

Air Force Association

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*For all who serve, have served and will serve in the Royal Australian Air Force.
Then. Now. Always.*

AIR FORCE CENTENARY MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On 30th March 2022, the RAAF's Centenary year was concluded most fittingly with the dedication of a new Air Force Centenary Memorial at RAAF Base Point Cook, which will serve as a permanent legacy of the Centenary program.

Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO, DSC and the WOFF of the Air Force, Fiona Grasby OAM unveiled a memorial plaque attached to each end of the new Air Force Centenary Memorial dedicated to everyone who has worn the RAAF uniform in its first 100 years.

The Commemoration opened with a flypast by 100 SQN's CAC Mustang, based at Point Cook. 100 SQN was re-established, during the Centenary Year, as the Air Force Heritage Squadron. The ceremony concluded with a PC-21 formation aerobatic display by the Roulettes.

RAAF Base Point Cook was first established in March 1913 and is widely acknowledged as the 'Birthplace of the RAAF'.

The Air Force Centenary Memorial honours the 350,000 Australians who have served in

Continued on page 2

the Air Force since 1921 and, in particular, the 11,191 who have died serving their nation. On special occasions, the memorial will also feature a vertical spotlight, to honour the 3,143 aviators who have no known grave.

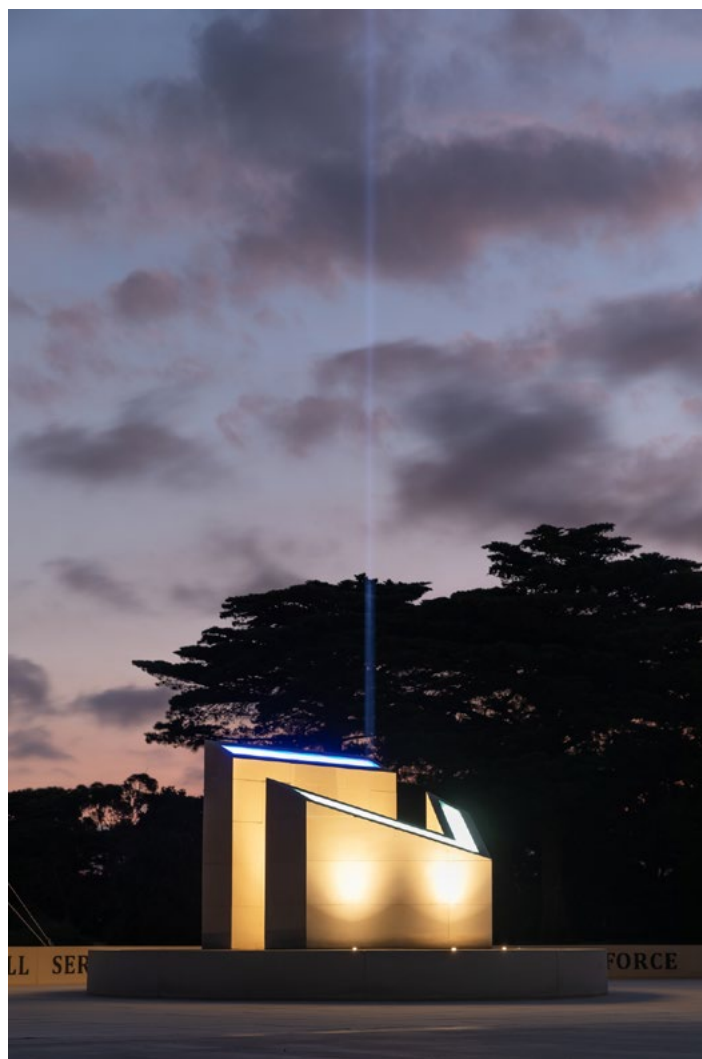
The memorial is made of sandstone and features a simple yet meaningful design that includes officer and enlisted rank insignia and a semi-circular shape, which completes the circle formed by the Australian Flying Corps Memorial on the opposite side of the parade ground.

