

Air Force Association

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Addressing the gathering at the 2018 Armistice Centenary Commemoration – which Carl initiated and led.

AFA VICTORIA FAREWELLS CARL SCHILLER OAM CSM

In November 2022, Immediate Past President of AFA Victoria, Carl Schiller OAM CSM announced his resignation as a Director of AFA Victoria, a move that will certainly affect the AFA Victoria Division in 2023.

In his recent address at the Christmas function, President Max McGregor formally acknowledged the incredible contribution Carl has made and the significant legacy he leaves to AFA Victoria.

“The AFA has spoken about the need for change over many years, and one major change is coming close to fruition with a new constitution for the national body due to be voted on early next year. Carl, as our national president has championed this change, along with many others as national president.

Carl became the Victorian President in 2015, and then assumed the National President’s role in 2018. Thankfully Carl stayed on, and actively contributed to the functioning of the Victorian board. We acknowledge and thank Carl for his contributions during this period.

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Carl Schiller OAM CSM, National President Air Force Association, Immediate Past President AFA Victoria.



As AFA National President, Carl Schiller lays a wreath with former Vice President, Sharon Bown, at the Australian War Memorial's Last Post Ceremony, on the occasion of the Air Force's Centenary in March 2021

I am sure Carl had one or more nicknames in the Air Force, but in Victoria he is better known as the “ideas factory”. It would be a rare month when Carl would not come forward with the statement “I have had a new idea, and this is how it can work”. We will certainly miss him and those ideas.

But, there is still a lot of hard work to be done with the National body to make it a better and more effective organisation. AFA Victoria has always supported Carl in his attempts to reform the national body, and we hope to someday see the fruits of these endeavours come forth and allow AFA Victoria to pursue our homelessness project.

I am not going to list all of the ideas, projects and other achievements that Carl has been involved in over the years - we would be here for a long time. They will be published in our next edition of Contact, where you will be able to read them all at your leisure.

Thanks to Carl Schiller, our national body of AFA is in the best position that it has been for many years. There is now a much closer relationship with Air Force and with other ESO's, along with Government. These relationships need to continue and with this significant workload ahead of him, Carl has made the difficult decision to resign from the Victorian board.

I reluctantly accepted the resignation, for I know it will be a challenge without Carl, but it was the right move for his own health and that of Christine. We wish them both well for the future. Carl will still be a member of AFA-Vic so he will not be lost to our functions or events. He also remains President of the Air Force Association National body until mid-next year.

Boundless energy, always with a good story to tell - we will miss his contributions to AFA Victoria.

Thank you Carl”.

Max McGregor

President



Carl Schiller speaking at the 2022 AFA Victoria Christmas function.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Merry Christmas.

The end of the year comes with a rush, and there have been two well attended commemorative/social functions recently. The Remembrance Ceremony at Point Cook, followed by a lunch at Laverton COSM was a most memorable day. The weather was perfect and the presentation by Hugh Dolan I am sure will be remembered by all those who attended. The Christmas function on December 4 at our HQ in Hawthorn East was well received with the message that we need to have more of these functions allowing time and space to mix with each other and enjoy the fellowship that derives from service.

Our Branch Presidents met in late November and members of the Board of AFA Victoria were able to update them on the basis of change to the AFA National constitution.

The new constitution will be voted on in early February with the new version fully endorsed by the AFA Victoria Board. Once the National constitution has been accepted, then the AFA Victoria constitution can be revised to operate as per the National version, with wording that is simple to understand.

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I am hopeful that we will be in a position to circulate the revised AFA Victoria constitution early next year, allowing sufficient time for members to well understand the changes before being voted on at the AGM in late May 2023. It was emphasised to Branch Presidents that there would be no impediment to the operation of our Branches, and members of the AFA Victoria Board will also be available to meet with Branch members to explain any changes and answer any questions that may be forthcoming. There will be no surprises.

Finally, I have reluctantly accepted the resignations of Carl Schiller and Peter Colliver from the AFA Victoria Board. Both these gentlemen have made contributions to the functioning of AFA Victoria and their contributions will be sorely missed. Standby for an announcement early next year as to how we can acknowledge their contributions to our Association.

On behalf of the Board of AFA Victoria, I wish you and your families a safe and Merry Christmas and look forward to our future gatherings in 2023.

Max McGregor

President

Air Force Association - Victoria

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/STATE CONFERENCE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & MOTIONS

Members are advised that the 2023 Presidents'/State Conference followed by the AGM will be held on 25th May 2023 at AFA-Vic office, Suite 3, 24-36 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn East.

