team, but readily making themselves available. The Aviation Museum Branch can also boast a small, but dedicated core of regular patrons, eager to take advantage of



Some of the bargain hunters

the bargains on offer. I think this was my 20th consecutive Mini-Mart.

My sincere thanks to those who donated goods, as well as to those volunteers who have also seen a good many Mini-Marts like myself. Unfortunately, however, I have to finish on a sombre note. Two of those steadfast volunteers who will not be able to attend Mini-Marts anymore are Jean Crago and Clive Naylor. Both were taken from us quite recently. They volunteered their services without question; they turned up and did their 'bit', each and every time. This time, the October Mini-Mart will be remembered for Jean and Clive. May they rest in peace.

Mokine Memorial Ceremony



Mokine Memorial Guard of Honour

THE City of Perth Branch hosted a number of residents from Meadow Springs, Merriwa and Bull Creek Estates, family and friends at the annual memorial ceremony at Mokine on Sunday, 9 October 2011.

Mr Peter Fardon and Reverend David Oxley conducted the ceremony gathered at the site of the tragic training flight crash in 1942.

Personnel of 2FTS from RAAF Base Pearce formed the Guard of Honour.

Flying Officer Rowan Beggs-French of 225 Course laid a wreath on behalf of RAAF Pearce. Wreaths were also laid by Graeme Bland, for RAAFA (WA Division) Inc, Allan Stewart for City of Perth Branch and Donna Prytulak for RSL Sub-Branch Northam.

After the ceremony the Northam RSL Sub-Branch provided a magnificent three course lunch at their clubrooms and a great day was had by all.

Quiet achiever recognised



Bill and Margot Hiscox

Residents' Committee as Chairman from 2008 to 2011 and as Vice Chairman from 2007 to 2008 and as a member from 2006 to 2007. During this time Bill has performed his duties with dedication and loyalty to both the residents and the Estate. He, along with the committee, has achieved much during this time, including the updates to the Village Hall, hydrotherapy pool and the new awnings near the bowling club.

Bill has been Returning Officer for the RAAFA Annual General Meeting since 2008.

He has also served for some time on the Memorial Estate Residents' Branch Committee.

The members of the Bull Creek Estate Residents' Committee had no hesitation in nominating Bill Hiscox for the award of a Certificate of Service.

Congratulations Bill.

A CERTIFICATE of Service was presented to a very surprised quiet achiever, Bill Hiscox, at a small morning tea held at Air Force Memorial House, Bull Creek.

Bill joined the RAAF Association in July 1984 and moved onto Air Force Memorial Estate in October 2004.

Bill served on the Bull Creek Estate

Peace Keepers Poem

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one-bedroom house, made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give,
And to see just who, in this home, did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures, of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor, in this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured, an Australian Soldier.

Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realised the families, that I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers, who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate, a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom, each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder, how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees, and started to cry.

The soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
My life is my god, my country, my corps."

The soldier rolled over, and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
And we both shivered, from the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave, on that cold, dark, night,
This guardian of honour, so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

The Australian War Memorial is celebrating 70 years

Acknowledgement: Australian War Memorial

THIS year marks the Memorial's 70th Anniversary. To celebrate this important milestone there was a week long program of events in November.

Highlights of this program included a performance in the Hall of Memory by the Oriana Chorale, Australian Federation

Guard Closings, Historian, Curator and Art Curator talks and presentations and tours behind the stacks at the Research Centre, as well as a special presentation of Charles Bean's Diaries. The culmination of these events was the Remembrance Day National Ceremony.

The Australian War Memorial was opened

on 11 November 1941, commemorating the sacrifice of all Australians who have died in war. Its focus is the Hall of Memory, Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier, Pool of Reflection, and Roll of Honour (listing the names of more than 102,000 Australian servicemen and women who have died in war). The Memorial also includes multi-million dollar world class exhibitions and

galleries, an extensive collection of art, relics, photographs, film, and sound.

The Memorial today is one of Australia's leading tourist attractions and educators. Last year 832,242 visitors including 125,000 school students visited to experience and view the exhibits.

Notes From Branches and Groups

Airfield Construction Squadrons' Branch

Val Lopaten

ACS WA annual reunion

An enjoyable lunch was held in the Beaufort Restaurant, AFA Club on Friday, 21 October. Many of our members were away or unwell, but 24 attended and reminisced – as usual we almost needed a water tanker to lay the bulldust!

Vale

John Gabriel, passed away on 2 October. John served with 5 ACS and ran the Orderly Room at Tindal.

Kevin O'Neil, passed away on 8 October. As a RAAF truckie Kevin delivered items of heavy earthmoving machinery to the ACS's in various locations throughout the country.