The imagery presented by the memorial is of a light blue chevron (almost white at night) representing enlisted RAAF personnel and a horizontal blue stripe representing a commissioned rank insignia. The vertical spotlight originates between these two vertical features. (see photo right)

The Air Force Centenary Memorial is a special place to pause and reflect on what Air Force personnel have contributed to Australia throughout the past century and will undoubtedly achieve in the future. It features the words 'Then, Now, Always' as a tribute to all Air Force personnel who have shown enduring support for our nation.

Please visit pages 8-9 to see a full display of images from the new memorial dedication ceremony.

You can also click on the image below for a short video on YouTube on the making of Air Force Centenary Memorial at Point Cook, or go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19bdFperOyo>



The new Air Force Centenary Memorial at RAAF Base Point Cook, Melbourne, will feature a spotlight looking forever skyward on special occasions to honour the 3143 aviators who have no known grave.



The Air Force Centenary Memorial plaque unveiled by the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC and Warrant Officer of the Air Force, Fiona Grasby OAM.

(Images courtesy Department of Defence, Noel Hutchins and Chris Hudnott)

ACES AND INNOVATORS – SIR ALBERT EDWARD (BERT) CHADWICK (1897-1983) PRESIDENT RAAFA (VIC), 1941-43



A young Bert Chadwick



In later life

Continuing our series on Aces & Innovators, we turn our attention to past Presidents of our Association. Current AFA Victoria Board Member, John Clarkson shares the story of AFA Victoria's second President, Sir Albert Edward (Bert) Chadwick.

Bert Chadwick was a truly remarkable man - from his early days of Australian aviation to the Australian Flying Corps, Melbourne Football Club, as a Director RAAF Recruiting during WWII, the Olympic Games, Melbourne Cricket Club, Gas & Fuel Corporation, and on it goes...

Bert Chadwick was President of AFA (VIC) from 1941-43, the same time he was Director of RAAF recruiting and a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club committee. How he found time is beyond me as he faced a massive task with the RAAF to increase personnel numbers from 3,500 in 1939 to 180,000+ by 1944. However, his commitment to the Association was strong.

Bert had been instrumental in arranging a reunion dinner for AFC personnel in 1920 to welcome the Smith brothers after their record-breaking flight from England and this dinner became the genesis of the Australian Flying Corps Association. By WWII the AFCA had become the Air Force Association.

It may also be worth noting that Bert was Senior Vice President of the AFCA when the Association raised funds and presented the AFC Memorial to Chief of Air Staff, AVM Sir Richard (Dicky) Williams, in 1938

(co-incidentally, Williams was also President of the AFCA). The Memorial stands at Point Cook opposite the new RAAF Memorial which was unveiled in late March this year as part of the RAAF's centenary celebrations.

Albert Edward (Bert) Chadwick was born on 15th November 1897 at Beechworth, Victoria. His father was a London born chemist, his mother was a Beechworth local and his early education was at a single teacher school in country Tungamah (a little south of Yarrowonga).

When Bert was twelve the family moved to Carlton. Unfortunately, his father died soon after and Bert was forced to seek work to help support his mother and four siblings. He delivered papers, collected firewood around factories and eventually became an "apprentice helper". Before long he won a scholarship to University High School but was unable to take it up.

While working a 48-hour week he attended night school and ultimately gained an apprenticeship in electrical engineering with Jack Duigan who had been the first to design, build and fly an aircraft in Australia. Duigan's interest in aviation led Bert to spend his spare time working with

aircraft fabric.

Bert had never had time for sport until he was introduced to Australian rules football with 1SQN in the Sinai but ended up captaining that team.

When he returned to Melbourne, he played a few games in the ruck for Prahran and did so well that he decided to present himself to training at the Melbourne Football Club. While they couldn't understand anyone just walking in, his persistence paid off and he was signed up. By 1924 he was captain of the club and came second in the first Brownlow Medal count for the League's best and fairest player. He ended up captain/coach from 1925 to 1927 winning 42 of 58 games, including the 1926 premiership. He also played 19 games for Victoria, captaining the side in many of the games including winning the 1927 interstate carnival as captain/coach.

But Bert was much more than a footballer. During the 1920s he worked for the British Imperial Oil Co (later to become Shell Australia) as an engineer before transferring to the commercial division.