Nominations for State President, Treasurer and Board Members

- Nominations for the office of State President, State Treasurer and Board members are to be sent in writing to the AFA-Vic Office no later than 1st February 2023 and must be signed by the candidate and proposer.
- The President's and Treasurer's tenures will expire at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for these positions are invited. Current incumbents are:
State President - Mr Maxwell McGregor.
State Treasurer - Mr Peter Colliver OAM
- Board Nominations are invited. Mr James Allen's tenure will expire at the Annual General Meeting. All other Board members have another year's tenure to serve.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Office Manager, AFA-Vic Divisional office.

Motions for 20 23 AGM and State Conference:

- All proposed motions must be forwarded by Branch Secretaries to the State Secretary 28 days prior to Conference.
- Copies of all motions must be forwarded to all Branch Secretaries, 14 days prior to Conference.
- Financial Reports must be sent to all members 21 days prior to Conference.

Clause 31: Purpose of Annual General Meeting

- The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:
- Receive the Report of the Board;
- Receive the Statement of Accounts;
- Elect the President, Treasurer and members of the Board;
- Transact any other business of which 28 days' notice in writing specifying the motion to be moved has been received at the registered office of the Division.

All business transacted at the Annual General Meeting pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed special.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF NATIONAL SERVICE

Monday 5th December marked the 50th anniversary of the end to the last National Service scheme in Australia, where more than 280,000 Australians were called up to serve their country in National Service schemes between 1951 and 1972.



The Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal is a commemorative medal awarded to Australians for their service in post-war national service schemes.

In recognising those who served under the National Service Scheme during this time, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said the men who served as 'Nashos' should be proud of their service.

"The Nashos were an integral part of Australia's defence forces in the 1950s, 60s and 70s serving in Australia, Borneo, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam." Mr Keogh said.

The first National Service scheme, from 1951-59 saw men from across the country called up for training in the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force. More than 220,000 served during this period, putting their careers and lives on hold to serve their country.

The second National Service scheme took place from 1965-1972 and for some, included service in the Vietnam War. During this period, 63,000 20 year-olds were selected for service in the Army through a birthday ballot.

More than 15,300 National Servicemen served in the Vietnam War and some 200 lost their lives. At least 100 National Servicemen also served overseas in Borneo, with two men losing their lives while on deployment.

Mr Keogh said, "No matter the nature of their service, today we honour all national servicemen and thank them for what they have done for our nation.

"We thank all Nashos and their families for putting their lives on hold during their years of compulsory service. We know this service was difficult, as was your return to civilian life.

Mr Keogh also reminded any National Servicemen who were injured during their service, even if they were never deployed, that they are eligible to claim through DVA and all entitled to a White card including mental health support

NEW PERPETUAL WREATH FOR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES



Our new perpetual wreath



Close up of one of the knitted poppies with an Air Force gold-coloured tunic button featured in the centre.

Air Force Association - Victoria is now the proud owner of two new perpetual wreaths for use during commemorative services such as Remembrance Day, ANZAC Day, and Vietnam Veterans Day.

The wreaths have been created by Lynn Berry (of 5000 Poppies fame) following an initiative by Immediate Past President Carl Schiller and agreed to by the Board of Management in May 2022.

The wreaths are circular, coloured red, white and blue (to reflect the colours of an Air Force roundel) and each is created from a collection of knitted poppies. An Air Force gold-coloured tunic button is featured in the centre of each flower. Lynn Berry delivered the wreaths to the Association

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AFA Victoria's Memorial Wreath stands out at the Remembrance Day Service at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on 11 November.

office on 6 October in time for our commemorative services in November.

One of the wreaths had its debut at the Division's Remembrance Commemoration held at the AFC Memorial, Point Cook on Sunday 6 November 2022. Another wreath was placed by AFA Victoria President Max McGregor on the steps on the Shrine of Remembrance during the Remembrance Day service on 11 November.

VALE ARTHUR H C ATKINS DFC, 625 SQUADRON LANCASTER PILOT

5 AUGUST 1917 - 16 OCTOBER 2022



Arthur Atkins during WWII (image courtesy Adam Purcell)

Born on 5th August 1917, Arthur Henry Chesterman Atkins had a fascination with flight that started very early.

"He built and flew model planes. He was a member of the Cub Scouts. He was lucky enough to take his first flight aged 8 or 9, when two Cubs at a time squeezed in together in the open cockpit of an Avro Avian flying from the old Coote Island aerodrome just west of Melbourne.

