

Air Force Association

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(L to R) Clive Robartson AM (WA Div President, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, ACM, Sir Michael Wigston, KCB, CBE, ADC, CAS RAF, Carl Schiller (AFA National President), Peter Colliver (AFA National Board Member), AFA Patron AM Mel Hupfeld (Retired), AIRCDRE Rob Lawson DG History & Heritage – Air Force.

War Horse Tornado Gifted to Australia

The Royal Air Force (RAF) has donated a Tornado GR4, to the Air Force Association (WA Division) Aviation Heritage Museum.

The Tornado GR4 (registration ZG791), known as a “war horse” in the aviation community, recently made its way from Southampton in England, to be laid to rest in Western Australia. It is the only gifted Tornado GR4 outside of the United Kingdom.

At the official handover ceremony on 24 February, Air Force Association Patron and former Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC (retd) spoke of the significance of the handover, saying it signifies the ongoing close relationship between the RAF and the RAAF.

“While on operations together over Iraq we flew with Royal Air Force Tornado GR4’s,” said AM Hupfeld.

“It is entirely fitting therefore, that the Air Force Association (Western Australian Division) are being honoured with the handover of this truly remarkable war horse.

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"I see this as a mark of respect for Australia, through the Air Force Association (Western Australia), to be given custodianship of this valuable piece of Royal Air Force history. A history that we have shared."

AM Mel Hupfeld

RAF Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Wigston KCB, CBE, ADC, Chief of the Air Staff, who flew the Tornado GR4, also shared his experience with the aircraft.

"ZG791 is part of my own RAF story. We flew many hours together including a bird strike in June 1998 which I'm pleased to say ended well, although not for the poor bird," Sir Michael said.

"The Tornado served us with distinction for nearly 40 years during which time it developed from the GR1 into the outstanding GR4 combat aircraft. Remarkably, the Tornado Force was continuously deployed on operations from 1990 until we retired it from service in 2019."

Now, the Tornado GR4 will serve as a symbol of the RAF's history and achievements, as well as the close relationship between the RAF and the RAAF. The Aviation Heritage Museum will ensure that the aircraft is preserved for future generations, allowing its story to be explored and shared with a wide audience.

As Sir Michael said, "Our history is a handrail for the future, and I am so pleased the stories of all our friends and colleagues who operated, supported and maintained the Tornado can be explored and shared with the widest possible audience, here in Western Australia."



Tornado GR4 Handover Ceremony Official Program



The Tornado GR4 | its new home at the Aviation Heritage Museum in WA



Air Force Association National President, Carl Schiller and AM Mel Hupfeld (ret'd)



: RAF Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Wigston KCB, CBE, ADC, Chief of the Air Staff and Air Force Association Board Member Peter Colliver speaking with staff members of 7 Wing, Australian Air Force Cadets. Cadets formed the Guard of Honour for the official party.

BURSARIES AWARDED TO WORTHY YOUNG RECIPIENTS



(L to R): 2023 Bursary and Encouragement Award recipients Eva Bialobrzkeski, Declan Douglas and Charlotte Manikhot

At its AGM on 19 February, the Vietnam Veterans Branch again presented Educational Bursaries and Encouragement Awards to three deserving grandchildren of AFA Victoria members.

This year the three applicants were all related to Vietnam Veterans and included Eva Bialobrzkeski who is commencing a Bachelor of Nursing degree, Declan Douglas, about to start his final year in Biomedicine, and Charlotte Manikhot, who is beginning the second year of a Bachelor of Psychological Science degree.

Branch President Chris Hudnott thanked the three young students for their applications and wished them well in their studies and future careers.

The first bursaries were awarded in February 2010 and since then have assisted over 35 young students of Air Force veterans with their education or training endeavours. Find out more about our educational bursaries [here](#) or visit our website afavic.org.au and go to our Programs page.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Royal Commission into Veteran suicide continues to bring about changes even though only interim recommendations have been made. We will continue to work with all organisations involved to bring about improvements that will benefit veterans.

Preceding the Royal Commission, the interim Commissioner for Veteran Suicide, Dr Bernadette Boss tabled her report which stated that veteran homelessness could lead to veteran suicide.

It was this report which forced the management of AFA Victoria to seriously consider whether we were contributing to the significant needs of some of our veterans and their families.

During the lockdown period a business plan was completed, but this was just the start of a long journey. The Board engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) to assist us in our efforts to help veterans. The final report was delivered to the AFA Victoria Board earlier this month and we now have some serious work to accomplish as we work through the various options contained in the PwC Report. One aspect that we must work through involves partnering with other organisations in order to produce the best outcome. This whole process will take time, but we are now well positioned to move forward.