In 1935 he changed employer and was

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appointed to the new post of controller of sales with the Metropolitan Gas Co. Subsequently, when the Gas and Fuel Corporation was formed in 1951, he became assistant general manager and some years later general manager. In 1963 when he retired, he became chairman of the corporation and was heavily involved in negotiations with Esso BHP on the cost and supply of Bass Straight natural gas to Melbourne. This meant he also bumped heads with legendary Victorian premier Henry Bolte on pricing. Bert won.

Under Bert's direction, Melbourne had the benefit of clean and affordable energy – I wonder what he would think of the “energy wars” now! Oh, by the way, at the same time he was chairman of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission from 1963 to 1968 and oversaw Australia's investment in the global satellite communications system INTELSAT.

Did I mention administrator? Bert was chairman of Melbourne Football Club 1950-62 when the club won five premierships in six years (they've only won two in the 60 years following, including last year). And for 39 years he served on the Melbourne Cricket Club committee, from 1941 to 1979 including as President between 1965 and 1979 and represented the committee during the planning and conduct of the Melbourne Olympic Games. As MCC president, he also had the honour of hosting Queen Elizabeth II when she attended the Centenary Test in March 1977.

However, for us, it was Bert's contribution to the war effort and veteran welfare that deserves significant

recognition. He was on a study tour of the US in 1940 when he responded to the call and was appointed as an Administrative Officer in the RAAF. In 1942 as GPCAPT Chadwick he was appointed Director of Recruiting based at the Showgrounds and then the MCG. During this time, he was a vigorous advocate of mental and physical fitness, the “national importance” of football in maintaining morale, and the urgency of increasing the enlistment of women. At the end of the war, he was firm in his desire for an orderly demobilisation process for airmen and airwomen and, notwithstanding his position on the MCC committee, he supported retention of RAAF Ransford until the demobilisation process calmly transferred to the Exhibition Buildings. The MCG was handed back to the Melbourne Cricket Club at the end of October, just in time for the new cricket season. Bert's support for veterans continued as trustee and treasurer of the RAAF Women's Educational Fund and chairman of the RAAF Veterans Residence Trust.

Albert Edward Chadwick was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1967 and was knighted in that Order in 1974.

Bert married Thelma Marea Crawley in 1924. He died in October 1983 at his home in Toorak, Melbourne and is survived by his son and daughter.

John Clarkson

Vice President AFA Victoria

Sources: Chadwick - a man of many parts, Nick Richardson, 2021; Pavilions in the Park, Alf Batchelder, 2005; Australian Dictionary of Biology



Sinai, 1918 - Bert Chadwick is 2nd left in the back row.



AIR FORCE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The final events in the year-long celebration of the formation of the Royal Australian Air Force took place on March 30. The laying up of the old colours in the chapel, and the commemoration of the Centenary Memorial were both moving events.

The initial planning had been for around 1,000 people to attend which would have meant that all AFA-Vic members wishing to attend the Centenary Memorial event would have been able to be accommodated. Unfortunately, due to Covid19 restrictions, this number was reduced to a total of 250, with only 30 AFA-Vic members able to be nominated. This made our task incredibly difficult, and the final numbers included the current branch presidents and some of our many members who had made significant contributions to AFA-Vic. It was certainly disappointing that more of our members were not able to attend.

CHANGES WITHIN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

There are soon to be some fundamental changes to the Board of Directors of AFA Ltd (our national governing body) and the way it discharges its responsibilities.

Firstly, it is important to note that the changes that I can announce are necessary, but will have absolutely no effect on the operation of AFA-Vic. The federal government will only meet and work with a national body. Government is not inclined to work with state bodies, and this is understandable. In the past, the Board of Directors of the national body, AFA Ltd, has been made up of formal position holders and the seven Division Presidents. In many cases Division Presidents had a potential conflict of interest in holding these two positions and did not necessarily bring the desired skills necessary to take our parent organisation forward as one.

The Presidents of the seven Divisions have all agreed that changes are required in order for AFA Ltd, the National Board of Directors, to accomplish what is in the best interest of the Air Force Association. In the near future, Division Presidents will not have a seat on the Board of AFA Ltd. The new Board will be made up with Directors who have the necessary skills to move the organisation forward, as a whole, speaking with one voice.