Arthur really wanted to be a pilot. But in the early 1930s, how on Earth could a lad from Surrey Hills in Melbourne ever afford flying lessons?

By winning them, of course. So Arthur entered a competition run by the Sun News Pictorial newspaper. The prize was enough flying tuition to get a pilot licence. "But I didn't win!"

Maybe the Air Force would pay instead, he thought, and tried to enlist in his final year at school. But the inter-war Air Force was not very big, and there were lots of other people who also dreamed about becoming a pilot. 2,000 people applied for just 20 positions.

Putting his dreams aside for a moment, Arthur qualified as an accountant.

And then the Second World War broke out, and he got his chance."

(The above is an excerpt from interview with Arthur Atkins - (c) 2016 Adam Purcell, Something Very Big)

WARTIME SERVICE

During WWII, Arthur transferred from the army to the RAAF and started pilot training in Australia, completing his elementary flying training at 11 EFTS Benalla, then SFTS at Mallala on Avro Ansons.

He was posted to England, where he trained on Wellingtons then Lancasters at No1 Lancaster Finishing School. In July 1944, he then was transferred to Lancasters and served with 625 squadron of the RAF.

In July 1944, he was posted to 625 Squadron at RAF Kelstern, completing 32 missions



Arthur Atkins circa 2016 (image courtesy Friends of the Odd Bods Association)



A very rare air-to-air photo, taken by Arthur, of another Anson as he flew over Mallala. (image courtesy Adam Purcell)



Arthur Atkins in the stroke seat of a military crew.

as a Lancaster Bomber pilot. Among the operations he describes are leaflet drops over Chartres, the bombing of the Opel factory at Rüsselsheim, the Gironde Estuary, Le Havre, Frankfurt, Cologne and Stettin. He completed 32 operations.

Arthur was one of the few people to survive 32 missions in a Lancaster over enemy territory and for his work was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross in 1945. He left with the rank of Flying Officer in the RAF.

POST WAR LIFE

Arthur was a lifelong rower and was Mercantile Rowing Club's oldest and longest serving member – joining the club in 1936 - and later the Club's patron.

After the war, Arthur married Betty in 1950 and had a son Roderick and daughter Mandy. He was partner in the business Simpson Gloves in Richmond until his retirement in 1987.

Arthur's love of rowing continued throughout his life. After his retirement in 1988, he donated a racing eight to the Club, the bow which remains on the Clubroom walls.

In 2016, he donated another racing eight to the Club, which he requested be named as memorial to one of his wartime best mates who did not return from piloting a bombing raid over Stuttgart. The boat was named the David D Browne.

Arthur was always ready to share his stories of war service and was the subject of a number of veteran interviews and podcasts.

One of the more interesting interviews with Arthur Atkins in 2017 was recorded with Adam Purcell, the creator of the [Something Very Big](https://somethingverybig.com) website and blog that celebrates Bomber Command related stories. The following links

READ:

<https://somethingverybig.com/tag/bomber-command/page/2/>

LISTEN:

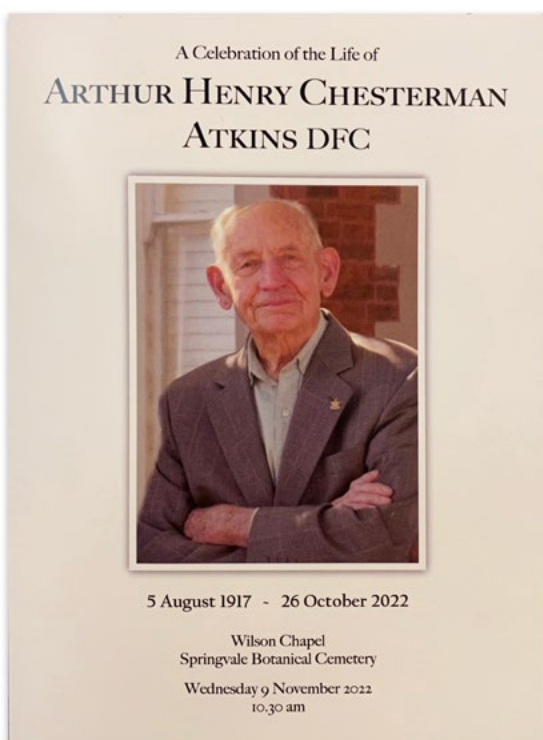
<https://ibccdigitalarchive.lincoln.ac.uk/omeka/collections/document/2319>

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C2792491>

Arthur was a valued member of the Air Force Association for over 27 years. We send our sincere condolences to Arthur's daughter Mandy, son Roderick and their families.