Your Committee wishes all our members and friends the complements of the festive season – have a happy Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 19 January, General Meeting, 10.30am with lunch to follow in the AFA Club. A long lunch might be a good way to start the New Year.

2012 Annual Picnic, full details will be included in the next issue of Air Mail.

Australia Pacific Branch

Denny Hains

At the Branch AGM held on Monday, 26 September, the following members were elected:
President: Frank Fergusson
Vice President: Denny Hains
Secretary: Aileen Brittain
Treasurer: Rose Howard

A vote of thanks for the outgoing office bearers for a job well done.

Unfortunately the Branch suffered another bad blow with the passing of two of our members in Tom Dean and Kevin O'Neil. They will be sadly missed by their families and many friends.

Branch President would like to thank all our volunteers for their valuable time and effort and wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2012.

Upcoming events

Monday, 28 November, Final Branch Meeting for the Year, 11.00am, Admin Building.

Saturday, 17 December, Xmas Function, 6.00pm.

Aviation Museum Branch

Ian Fraser

The President and Committee wish all Branch members a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and safe 2012.

Upcoming events

Branch Meetings each second Thursday of every month except January. 7.00pm in the Ev Nicolls room. Supper provided afterwards. New volunteers most welcome. Come along and meet new friends who share the same interests as you – aeroplanes!

Saturday, 17 December, Christmas Function, Village Hall, AFME, 6.00pm. Please bring a plate.

City of Perth Branch

Ray Passmore

Christmas will soon be with us. President Ray Passmore and wife Nancy would like to wish you all Christmas greetings and all the very best for the New Year ahead. Look forward to another happy year in the Branch.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 15 December, Christmas Social Breakup, Meg Olive Room 11.45am.

Thursday, 19 January, Social Luncheon at the AFA Club, 12noon. All welcome.

Thursday, 16 February, General Meeting in Ev Nicholls room at 11.00am, followed by lunch in the AFA Club.

European Area Branch

Jo Naylor

On behalf of European Area Branch members I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our RAAFA colleagues and staff members a very Happy Christmas and all you wish for in 2012.

Upcoming events

Wednesday, 7 December, Branch Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm. A decision will be made regarding a meeting in January.

Saturday, 17 December, Christmas Party with

the Aviation Museum Branch. Village Hall, AFME Bull Creek, 6.00pm. Please bring a plate of cold food to share (there are no heating facilities). Drinks will be provided. We particularly look forward to seeing those branch members who are unable to attend the monthly meetings. Please make every effort to come.

Wednesday, 1 February, Branch Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm.

Mandurah Branch

Ruth Poat

The bi-monthly General Meeting was held on 15 October 2011. 82 Members attended followed by a very nice meal in the Club.

We welcomed 3 new members – Ruth Hall, Margaret Brown and Lynley Taylor.

As this will be the last Air Mail for 2011, on behalf of the President and Executive of Mandurah Branch, I would like to extend Seasons Greetings to all Members.

Upcoming events

Friday, 9 December, Branch Lunch, AFA Club, Meadow Springs. \$10 subsidy to all Members, the cost of the lunch, after subsidy is \$24.

Thursday, 15 December 2011, General Meeting, 3.30pm, AFA Club Meadow Springs. Mr John Colpus DFC, who was a pilot of 'S' Sugar, will be attending and Judy McCarthy will be reading from his Memoirs. Mr Colpus will be available for questions after the address. Following the meeting, we will have a light dinner and entertainment 'Under the Sails', weather and mosquitoes permitting.

WAAAF Branch

June Perry

Listed below are the Office Bearers for 2011/12 as elected at the August AGM.

President: June Perry
Senior Vice President: Aline Costello
Junior Vice President: Alison Atkins
Secretary: Kathleen Quan
Social Secretary: Gwen McCrae
Treasurer: Rose Howard
"Esprit" Editor: June Perry
Branches Forum Delegate: Teddy Dean
Banner Bearer: Joyce Vaughan
Committee: Daphne Axford

We were recently advised by WAAAF Branch, Queensland that their Branch will be disbanding at the end of 2011. Victoria

and NSW have already ceased to function, so that leaves only three State Branches - Central (SA), Tasmania and us in WA.

It is good to hear that in most States those who are able will continue to meet socially.

Upcoming events

Members meet in the Meg Olive Room on the second Monday of the month (except January) at 10.30am and lunch after the Meeting at the AFA Club (optional).

Monday, 12 December, Christmas Meeting and lunch at the Club. Bring a small gift and a non perishable food item for the Charity Basket.

WRAAF Branch

Judy Bland

On 5 November our Annual Luncheon was held in Wings Restaurant, AFA Club Bull Creek. This was the first time it was held on a Saturday as requested by a few members, but the day made no difference and numbers were still not as pleasing as we would have liked. No matter, those that were there enjoyed themselves and camaraderie was evident.