The key steps in the restructure agreed upon are:

- The formation of a new skills-based national Board of Directors to reflect best practice and ensure good corporate governance.
- The formation of a Federation Council comprising representatives from State/Territory Divisions, its role being to represent the views of the divisions to the Board.
- Development of a revised constitution for AFA Ltd, the national body, with all Division constitutions to be linked to the national body.
- Introduction of new operational requirements to support communication and advocacy for the national membership.

The Board of AFA-Vic fully supports these changes and can guarantee that there will be no changes to the way that the Branches of AFA-Vic operate now and into the future. There will be a formal announcement of these changes shortly. One of the safeguards is that the Federation Council will actually elect the Board members of AFA-Ltd.

THE ASPIRATIONS OF AFA VICTORIA

Two significant projects have been developed over the past year - projects that are not only worthwhile but projects that will enhance the functionality of AF Victoria

Homeless Veterans Project

AFA Ltd has established a Foundation to raise funds to support Air Force Association in

Continued on page 6

general. AFA-Vic has prepared a business plan to provide accommodation and the necessary support programs for homeless veterans.

As stated by the Interim Commissioner into veteran suicide, homelessness can be a pre-cursor to suicide. Therefore, anything that we do to prevent homelessness amongst veterans can reduce the risk of suicide. It is early days, but we are hopeful of funding being provided in the future to move this project forward.

RAAF Laverton

Laverton is to be retained as a military base, but there are opportunities for AFA-Vic in the Laverton area in the future. There is a significant area of vacant land that could be used as a retirement village, and AFA-Vic is in the process of preparing an "Expression of Interest" for submission to the Federal Government. We are basically asking for a grant of this land with the intention of developing the site into a retirement village. It should be noted that RAAFVA started many years ago with a grant of land that they subsequently developed into a retirement village. Over time they have expanded to now having six retirement villages in the Perth area. If the WA Division can do this there is no reason why the Victorian Division cannot do the same. There are another couple of facilities at Laverton that AFA-Vic could make use of if the Federal Government can be convinced that we can indeed deliver on this proposal.

AFA VICTORIA EULOGY SERVICE

Covid has certainly impacted on our ability to conduct the necessary training for those members who have volunteered to conduct these services. The good news is that our first training course will be conducted in June. As soon as this training has been completed a formal announcement will be made.

VOLUNTEERS

As you can now gather, there are significant projects that have been proposed, and there are many other projects that could be undertaken. The NSW Division also has several worthwhile projects underway, and there is nothing to stop us doing the same. If anyone has the time and inclination to become involved in future projects, please let our Office Manager, Barb, know and we can hopefully incorporate these projects in Victoria.

Exciting times are ahead.

Max McGregor

President



ASTRA AVIATOR PODCASTS

An initiative by AFA and AFA NSW to capture the recollections and experiences of both retired and serving Air Force personnel.

Listen to former and current Australian aviators share their stories of life in the Air Force with interviewer Gareth McCray OAM.

Click on the link below to listen.

<https://raafansw.org.au/podcasts/>

ANZAC DAY 2022

ANZAC Day 2022 returned to its pre-COVID place on the Australian calendar and while there were fewer banners and marchers this year, the enthusiasm and camaraderie of the marchers and the dedication and gratitude of those who came to acknowledge and remember our veterans was as strong as ever.

Representatives from AFA Victoria Branches in Melbourne and regional locations turned out to march and connect with colleagues and remember those no longer with us.

In commemoration of ANZAC Day, Air Cadets and staff supported over 55 commemorative services around Victoria in the lead up to, and on the day itself.

In the Melbourne CBD, up to 170 Australian Air Force Cadets and staff supported the Anzac Day March by carrying banners for veteran groups and various Squadrons and army units, and a massed Australian National Flags (ANF) body at the rear of the parade.

As AFA's ATC/AAFC Branch President, Laurie Bell said, "We are exceptionally proud of all our cadets and staff for their support of their local ANZAC services – some attending up to 5 different events - right across Victoria. This ranged from Dawn Services, daytime services and marches, school services at the Shrine of Remembrance, and RSL lunches."