On a National level, the Board of Air Force Association Ltd, our national body, after a lot of work approved a new Constitution. The previous existing Constitution was very old, and not fit for purpose.

The new constitution should allow AFA Ltd to obtain Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status which is important in raising funds for it allows the person, or company making the gift to claim the gift as a deduction on their tax return. AFA Victoria will hopefully benefit,

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as AFA Ltd, through a trust, would be able to allocate funds to our homeless project.

Now that AFA Ltd has a new Constitution it is time for AFA Victoria to present a new Constitution, for our existing document is also very old and not fit for purpose. Work has started on drafting our new Constitution along the lines of the AFA Ltd Constitution and this will be circulated for comment and ultimately put to the vote for adoption.

On a sad note, John Elliott passed away recently after a long battle with cancer. John was a long serving member of 2 SQN and the RAAF Vietnam bodies having served for 12 months at Phan Rang with 2 SQN. AFA Victoria was honoured to be asked to conduct the Eulogy incorporating John's RAAF service and the laying of poppies on the coffin. Whilst we had produced the process for this service and conducted training for those who volunteered, it is always a daunting time when conducting the first service.

A big thank you to John Vansetten and John McCrystal for organising and conducting this service which was both meaningful and highlighted John's RAAF service. From an AFA Victoria perspective it was positive to see that we can conduct this service in a meaningful way while emphasising the importance of the individual's service to the nation.

The Board of Directors of AFA Victoria has undergone some significant changes recently. As part of the AFA Ltd constitution, directors of AFA Ltd cannot hold management positions in the management structure of a division. With Carl Schiller and Peter Colliver continuing to hold positions on the AFA Ltd Board they have both submitted their resignations which I have had to accept. I thank them both for their contributions to AFA Victoria over a long time.



John Vansetten and John McCrystal, who conducted a service eulogy for the late John Elliott, with a commemorative quilt made by Quilts for Valour

Andrew Blyth has joined the Board as Treasurer replacing Peter Colliver. Di Hoopert has also resigned and we thank Di for her service. At the AGM Chris Hudnott will be resigning and his contribution to our communications and Contact magazine is gratefully acknowledged. John Delia, current President of the Geelong branch will be joining the Board at the AGM and taking over from Chris in the communications role.

If any member believes that they can contribute to the management function of AFA Victoria, please contact me directly. I must say that the amount of time needed to make a meaningful contribution exceeds just attending monthly Board meetings, but knowing you are working to support our veterans is ultimately very rewarding.

Max McGregor

President

AFA VICTORIA ON SHOW AT AVALON



Caption: (L to R): John MacDonald, Howard Brownscombe, AVM Wendy Blyth, John Clarkson and John Riches

AFA Victoria was provided with an opportunity at Avalon Airshow 2023 to showcase its roles in supporting veterans, fostering friendships and honouring its legacy.

AFA Victoria was allocated a display stand in one of the pavilions and team of AFA members was rostered to engage with visitors, including both serving personnel and the general public. AVM Wendy Blyth AM (Head of Air Force Capability) was one of the many visitors who stopped for a chat and photo opportunity.

OAM AWARDED TO RAAF VIETNAM VETERAN



Group Captain Mac Cottrell (retired) DFC OAM (image courtesy AAP)

RAAF Vietnam Veteran and former President of AFA Victoria, GPCAPT Mac Cottrell DFC (retired) has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division (OAM)

Mac Cottrell received the award in the Australia Day honours for service to veterans and families.

Over many years, he has made significant contributions to such organisations as Legacy, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Staff College Association, the Air Force Association as well as a number of ex-service welfare groups.

During his distinguished career in the RAAF, Mac Cottrell was assigned to the United States 7th Air Force in the Republic of South Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller serving in III Corps with the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron.

He was the recipient of an immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross in recognition of his gallantry and professional skill in operations.

In 2021 he was one of two Australians awarded the Silver Star one of the United States' most prestigious combat awards, for heroism in Vietnam.

Mac Cottrell was President of AFA Victoria from 1992-93.

HORNET FINDS NEW HOME IN WA

Once a proud member of the Royal Australian Air Force's fleet, the F/A-18 Hornet A21-101 has now been given a new home at the Air Force Association's Aviation Heritage Museum of Western Australia, joining another recently arrived iconic aircraft the Tornado GR4.

The A21-101 was retired from active duty in 2021 after many years of dedicated active service. The Aviation Heritage Museum in WA saw an opportunity to acquire a piece of Australian military history and began the process of securing the aircraft.