Thanks to Lotterywest for donations of scratchies for our "money tree".

We wish all staff and members of the RAAF Association and their families a safe and happy festive season.

Upcoming events

Tuesday, 6 December, Christmas Party in Village Hall, Bull Creek (details in November WRAAF newsletter or ring Judy 9311 4401).

January, no meeting.

Tuesday, 7 February, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm.

Tuesday, 6 March, BBQ at Judy's in lieu of meeting (further detail in February WRAAF newsletter).

Spectacular Music Treat

RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs invites you to share a meal and then listen to the glorious music of internationally acclaimed Mongolian violinist, Degi, who is visiting family here in WA. This will be her first performance in Australia.

Wednesday, 28 December 2011, commencing 5.00pm.

Only \$25.00 includes a light meal. Bookings and payment to Meadow Springs Club, 9582 5375 by 14 December.

All profits donated to the Lotus Foundation, Mongolian Orphanage.

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:

6 January for February/March issue

2 March for April/May issue

4 May for June/July/August issue

Cambrai Club

Phone: 9304 5000

Trading Hours

Tuesday
4.00pm to 8.00pm Fish and Chips/
Pot Luck

Wednesday
10.00am to 11.00am Morning Tea
4.00pm to 5.00pm Happy Hour
6.00pm to 8.30pm Dinner

Thursday
12noon to 1.30pm Lunch

Friday
5.00pm to 6.00pm Bistro/Theme
Night Happy Hour – 2nd and 4th
Friday of the month
(subject to change – contact bar staff)

Contact bar staff on 9304 5401 at any
time for bookings or information.

Christmas Hours

- 25 December 11.30am to 2.00pm
Xmas Day Lunch, \$50 per head
- 31 December 7.30pm to 12.30am
New Years Eve Dance, \$10
per head
- 26 to 30 December and 1 to 2
January CLOSED
- Normal hours resume 3 January
2012



Merriwa resident rewarded

RICHARD Clackson moved on to
the Merriwa Estate in December 1997
and immediately became involved in
volunteering. Richard volunteered as a
bus driver in 1997 and is still driving the
bus today.

Richard is very involved in the Merriwa
Maintenance Men's Team helping out the
older residents with gardening as well as
carrying out small maintenance jobs for
them.

He has worked tirelessly for the good of the
residents on the Merriwa Estate, collecting
and storing goods each year for the annual
Fete from which over \$160,000 has been
raised for the Branch.

Meadow Springs Club

Phone: 9582 5375

Trading Hours

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

Tuesday and Thursday
11.30am to 6.00pm Bar
12noon to 2.00pm Lunch

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

Friday
11.30am to 6.00pm Bar

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 Chips from \$10.00 per person.
Counter menu also available

Chase the Ace, Bingo & Horse Racing

5.00pm to 8.00pm Wednesday, meal
available

Christmas Hours

- 24 to 27, 29 to 30 December and
1 to 2 January CLOSED
- 28 December, world renowned
violinist "Degi" playing at our club
only. Dinner and concert \$25.00
per person
- Normal hours resume 3 January
2012



State President Graeme Bland
with Richard Clackson

Richard is also a volunteer on the Parcel
Post Roster, labelling the parcels and
informing recipients their parcel awaits
collection. He is a very solid and worthy
asset to both the Branch and the RAAF
Association.

The Merriwa Residents' Branch had no
hesitation in nominating Richard Clackson
for the award of a Certificate of Service.

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 and Public Holidays, Closed

Counter Meals

11.30am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday

Lunch Specials

Monday Roast of the day \$10.00
Tuesday Fish and Chips \$10.00

Chase the Ace

4.00pm to 5.30pm Monday

Friday Dinner Dance

Raffles on sale from 4.30pm
Dinner 5.30pm to 7.00pm
Last Dinner & Dance for 2011 is on
18 December 2011

Band Roster

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

Christmas Hours

- 25 December 11.30am to 2.00pm
Xmas Day Lunch, \$50 per head
- 31 December 8.00pm to 12.30am
New Years Eve Dance, \$30 per head
(please book early at the bar)
- 26 to 30 December and 1 to 2
January CLOSED
- Normal hours resume 3 January
2012



RAAFA Ex-Service Women's lunch

FORTY eight guests from Kalamunda, Bull
Creek and Rockingham attended the Spring
Luncheon hosted by the Meadow Springs
Ex-Service Women's Branch on Monday
10 October. The lunch was held in the
Beaufort Room of the Meadow Springs
Club.

During the afternoon the ladies were
entertained by Bob Fraser on piano and
John Baily who recited some of his own
bush poetry.