2022 also marked the 60th anniversary of the ANZAC Appeal and AFA Victoria President Max MacGregor, together with Vietnam Veterans Branch members Gill Coughlan and Geoff Rose, lent their support to this important cause.



RAAF Vietnams led by Geoff Rose make their way towards the Shrine of Remembrance.



Following the March, the RAAF Vietnam Veterans gathered at their RAAF Vietnam Vets plaque adjacent to the Shrine for reflection and wreath laying.



Air Cadets bringing up the rear with a massed Australian National Flags (ANF) body on ANZAC Day



Geoff Rose, Gill Coughlan and Max MacGregor supporting the ANZAC Appeal at the Shrine of Remembrance.

AIR FORCE CENTENARY MEMORIAL DEDICATION, RAAF BASE POINT COOK – 30th MARCH 2022

“FOR ALL WHO SERVE, HAVE SERVED AND WILL SERVE IN THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE. THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.”



Mounting of the Catafalque Party at the dedication ceremony for the Air Force Centenary Memorial.



AFA National President, Carl Schiller, OAM CSM lays a wreath at the new Air Force Centenary Memorial



Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, AO DSC, addresses guests during the Air Force Centenary Memorial dedication ceremony at RAAF Base Point Cook

AIR FORCE CENTENARY MEMORIAL DEDICATION, RAAF BASE POINT COOK – 30th MARCH 2022



Pictured *centre*, former Deputy Chief of Air Force Air Vice Marshal (Ret'd) Roxley McLellan AO flanked by Dr Tom Roberts OAM and Noel Hutchins, President AFA Ballarat Branch. AVM McLellan AO (ret'd) also served as Air Force Association National President from 2006 to 2012.



Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, AO DSC, greets Bunurong Elder Uncle Shane Clarke during a smoking ceremony for the Air Force Centenary Memorial dedication at RAAF Base Point Cook.



Air Marshal Hupfeld presented a Centenarian Veteran Certificate to Mrs Barbara Parsons (nee Cane), who served in the Womens' Auxilliary Australian Air Force as a Nurse/Physiotherapist. Also pictured in the right-hand bottom corner is Mrs Parsons' RAAF veteran husband, 103 year old Mr Cecil "Boz" Parsons DFC.



Roulettes conduct their flypast during the Air Force Centenary Memorial dedication ceremony at RAAF Base Point Cook.

(Images courtesy Department of Defence, Noel Hutchins and Chris Hudnott)

REOPENING OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY TRINITY AT RAAF BASE POINT COOK



The Chapel of the Holy Trinity at RAAF Base Point Cook

On 30 March 2022 a Service of Celebration for the reopening of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity was held at RAAF Base Point Cook in the presence of the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC.

The Chapel was originally built as the RAAF Academy's Assembly Hall but in June 1987 was repurposed and consecrated as the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. The multi-denominational Chapel was expected to have a similar role and status as St Clement Danes Church in the Strand, London for the Royal Air Force.

Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, AO DSC, and his wife, Mrs Louise Hupfeld, and other senior Air Force personnel attended the ceremony to watch as the old Queen's Colour for the RAAF was retired and placed in its final resting place at the chapel. The Royal Australian Air Force was awarded a new Queen's Colour for its centenary on Wednesday, 31 March 2021.

One important role of the Chapel has been the safekeeping of the RAAF's laid up colours including those Queen's colours, Banners and Squadron Standards which have been replaced or from units which have been disbanded. During the recent extensive interior renovation of the Chapel, the colours have been stored at the RAAF Museum but with the renovation complete, the colours have been returned and are now displayed at the rear of the Chapel.