The Hornet was carefully transported and soon visitors to the museum will be able to see the F/A-18 Hornet A21-101 up close and personal, next to another iconic aircraft, the Tornado GR4.

The Hornet is a testament to the skill and dedication of the Royal Australian Air Force and serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who served to protect their country.



The F/A-18 Hornet A21-101 in its way to Air Force Association's Aviation Heritage Museum of Western Australia.

To read more about this beautiful aircraft and its history, click here <https://www.boeing.com.au/resources/en-au/pdf/RAAF-100-Years/Classic-Hornet-PC.pdf>

(With thanks to WGCDR Deanna Nott from AFA's National Board for this item.)



RAAF Pilot Peter Isaacson in WWII

In recent editions of *Contact* we have showcased a number of our early AFA Victoria presidents. Our ninth president, Peter Isaacson served in that post from 1956 to 1959, succeeding Sir George Jones. John Clarkson takes a look at the career of Peter Stuart Isaacson.

Peter is often recalled as the man who flew Lancaster Q for Queenie under the Sydney Harbour Bridge. As it happens, he gifted a painting recording that event to AFA-Vic and this now adorns and dominates a wall of the auditorium.

Peter Stuart Isaacson was born in 1920 in London and moved to Australia with his parents when he was six. He grew up in Melbourne and attended Brighton Grammar School. He started work at 16 as a messenger boy at *The Age* where his mother worked and then, in 1940, joined the RAAF under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

On completion of training he was posted to the UK and to No 460 SQN within Bomber Command flying Wellington bombers. As a sergeant pilot he completed an operational tour, including participation in a number of 1,000 bomber raids over Germany, when the survival rate was less than 50%.

The squadron converted to Lancasters in October 1942 and the next month Peter was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM) for 'many successful night attacks'. He was subsequently commissioned and posted to a RAF squadron within the Pathfinder Force during which time he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for nursing his severely damaged aircraft back to England at 900 ft.

After completing 45 missions with Bomber Command, Peter was selected to fly Lancaster Q for Queenie across the Pacific to Australia so it could serve as a template for local production of the aircraft. Once in Australia, however, the aircraft was used for exhibition flights to encourage the public to purchase war bonds.

It was during one of these flights that Peter, without warning his crew, flew under the Sydney Harbour Bridge. He apparently said later he did so 'because it was there'. He was threatened with court martial but this never eventuated. Peter believed (with tongue in cheek, I'm sure) that the charge was lost in a bureaucratic tussle between Eastern and Southern Commands.



Peter Isaacson daring 1943 swoop under the Sydney Harbour Bridge almost saw him court-martialled.



Peter Isaacson at home (CREDIT: *The Age*/Fairfax Media via Getty Images)



The Air Force Association was gifted a painting that had been commissioned by the family to commemorate Peter's epic flight under the Sydney Harbour Bridge. It currently hangs in the Association's function room.

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Peter transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 1946 and served until 1969 when he retired as a WGCDR.

As well as his work with the Air Force Association during this period, he was also for a time commandant of 21 Sqn and of the Victorian Squadron of the Air Training Corps. He also became a Life Governor of the Shrine of Remembrance after being a trustee from 1956 to 2000, and Chairman from 1983 to 2000. Professionally, Peter became a successful publisher and in June 1991

was appointed Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for “services to the print media and the community. In 2015 Peter was inducted into the Australian Media Hall of Fame in recognition of his services to the media industry. His induction and nomination can be found here: <https://halloffame.melbournepressclub.com/article/peter-isaacson>.

Peter Isaacson passed away in Melbourne on 7th April 2017 aged 96.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL TO BE ABOLISHED

The Government will abolish the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and replace it with new federal administrative review body.

The AAT will continue operating until the new federal administrative review body is established. Once the new body is established, any remaining cases will transition to the new body.

Key features of this new body will include:

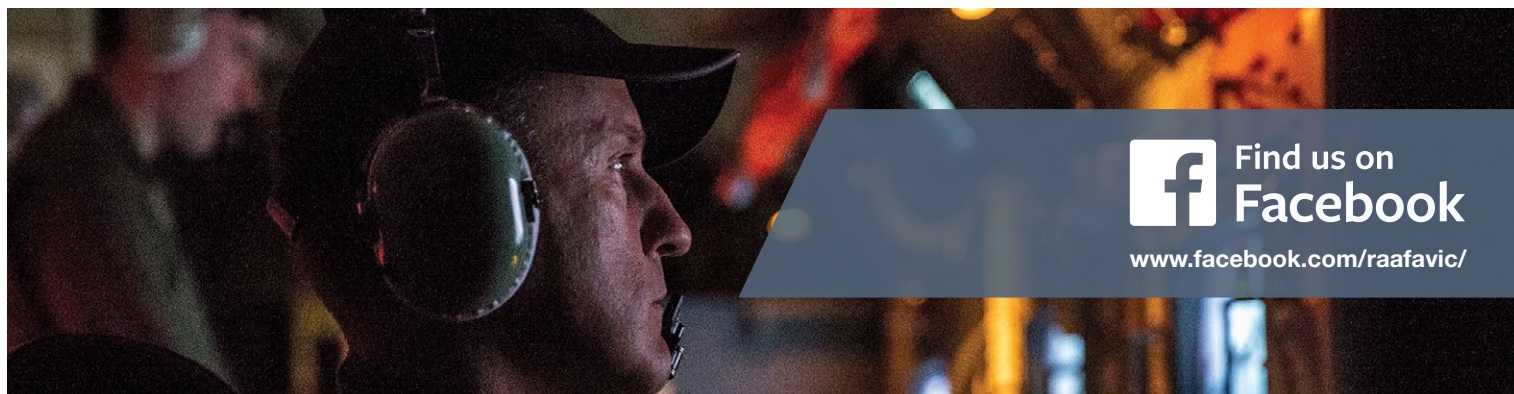
- implementing a transparent and merit-based appointments process
- providing additional capacity to enable the rapid resolution of existing backlogs
- implementing consistent funding and remuneration arrangements
- implementing a single, updated case management system
- introducing procedural efficiencies and process improvements, and
- support services and emphasising early resolution where possible.

The Attorney-General will introduce legislation into Parliament in 2023 to establish the new federal administrative review body.

All matters currently before the AAT will continue. Many cases currently before the AAT will be finalised before the new federal administrative review body is established. As an interim measure, while the new body is being established, the government will move quickly to address the backlogs that have developed over recent years by appointing 75 new members to the AAT.

Once the new body is established, any remaining cases will transition to the new body.

Further information is available on the New federal administrative review body web page.



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IN MEMORIAM AIR MARSHALL JOHN 'JAKE' WILLIAM NEWHAM AC (RETD) – A LIFETIME OF SERVICE



Reviewing the Guard of Honour at the Air Force Association Pilgrimage to Point Cook on 3 November 1991.

After a long illness, Air Marshall 'Jake' Newham AC passed away peacefully on 27 December 2022. Director of Communications Chris Hudnott reviews the Air Marshall's 39 years in the RAAF and his contribution to society after leaving the Air Force.

John 'Jake' Newham was born in Cowra on 30 November 1930 and educated at Cowra High School. He was appointed school captain, was a senior under-officer of the school cadets and loved many sports. At his funeral service on 20 January 2023, his son Murray recalled that he was a country boy at heart, kind and generous, humble and very determined. He was inspired by the Battle of Britain and wanted to be a fighter pilot in the RAAF but his first application was unsuccessful due to a broken leg playing rugby. He successfully applied two years later and commenced pilot training at Point Cook in 1951 graduating as a sergeant pilot in July 1952.

After conversion to fighter aircraft, Newham saw active service in Korea, flying Meteor aircraft from February to September 1953. He later recalled that his first sortie was as wingman to an RAF Flight Lieutenant 'who showed me enemy gun locations by arranging for them to shoot at us'. His next posting in 1953 was to garrison duties in Malta flying Vampire aircraft with No 78 (Fighter) Wing until 1955.

His promotion to Flight Lieutenant and conversion to Sabre aircraft took place in 1957 and he was posted to Malaya from 1958 to 1960 with No 3 Squadron. He attended Staff College in 1964 and was then appointed Chief Flying Instructor at No 2 Operational Conversion Unit. He qualified as a Fighter Combat Instructor and was Temporary Commanding Officer of that unit from July 1965 to April 1966. In August that year, he commenced conversion training on the Mirage III and following promotion to Wing Commander, he led No 3 Squadron at Williamtown in 1967 and 1968 as it re-equipped with the ground attack version of the Mirage aircraft.