Vale Arthur Atkins.





BURSARY AND ENCOURAGEMENT AWARDS

Originally sponsored by the RAAFA Foundation between 2009 and 2021, Air Force Association – Victoria, in conjunction with the RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association, are proud to support an annual Educational Bursary for eligible dependants.

Administered by the RAAFVVA, the Educational Bursary (and Encouragement Awards) represent another facet of the assistance both Associations are delivering to former and serving RAAF members and their families.

'The John 'Snow' Coughlan CGM Encouragement Award' and 'The Lee and Ellen Scully Encouragement Award'.

These two awards, sponsored by the RAAFVVA and named in honour of highly esteemed past members, will provide an amount of \$500 to applicants deemed most worthy of such assistance.

Since 2010, educational bursaries have assisted over 35 young students of RAAF Vietnam veterans with their education or training endeavors. Applications are now open for our 2023 Bursaries.

The concept of educational bursaries was introduced in 2009 as an initiative of the RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association as a way of providing assistance to eligible dependents of Vietnam veterans in recognised educational or training. Originally funded by the RAAF Association Foundation, the bursaries are now funded by the Air Force Association Victoria.

The first bursaries were awarded in February 2010 and presented at a ceremony prior to the RAAFVVA AGM to three young women who were undertaking tertiary studies. This tradition has been continued every year since the first presentation and only interrupted in 2021 when State Government COVID lockdown restrictions winners were announced via video conferencing.

Over 35 young students have been awarded bursaries since they were introduced and the program, initially designed to assist tertiary students, has been expanded to include students studying at primary and secondary schools. Included in the total of over 35 are students who have been awarded a bursary on more than one occasion.

A separate Incentive Award, funded by the RAAFVVA, in addition to the bursaries, has also been presented annually. In 2014 the Incentive Award, with the new title of Encouragement Award and funded by individual members of the RAAFVVA Committee, was formalized in memory of John "Snow" Coughlan CGM and presented each year by his widow, Gill.

In 2017, the President of the RAAFVVA, Lee Scully, introduced another Encouragement Award in memory of his wife Ellen who had passed away in 2016. A year later,

following the tragic death of Lee in a motor-cycle accident in the USA, financial support for the Award was assumed by individual members of the committee as the Lee and Ellen Scully Encouragement Award.

Eligibility has been expanded to children/ grandchildren of any Victorian RAAF veterans...

President of the RAAF Vietnam Veterans Branch, Chris Hudnott explained, "Originally the Bursaries were conceived as support for children and grandchildren for students undertaking tertiary studies.

"However, eligibility for the Bursaries has been expanded over the years and they are now available for children or grandchildren (living in Victoria) of any RAAF veteran with operational service or 3+ years' continuous service."

Educational study has also been expanded to include any recognised educational or training courses. Eligibility for Encouragement Awards is currently limited to children and grandchildren of RAAF Vietnam Veterans.

Applications for the 2023 Bursary and Encouragement Awards close on Friday 20 January 2023.

[Download the application form here.](#)

For further information regarding the Bursaries and Encouragement Awards please visit the [AFA – Victoria website](#). You access via this [link](#) or <https://afavic.org.au/content/1128/bursaries>

2022 POINT COOK REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION SERVICE

On Sunday 6th November, members and guests came together at RAAF Point Cook for AFA Victoria's annual Remembrance Day commemoration.

Following an Acknowledgement of Country by MC Peter Meehan, OAM, and the official March In, Chaplain (Squadron Leader) Keith Lanyon, (Retd) led a Call To Remembrance.

The Commemoration Service featured addresses by Group Captain Carl Schiller, OAM, CSM (Retd), National President Air Force and AFA Victoria President, Max McGregor with the Memorial Wreath laid by Max McGregor, followed by prayers, and the Ode of Remembrance.

Guests then moved to RAAF Base Williams, Laverton for a light luncheon at the Combined Officers'/Sergeants' Mess, after which author and historian, Mr Hugh Dolan gave a presentation on 'Overturning the Gallipoli Myth'. To complete a most memorable day, Mr John Capp, OAM presented AFA Victoria with a manuscript by Mr Barry Barnes, OAM on the AFC No 1 Training Wing's operations near Tetbury, UK during the Great War.



AFA Victoria President Max McGregor delivering 'An Act of Remembrance' address



AFA Victoria President Max McGregor lays the Memorial Wreath



2022 POINT COOK REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION SERVICE



AFA Victoria's perpetual Memorial Wreath



Mr John Capp, OAM presents AFA Victoria President Max McGregor with a manuscript by Mr Barry Barnes, OAM on the AFC No 1 Training Wing's operations near Tetbury, UK during the Great War.