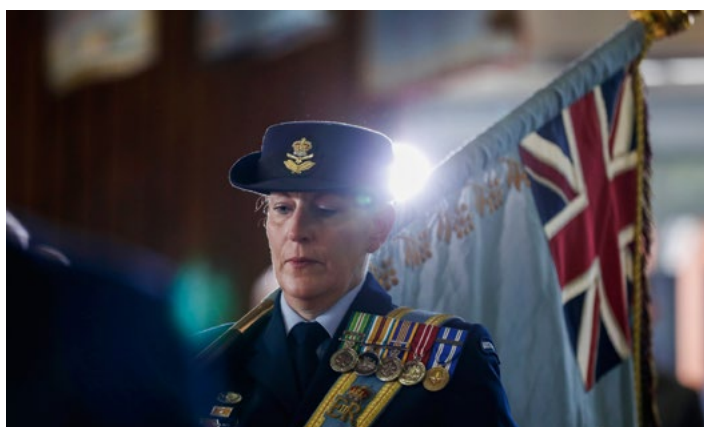
The Chapel is currently used as a place of worship for the local civil community as well as for Air Force members. It has been used as the site for the funerals such as the RAAF's wartime Chief of the Air Staff, Sir George Jones in August 1992 and, most recently, AVM Alan Reed AO DFC (US) on 19 August 2021.

Chris Hudnott

Director Communications, AFA Victoria



The Chapel has been the safekeeping of the RAAF's laid up colours including those Queen's colours, banners and Squadron Standards which have been replaced, or from units which have been disbanded.



Flight Lieutenant Trish Firth carries the outgoing Queen's Colour during the Chapel of the Holy Trinity reopening at RAAF Base Point Cook

MEET YOUR BOARD - ROWAN STORY



Air Commodore Rowan D Story AM RFD (Retd) is the latest member of the Air Force Association Board.

Rowan is a graduate in science, dentistry and law. He did his post-graduate surgical training in Melbourne and the United Kingdom. He is a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Melbourne and completed 23 years as Head of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Monash Medical Centre in 2007.

He is a current Member at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal dealing with professional conduct matters. He teaches law and ethics in the Doctor of Dental Surgery course at the University of Melbourne.

On 31 March 2022, Rowan was also appointed to the Veterans Review Board for a 5-year tenure.

Since 1998, Rowan has led an annual surgical mission to Ho Chi Minh City in Viet Nam, treating cleft and jaw deformity patients and teaching surgical skills.

He has been a Defence Force Reservist, both Army and Air Force, from 1979 – 2020. This time included a one-year attachment to the British Army and visits to the US Army medical services in Europe, the German Air Force and representing the RAAF at a NATO meeting in Switzerland.

His last major posting was as Director General Health Reserves Branch – Royal Australian Air Force.

In 2002, Rowan was appointed as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia for “Services to dentistry as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, educator and administrator.”

Rowan has also been awarded the Reserve Force Decoration with three clasps, the Australian Defence Medal and the Medal for People’s Health from the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

He is married to Carla and they have three adult children.

SAVE THE DATE

AFA BALLARAT BRANCH

PACIFIC BALL

&

BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

27- 28th August 2022

Click the Pacific Ball image for full details

or go to

https://afavic.org.au/1454/images/SAVE_THE_DATE.pdf



SAVE THE DATE
AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (BALLARAT BRANCH)
PACIFIC BALL

BROWN HILL HALL
SATURDAY NIGHT 27TH AUGUST 2022

THE BALL WILL BE THE OPENING EVENT FOR THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION'S BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA WEEKEND

THE BALL WILL ONCE AGAIN FEATURE AN EXTENSIVE NUMBER OF SPOT PRIZES, DANCE MUSIC BY MANTEL, PLUS ENTERTAINMENT BY THE PACIFIC BELLES. A 'PACIFIC THEME' TIES IN WITH THE BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA WEEKEND AND WILL PROVIDE A CHOICE OF DRESS FOR BALL ATTENDEES INCLUDING:
BLACK TIE FORMAL...OR...'AFTER FIVE' PACIFIC THEME ATTIRE...OR... DEFENCE FORCE MESS KIT OR SERVICE UNIFORM.