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

Tuesday to Saturday, last orders taken
1.30pm daily

Bluegum Restaurant (please book)

Tuesday Theme Night, different two
course menu every week
4th Wednesday Offal Club, 12noon to
2.00pm

Friday Night Bistro

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

Saturday

Fish and Chip lunchtime special

Bingo, Main Hall

2nd Wednesday, eyes down 7.30pm

Christmas Hours

- 24 December 12noon to 2.00pm
- 25 December 12noon to 2.00pm
(bookings close 12 December)
- 31 December 7.00pm to late,
New Years Eve Party
- 26 to 30 December and 1 to 2
January CLOSED
- Normal hours resume 3 January
2012



L to R Vera Ogden, Cynthia Hall
and Beatrice Moore

Christmas giving ideas – Gifts that give twice

Karma Currency Foundation, Australia's first online charity gift voucher

THIS CHRISTMAS LET YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY DECIDE HOW THEY WOULD LIKE TO SAVE THE WORLD



THERE'S 100'S OF CHARITIES AND 1000'S OF GIFTS TO CHOOSE FROM AT
WWW.KARMACURRENCY.COM.AU
 AUSTRALIA'S FIRST CHARITY GIFT VOUCHER

Acknowledgement: Karma Currency

ARE you having difficulty deciding on Christmas gifts this year? Each year over one billion dollars is spent on unwanted gifts that end up in the closet, in storage and ultimately in landfill.

But imagine a gift that could feed a child, help find cures for cancer, rescue an animal, protect our rainforests, educate a mind, aid the arts, spur on spirituality or perform countless other worthwhile wonderful acts.

Look no further, here is a solution that will do all of the above and it's called Karma Currency – a Charity Gift Certificate.

Instead of giving platters, socks, photo frames and other useless gifts this initiative allows individuals to give the gift of Charity Gifts.

The initiative allows you to give Karma Currency, Australia's first online tax

deductible Charity Gift Voucher to families or friends, empowering them to pass on the donation to the charities they care about most. They can choose to give to World Vision, Seeing Eye Dogs, Sids and Kids, and over 100 of Australia's top charities.

And there is no limit to how much or how little karma you decide to spread. Remember what goes around comes around and every little bit counts.

It's the perfect gift for those people in your life who have everything and want for nothing.

100% of the value of the gift voucher reaches the chosen charity. This is achieved by charging the gift giver a small processing fee of \$4.95.

To find a gift go to
www.karmacurrency.com.au

Merry Christmas and happy giving.

Australians urged to 'Show Us Your Lungs!'



Acknowledgement: The Australian Lung Foundation

NEW research released in October shows the extent to which Australians are ignoring their lung health, with results revealing that one in three people do not consider their lungs to be important even though 50 Australians die of lung disease each day.

A Newspan survey found that the majority of those surveyed (84% aged 35 and over) rated the health of their lungs as excellent, very good or good but one in three (36%) of them revealed they experience at least one of the signs of poor lung health.

The Lung Foundation is calling on Australians to "Show Us Your Lungs!" and take lung health seriously as the gap in

peoples' perception of their lung health and the reality of their condition is of concern to medical experts and peak bodies in Australia.

Professor Christine Jenkins, Head of Airways Group, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research and Lung Foundation National Council member said "The survey results indicate that people aren't recognising signs of poor lung health and probably not speaking to their doctors about their symptoms.

"Australians have taken up the important public health messages as far as their heart and breast are concerned, yet seem to be very slow to think about their lungs."

Professor Jenkins said the burden of lung disease is significant and growing with 2.6 million cases of lung disease in Australia, 350,000 hospitalisations and over 19,000 deaths related to the disease each year.

To help draw attention to these statistics and encourage people to check their lung health, The Lung Foundation has partnered with actor John Jarratt (star of Wolf Creek) to produce a 'cheeky' campaign that has also been supported by TV and radio personalities, Dr Harry Cooper and Dr John D'Arcy.

"The impact of lung disease in Australia is enormous" said John Jarratt, "having seen the statistics, I decided to get involved and warn people not to ignore the signs."

A total of 43% of Australians aged 35 and over say they experience at least one of the following symptoms of lung disease;

- get breathless from walking up a small flight of stairs with between 8-12 steps
- a chest infection at least twice a year
- a new cough, a persistent cough, or their cough has recently changed, regularly cough up phlegm (not due to a cold or flu)
- an unexplained ache in their chest or back area, or sometimes feel tightness in their chest or wheeze

Professor Jenkins urged people with symptoms to speak to their doctor about their lung health.

"Many lung diseases are treatable if they are properly diagnosed. Identifying the early signs of lung disease and acting early is important."

She also encouraged people to take a minute to complete the Lung Foundation's Lung Health Checklist on line at www.lungfoundation.com.au or for more information contact 1800 654 301.

"Lung disease doesn't discriminate – it affects men and women, smokers and people who have never smoked, the old and the young," said Professor Jenkins.