Guests place a poppy in commemoration of those who gave their lives in the Great War.



Author and historian, Mr Hugh Dolan gave a presentation on 'Overturning the Gallipoli Myth' during lunch at RAAF Base Williams, Laverton.

A special thank you to Mr John Delia who supplied Contact with all the excellent photographs.



Portrait of Air Vice Marshal George Jones CB DFC, Chief of Air Staff, RAAF. (source: Australian War Memorial)



AVM George Jones DFC, new Chief of the Australian Air Force (left) being congratulated by Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Burnett, former Chief of the RAF. (source: Australian War Memorial)

We continue our look at the life and times of Air Marshal Sir George Jones KBE CB DFC – the longest serving Chief of Air Staff in the RAAF and President of the AFA Victorian Division from 1953 to 1956 – by Chris Hudnott.

WORLD WAR II AND POST WAR CAREER

THE EMPIRE AIR TRAINING SCHEME

When war broke out in 1939, AVM Goble had succeeded Williams as head of the RAAF and Jones was Assistant Chief of Air Staff. Initial reaction was to plan for the provision of six squadrons to fight in Europe or the Middle-East but the British government proposed that Dominion air forces should join the RAF in an enormous Aircrew Training Scheme with training conducted in Canada.

Jones was sent to Canada as the RAAF representative on a team headed by the Minister for Air (J.V. Fairbairn). The Canadians drove a hard bargain insisting that Britain finance the building of training airfields. Initially, all advanced training was to be conducted in Canada but the Australian delegation realised this would be too costly so decided that only two ninths of Australian trainees would be sent to Canada with the remainder completing advanced training in Australia.

On return to Australia, Jones accompanied Fairbairn to a Cabinet meeting where the report that Jones had prepared was considered and adopted. About this time, AVM Goble fell out of favour with the Minister and was replaced by Royal Air Force Air Chief Marshall Charles Burnett - brought to Australia to oversee the Empire Air Training Scheme (but also to procure as many RAAF aircrew for the RAF). Jones was promoted to GPCAPT and was appointed Director of Training to organise and administer the training scheme. Jones' position as Assistant Chief of Air Staff was taken by AIRCDRE William Bostock.

Jones' task as Director of Training for the Australian contribution to the EATS was immense. Aircrew and ground staff numbers needed to be determined, syllabuses constructed and applicable training provided. Manuals needed to be written, printed and instructors trained. Jones personally inspected the flying training schools and instructional staff and ensured that standardised procedures were followed. Almost 1000 Avro Anson aircraft and 364 Fairey Battle aircraft were provided by Britain and the Wirraway, selected by Lawrence Wackett and produced by CAC, justified its selection as an advanced trainer. Potential aircrew as young as 16 were attracted to join the Air Training Corps (formed in April 1941) and by November 1941, there were almost 11,000 cadets. The ATC was to eventually supply 75 % of RAAF aircrew.

APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF AIR STAFF

In his autobiography, Jones highlights the political pressure and interference that had been applied to the services and this had unsettled the RAAF command. After prolonged attacks by the opposition Labor Party, Richard Williams, then Chief of Air Staff was held responsible for the large number of aircraft training accidents and was summarily transferred abroad to a position in Coastal Command RAF.

Jones felt that the concentration of resources towards the Training Scheme had a detrimental effect on the size of Australian operational squadrons so that following the fall of Singapore to the Japanese, Australia was less prepared for the subsequent Japanese attacks on Malaya, Indonesia and eventually Darwin.

The arrival of American forces also posed additional problems for RAAF senior command in addressing the need for combined operations. Early discussions led to the US Army Air Corps and the RAAF operational staffs being combined under the US General Brett.

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RAAF Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, AVM Bostock was appointed as his Chief Staff Officer.

Complicating matters further was that ACM Burnett's appointment as Chief of Air Staff was about to expire and Richard Williams had returned from RAF Coastal Command. At a Cabinet meeting in May 1942, Minister of Air Drakeford nominated Williams but this was rejected by Prime Minister Curtin. AVM Bostock was next on 'the list' but he was rejected by Drakeford. When Curtin asked for the 'next on the list' he was told that Acting Air Commodore Jones held this position and Jones was therefore promoted to AVM and appointed as Chief of Air Staff - much to Jones' surprise.