TO RESERVE A SPACE FOR LATER CONFIRMATION OF BOOKING PLEASE ADVISE 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST' TO ANN PETTY ON MOBILE 0414 441 149

CITY OF BALLARAT/ AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

AS PART OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION'S BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA WEEKEND THE CITY OF BALLARAT, TOGETHER WITH THE BALLARAT BRANCH OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION WILL CONDUCT A BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AT THE AUSTRALIAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR MEMORIAL BALLARAT ON SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST AT 10:05 AM TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND HONOUR THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN THE DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIA IN OUR BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA AGAINST THE INVADING JAPANESE FORCES WITH OUR WAR IN THE PACIFIC, IN OUR OWN WATERS AND ON OUR OWN LAND DURING WORLD WAR TWO. FURTHER INFORMATION IN DUE COURSE. (Any enquiries may be directed to Noel Hutchings AFA Ballarat President on 0439 929 322)

GENERAL INFORMATION

AFA VICTORIA BRANCH CONTACTS

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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	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
RAAF Radar	Chris Harnath	0425 770 011
RAF	Val Boyd	0428 174 070
Sunderland SQNs	Ricky Hattam	03 52413431
Vietnam Veterans	Gill Coughlan gilly4346@gmail.com	
WAAF	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
Williams	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600

CONTACT: EDITORIAL DATES

SPRING 2022

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SUMMER 2022

Contributions by 14 November 2022

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WINTER 2023

Contributions by 20 May 2023

Publication: 3 June 2023

YOUR LATEST EDITION OF WINGS IS OUT NOW!

[Click here to access the online version](#)

WINGS magazine will be distributed by post in the coming weeks.



Wings is the official publication of the Air Force Association



AROUND THE BRANCHES

BENDIGO BRANCH

The Bendigo Branch celebrated the 101st birthday of the RAAF with a luncheon.

There were toasts proposed to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Australian Air Force. A birthday cake (which was left over from last year's celebration) was cut. It just shows how good rich fruit cake will last. Everyone who had a piece really enjoyed it.

Our Branch was also represented at Kangaroo Flat RSL, Huntly

Memorial & Bendigo District RSL ANZAC Day Commemoration Services where wreaths were laid by our representatives.

Bendigo Branch President, Peter Simmons, returned to Cleve, SA after over 60 years where he attended the ANZAC Day service which was organised by the District Council as there is no RSL.

The following day he travelled by ferry to Moonta where an ANZAC Day service had been held in the church. There were

over 1500 attending this service, most of whom were outside. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Peter was unable to attend the unveiling ceremony of a statue of Sir Richard Williams KBE CB DSO, "Father of the RAAF", but he did get the chance to see this wonderful statue.

On 20th May, 20 Bendigo Branch members are having a social day out at the Toolleen Pub. We are really excited about this as last time we had to cancel again due to (you guessed it) COVID 19.

I send good wishes to you all for a healthy and warm winter. Stay warm & safe.

Glenis Gordon
Secretary

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BENDIGO BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

BALLARAT BRANCH

With the lifting of COVID related restrictions imposed by the Government, any member or past member who have felt that they have been unable to attend our AFA Ballarat meetings or events due to COVID related restrictions, please know that the Welcome Mat is out, and we are hoping to very

soon see you all back enjoying the camaraderie that our Branch offers.

Ballarat Branch Immediate Past President Tom Roberts OAM and I were honoured with invitations to attend the unveiling and dedication of the new Air Force Centenary Memorial at RAAF Base Point Cook on 30th March.

It was great to see an

estimated more than 4,000 members of the public up early and attending the Ballarat Anzac Day Dawn Service at 5.45 am on Anzac Day.

The Dawn Service attendance was dwarfed by the massive numbers lining Sturt Street for the March and the following 11am Service. The large number of families with their young children among the

crowds lining the street was especially heart-warming.

After the Anzac March and Service, several of us headed down to the Cressy aerodrome where we witnessed some great activity with some up close and personal opportunities with the Tiger Moth aircraft.

Finally, arrangements for our annual Battle for Australia

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Commemorative Service in Ballarat are well underway. The Commemorative Service will be the major

Left: Ballarat Branch President, Noel Hutchins and Immediate Past President Tom Roberts OAM with Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC at the Air Force Centenary Memorial Dedication Ceremony at Point Cook.

part of our annual Battle for Australia Weekend to be held on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August. The Service will be preceded by our Air Force Association formal Ball on the Saturday evening.