Historian Alan Stevens has suggested that 'the list' may have been an organisational chart depicting the integration of the Allied Air Forces rather than the 'Air Force List' - which identified the seniority of RAAF officers and listed Jones as number nine. Jones notes 'Bostock was embittered by this capricious turn of events which he was never able to accept'. General MacArthur replaced General Brett with General Kenney as Head of Allied Air Forces with the two subordinate organisations being the American 5th Air Force and the Australian 'RAAF command' (with AVM Bostock as its head). This divided command was not ideal 'but with men of goodwill it would have worked'. However, Bostock and Jones chose to work against each other with Bostock resisting Jones's demands to be included in the RAAF operational chain of command, or at least kept Jones informed of events. Jones exploited his power as provider of Bostock's men and materiel - 'an exercise in bloody mindedness'.

The obvious solution to this problem would have been for the Australian PM Curtin to sack one or both of his recalcitrant airmen but he chose not to act and in September 1944 when Curtin again raised the issue with General MacArthur, the American replied that it was then too late to make changes.



Morotai, Netherlands East Indies, AVM George Jones CB CBE DFC (right), discusses plans for his visit to the RAAF's most forward operational areas with the Air Officer Commanding First Tactical Air Force RAAF, Air Commodore Harry Cobby CBE DSO DFC 2 BARS GM. (source: Australian War Memorial)

Responsible as Chief of Air Staff for building up Australia's air combat assets in 1943, Jones had given an assurance to the Australian government that he could maintain a force of 73 squadrons. By the end of the war Jones had expanded the RAAF to 70 squadrons in the Pacific and Europe, including several heavy bomber units - the world's fourth largest air force with 175,000 personnel. Jones gained no operational experience during World War II instead specialising in administration and organisation - functions that were his strengths.

MOROTAI MUTINY

Towards the end of the war Jones intervened in the so-called "Morotai Mutiny", when senior pilots in the Australian First Tactical Air Force (No.1TAF) offered their resignations rather than carry on attacking what they saw as unimportant targets. Jones personally interviewed all but one of the officers involved, but General Kenney also insisted on speaking to the pilots himself, overriding Jones' protestations that it was an internal RAAF matter, and threatened to appear on behalf of the pilots should they be court-martialled.

Jones sacked Harry Cobby, (Air Officer Commanding No.1 TAF), and in what may have been a reaction to Kenney's threat, Jones insisted that the subsequent inquiry before Justice John Barry focus not only on the attempted resignations but also on reports of alcohol trafficking on Morotai. Though no action was taken against the pilots over the mutiny directly, two of the RAAF's best-known aces, Group Captain Clive Caldwell and Wing Commander Bobby Gibbes were court-martialled for their involvement in the alcohol racket and reduced in rank. Although Justice Barry did not find it a significant factor, the Jones-Bostock conflict was also blamed for contributing to the poor morale that precipitated the "mutiny"

After the war, Jones oversaw planning for the demobilisation of thousands of RAAF personnel and



AVM George Jones as new Chief of Australian Air Staff (left) with AVM W.D. Bostock RAAF, Chief of Staff to Lieut General George H Brett (centre) and Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Burnett (right), former Chief of Australian Air Staff. (source: Australian War Memorial)

the creation of a peacetime service, which included 16 squadrons flying technologically advanced aircraft and about 8000 personnel. He was promoted to Air Marshall in 1948 and remained CAS until 1952, the longest such appointment in RAAF history.

In 1949, Jones visited the UK with a team of advisors and encouraged local industry to design and build trainer aircraft for the RAAF and produce more sophisticated combat aircraft under licence from overseas manufacturers. This led to the production of the Winjeel basic trainer and Australian industry co-partnership in the production of the CAC Sabre and Canberra jets. He also played a personal part in improving education within the service, including the establishment of the RAAF College, as well as RAAF Staff College. One of his last directions as CAS was the formation of RAAF Museum at Point Cook.

In a farewell speech at the Australian Club in Melbourne, attended by Prime Minister Menzies, Jones said that organising EATS and expanding the Air Force in the South

West Pacific had been his greatest achievements. In an earlier private conversation Jones had told Menzies that “I would like you to know I never sought to be Chief of Air Staff. The basic difference between myself and Bostock is that had he - and not I - been appointed I would have been as loyal to him as any officer could have been”

On his official departure from RAAF on 22 February 1952, Menzies sent him a letter thanking him for his “valuable contribution”, which would “long be remembered”.

Following his departure from the Air Force in 1952, Jones became Director of Coordination with the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation and member of the board of Ansett Transport Industries. In the 1953 New Year Honours, he was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire for his military service. He retired from the CAC directorship in 1957 but remained on the Ansett board until the early 1970s. Sir George Jones died in Melbourne on 24 August 1992, aged 95.

GENERAL INFORMATION

AFA VICTORIA BRANCH CONTACTS

21SQN	Mike Dance	0438764629
ATC/AAFC	Hugh Tank	03 98773424
B24 Liberator	Tony Muller	03 97414635
Ballarat	Noel Hutchins	0439 929 322
Bendigo	Glenis Gordon	03 54369293
Catalina	Ronald Kirk	03 98193527
Technical	David Graham	0407 248 874
Fighter SQN	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
Geelong	John Delia	0408 054 122
Gippsland	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
Melbourne WAAAF (3xA)	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
RAAF Radar	Chris Harnath	0425 770 011
RAF	Val Boyd	0428 174 070
Sunderland SQNs	Ricky Hattam	0418 994 759
Vietnam Veterans	Gill Coughlan gilly4346@gmail.com	
Williams	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600

CONTACT: EDITORIAL DATES

AUTUMN 2023

Contributions by 20 February 2023
Publication: 10 March 2023

WINTER 2023

Contributions by 20 May 2023
Publication: 3 June 2023

SPRING 2023

Contributions by: 25 August 2023
Publication: 11 September 2023

SUMMER 2023

Contributions by: 22 November 2023
Publication: 12 December 2023



AROUND THE BRANCHES

ATC/AAFC

Vale: It is with sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of our long associated and highly respected fellow member Keith Barr. Our branch members extend their sincere condolences to Nan and the family.

Keith's life in aviation began in 1943 when, at the tender age of 16 he became an Air Training Corps cadet with No.30 (Parramatta) Squadron of No.2 Wing, N.S.W.

He privately pursued his ambition to fly and this led to his chosen profession

in the many fields of civil aviation.

R.I.P. Keith.

Once again, I had the pleasure of attending this year's No. 4 Wing Annual Drill Parade at Point Cook on Sunday the 9th October.

The parade was preceded by an obviously well attended, extensively varied tent Expo and the sight of so many cadets on parade again was spectacular.

Congratulations to all of the Award Winners.....well done!

Thanks to WGCdr (AAFC) Kylie Walker, Officer Commanding 4 Wing AAFC for inviting me, also SQNLDR (AAFC) Samantha O'Sullivan, Staff Officer Development and Community Engagement and all other Staff members for their welcomes on the day.

Our branch's originally planned Christmas Luncheon "went west", largely due, we expect, to COVID and the uncertainty involved and so, we will be having a normal type of first Friday of the month

luncheon on the 2nd December 1130 hrs at Box Hill R.S.L.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members and their families.

Laurie Bell.

President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ATC/AAFC BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

BENDIGO

Firstly, we would like to congratulate all involved with the Remembrance Commemoration Service held at Point Cook last Sunday 6th November. The service was delightfully managed. Sadly, we were late arriving due to road works & detours but we enjoyed what we saw.

On the 7th September a number of our members attended the Battle for Australia Commemoration service at the Melbourne Shrine. What a wonderful day, sun shone brightly, no rain or wind just perfect. Great to see over 600 students from around

Victoria who sat quietly listening to everything that was said. With the Navy Band & vocalist together with SQNLDR Michael Veitch giving the keynote address. A great day.

Our sincere sympathies go to Ballarat Branch for the cancellation of their Battle for Australia Commemoration service. After all the hard work they had put into this wonderful Commemoration having had to cancel due to Ballarat Parks & Gardens withdrawing the permit, must have been very disappointing. We await 2023.

We welcomed a new member, Leonie Chappell, who was a Squadron Leader in Air Force. Leonie is travelling around Australia and dropping in regularly for visits.

The members had a social day out, having lunch at Victoria Hotel in Elmore. Lovely food, great atmosphere and friendly gathering.

To all those who have been affected by flood waters our thoughts go out for some drying times and hopefully little damage.

I am reminded that 2023 is not far away, so our

good wishes go to all for a wonderful Christmas and a safe, happy & healthy 2023.

Glenis Gordon

Secretary

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BENDIGO BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

The Catalina Branch attended their annual pilgrimage to the Shrine on Sunday 28 August 2022. The Service was held in the Sanctuary and was attended by members of the Catalina Branch Executive, veterans' families and friends.

Our Patron, Group Captain Annette Holian and Catalina Branch President, Ken Scott, officiated at the service. Peter Marsh and Bev Keegan laid the wreaths. The service concluded with refreshments in the Visitor's Centre Art Gallery and the viewing of the Catalina Flag flying in the forecourt.