Noel Hutchins
President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BALLARAT BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

RAF BRANCH

On 26th May 2022 the Chairman (Val Boyd) and President (Ted Hayes) of the RAF Branch attended the AFA Presidents' meeting.

The proposed changes regarding the appointment of board members were noted and agreed.

The Chairman informed the meeting that, resulting from falling numbers and the fact that many of our members are not very mobile, we have decided to meet only socially from now on, rather than at formal committee and Branch meetings.

RAFA Branch numbers now stand at 35.

Following the Presidents meeting, several other RAFA members (including our Treasurer) joined us for the AGM. We all had an enjoyable and useful time meeting and socialising with the AFA Presidents and

Staff as well as enjoying chatting over lunch.

At this year's ANZAC Day, although there appeared to be a breakdown in the organisation of this year's March, four of our members were thankfully still able to attend.

Finally, at our RAF Branch lunch in April, we were privileged to have two very special WW2 veterans and members each celebrating their 98th birthdays. Happy birthday Joan & Tom!

Ted Hayes
President



Want to know more about the RAF Branch?

Visit our branch page on the air force association Victoria website

GEELONG BRANCH

The Geelong Branch has maintained its monthly meetings without any further lockdowns, albeit with smaller gatherings followed by fellowship lunch at the Geelong RSL Bistro.

Member attendances are declining however, as the southern winter chills arrive and the northern exodus

begins. A number of guest speakers maintained interest at the Branch.

On ANZAC Day, a small number of members from the Geelong Branch proudly marched in Geelong City, under the Air Force Association banner – some participants wearing uniform.

The Geelong branch had its AGM recently with the current Secretary/Treasurer, Darrell Robinson, stepping down and Phil Royce taking over the reins. I would like to thank Darrell for his great work, wisdom and diligence over the past three years. I envy him as he heads to warmer climates for the winter. I also thank Phil

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GEELONG BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

for putting his hand up to accept the dual role.

The position of President remains unchanged and I

thank the Geelong branch members for their vote of confidence in me to continue and maintain the status quo.

The Branch looks forward to continued growth and interest as the year progresses.

John Delia
President

VIETNAM VETERANS

Our Branch major event during the last couple of months was our participation in the Melbourne Anzac Day March on 25 April. This was the first time since the COVID lockdown that the March had returned to the 'normal' arrangement, and I think most Branch members were a little surprised at how long the journey is from Flinders Street to the Shrine of Remembrance (maybe the fact that we are all just that little bit older was a factor).

A couple of Australian Air Force Cadets were assigned to carry the

banner which was a great help. After the March we held our short commemorative gathering around the RAAF Vietnam Veterans plaque close to the Shrine and members then reversed our earlier journey and travelled back to the city for our usual post-March lunch.

We were saddened last month to hear that Branch committee member, Ken Ewin (a former Airfield Defence Guard at Phan Rang in 1969-70), passed away suddenly on 2 May 2022. Committee members and others paid their respects and celebrated

his life at a funeral service at St Brendan's church in Flemington on 12 May.

Our next major event, Vietnam Veterans Day, on 18 August, commemorates the Battle of Long Tan in 1966. Two helicopters from 9 Squadron played a significant role in this battle by resupplying ammunition at a critical stage in the battle, flying at treetop height due to the atrocious weather conditions.

The commemorative event at the Shrine of Remembrance is organised by the Victorian Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.

The VVAA is planning for this year to be significant and probably the last major gathering of the various VVAA Sub-Branches around the State making the journey to Melbourne to mark the occasion.

Chris Hudnott
Branch 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.

John Hyland Fighter Squadrons Branch	26/03/2022
Kenneth Williams North Metropolitan Branch.....	29/03/2022
Kenneth Ewin Vietnam Veterans Branch.....	02/05/2022
Harry Walter (Phil) Fighter Squadrons Branch.....	16/05/2022
Mrs Jean Vickers Royal Air Force Branch.....	22/05/2022
Arthur Stanley White Ballarat Branch (Life Member).....	09/06/2022

Let Us Not Forget

Air Force Association

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