The following is a summary of President Ken Scott's presentation at the ceremony.

Eighty years ago, Australia was under threat from Japanese forces. Malaya, Indonesia and Rabaul had been captured. There was intense fighting on Guadalcanal and the Japanese had landed on the Papua New Guinea coast before advancing along the Kokoda Track to Port Moresby.

Catalinas were operating on bombing missions, reconnaissance, supply drops and rescuing aircrew from behind enemy lines.

On 14 August 1942 Flight Lieutenant Athol "Attie" Wearne and his crew alighted near Buna, Papua New Guinea, to rescue 6 USA Airforce aircrew. This was a difficult rescue, and the Catalina was exposed

on the water for over 8 hours before it could take off with the rescued aircrew.

The following month Flight Lieutenant Wearne was swimming near Cairns. He lost a leg in a shark attack. Twelve months later he returned to flying with an artificial aluminium leg.

In 1942, five Catalinas were shot down by Japanese aircraft with the loss of all crew members.

Three Hundred and twenty (320) Catalina aircrew lost their lives during World War 2. Today we remember their sacrifice and remember all who served on Catalinas – aircrew, ground and support crew.

In the October 2022 issue

of the Catalina Branch Update for Members an invitation to an informal Branch luncheon was distributed. The get-together has been arranged for Friday 18 November 2022 at the Mail Exchange Hotel, 688 Bourke Street on the corner of Bourke and Spencer Streets, commencing at 12:00 noon.

Ron Kirk
Branch Secretary



The Catalina Flag flying in the Shrine forecourt.



The Shrine Sanctuary wreath laying ceremony. Peter Marsh and Bev Keegan, holding the wreaths, with Ken Scott (President) and our Patron Group Captain Annette Holian.



Ken Scott (President), the Shrine Guard and Our Patron Group Captain Annette Holian with the Catalina Banner.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CATALINA BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

RAF

The RAF Branch continues to be well supported. We have needed to modify some of our activities resulting from Tempus fugit, causing a drop off in member numbers. However we currently have 38 fully paid up members. We have adopted a practice

of meeting informally for a lunch at Glen Waverly RSL on the first Monday of each month and considering that some of us have mobility issues the meetings are well supported.

This month 15 of our members attended and we have organised a Christmas

function for our December meeting. We are very grateful for the ongoing support provided by AFA Victoria.

Ted Hayes
President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE RAF BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

Another year just about over and the festive season will soon be here.

Our Branch, supported by the generosity of AFA Victoria, is continuing the annual tradition of offering Educational Bursaries and Encouragement Awards to eligible children and grandchildren of serving and retired Air Force members who meet the qualifying criteria. Further details are included in this edition of Contact. If you have children or grandchildren who meet the criteria, please encourage them to apply.

The recent VVAA State Council was held at the Box Hill RSL and although a COVID infection prevented my attendance, we were well represented by Andy Lapins.

One of the Directors of the AFA Board of Management (AIRCDRE (retd) Rowan Story) is a retired maxillofacial surgeon and he gave a presentation on his annual visits to Vietnam to work with local surgeons which was well received.

VVAA currently holds three State Council meetings each year at various country locations around

the State and is considering reducing the amount of travel required of delegates by arranging to have the meetings at just one central location (possibly Bendigo) – a reflection of the advancing age of delegates.

The Annual General Meetings of the RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association and the Air Force Association (Vic) Vietnam Branch will be held concurrently on Sunday the 19th of February 2023 commencing at 1400 hours. The venue for these meetings is the Air Force Association (Vic)

Headquarters, 24-36 Camberwell Road, East Hawthorn, Vic.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of wishing everyone and your families all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Chris Hudnott
President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE VIETNAM VETERANS' BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

VALE

It is with the greatest respect and fond memories, we remember our colleagues who have passed on before us.

The following members have passed away since our last publication. May they rest in peace.

Mr Tom Runnalls Catalina Branch	20/09/2022
Mr Alan O'Rourke RAAF Radar	01/07/2022
Mr Robert Hill Headquarters	07/10/2022
Mr Robin Williams RAF	04/10/2022
Mr Michael D'Esterre Headquarters	25/10/2022
Mr Keith Barr ATC/AAFC	28/10/2022
Mr Arthur Atkins Headquarters.....	26/10/2022
Mrs Jessie Reed WAAAF Branch.....	October 2022

Let Us Not Forget

Air Force Association

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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION – VICTORIA

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Max McGregor – President

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John Clarkson CSC – Vice President

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Chris Hudnott – Director, Communications

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Rowan Story – Board Member

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