In 1971, Newham was appointed commanding officer of the Aircraft Research and Development Unit and the following year became Officer Commanding RAAF Base Laverton. By now a Group Captain, he was appointed Officer Commanding No. 82 Wing at RAAF Base Amberley in 1973 which involved the introduction of the long-delayed F-111 aircraft and he led the arrival of the first three aircraft to land at Amberley on 1 June 1973. At that time the F-111 had a tarnished reputation but Air Marshal Newham believed in the aircraft and appreciated its strategic influence and capability. At Air Marshall Newham's funeral on 20 January, retired Air Marshall Ray Funnell AC (a former CO of 6 SQN) recalled that as Officer Commanding No. 82 Wing, Newham was responsible for introducing into service an advanced and controversial item of equipment without fuss or



Then Group Captain Jake Newham in 1973 talks to the waiting media after leading the ferry flight of six A8 F111s from Fort Worth, Texas, to Amberley, Australia. (image courtesy Department of Defence)



Air Marshal John "Jake" Newham AC (Retd), former Chief of Air Staff stands for a minute silence after delivering The Ode on the No 1, 2, 3 and 4 Squadron Centenary parade held at RAAF Base Williamtown in 2016.

IN MEMORIAM AIR MARSHALL JOHN 'JAKE' WILLIAM NEWHAM AC (RETD) – A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

major incident and with a basis for development that was of enormous benefit to Australia during its 30 years of service – a task for which Funnell believed that Newham was never given the credit that he deserved.

In 1975, he was posted to Headquarters Operational Command as Staff Officer Operations (OPCOM) and was at the centre of some challenging RAAF operations including the evacuation of Darwin following Cyclone Tracy, the UN Peacekeeping contribution to Kashmir and the evacuation of Australians from Saigon during the fall of Vietnam including Operation Babylift, where Vietnamese orphans were flown to Australia.

Newham was promoted to Air Commodore in 1976 and became Senior Air Staff Officer at OPCOM, serving through the following year. In 1978 he attended the Royal College of Defence Studies, London, and was made Director General of Operational Requirements in 1979. He was promoted air vice marshal and appointed Chief of Air Force Operations in March 1980, and served on the Chief of the Air Staff Advisory Committee. In 1982 he was posted to the United States as the Head of Australian Defence Staff in Washington, D.C. Upon returning to Australia, Newham became Deputy Chief of the Air Staff in March 1984 and was also appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia on 11 June for services to the RAAF.

Newham was promoted to Air Marshal and appointed Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) on 21 May 1985, succeeding Air Marshal David Evans. On 9 June, he was raised to Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) for service to the RAAF, 'particularly as Chief of the Air Staff'. His term as CAS was marked by the Federal Government's decision to transfer the RAAF's battlefield helicopters to the Australian Army, against the recommendation of an independent committee. According to Air Force historians Alan Stephens and Keith Isaacs, 'Newham protected the best interests of the Australian Defence Force by getting on with the business of effecting the transfer, notwithstanding the deep disappointment within his own service'.

Today, the legacies of Air Marshal Newham's time as our Chief are still evident. The organisation of the Air Force into Force Element Groups, the establishment of Tindal and the bare bases, Jindalee over the horizon radar, air-to-air refuelling and AEW&C capabilities - all found a place in Australia's strategic future through his advocacy while the Air Force's Chief.

Air Marshal Newham retired from the Air Force in July 1987. Richard Kelloway, co-officiator at Newham's funeral and a close friend, spoke about his transition to corporate life with his appointment to the Board of the helicopter company, Helitech, where he continued to apply his business acumen and strategic leadership skills. Kelloway



GPCAPT Newham and then WGCDR (later AIRCDRE) Trevor Owen in the cockpit of an F-111C. (image courtesy Air Power Australia)

also spoke of Newham's commitment to the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation which epitomised Newham's lifelong essence of relieving suffering without discrimination and travelling widely to the Foundation's homes in India, Papua New Guinea and throughout Australia. He continued his 12-year presidency of this charity until very late in his life. He was also Patron of the Victorian Division of the Air Force Association from 1986 until 2009.

Air Marshal Newham was particularly known for his leadership style. Richard Kelloway spoke of his qualities such as warmth, high expectations, encouragement, determination and approachability. Air Marshal Funnell recalled that his style of management was characterised by leading with 'a firm hand but a soft touch' and was particularly good at recognising talent and steering it towards the desired goal. 'He liked to believe in people, build them up, and give them a chance to excel'.

Air Marshal Robert Chipman, the current Chief of Air Force, commented during his address that, in 2012 when Air Marshal Newham was asked about his career highlight, his initial reply was 'leading No 3 Sqn in its transition to the ground attack version of the Mirage', but added that the greatest highlight was working and serving with people who make the Air Force what it is.

Air Marshal Newham's son, Murray, perhaps best sums up his father's character - "He was first and foremost a people person – the term 'Gentleman Jake' is a very common and heartfelt theme.

You can also read RAAF Historian Martin James' tribute to AM Newham below:

<https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2023-01-31/farewell-gentleman-jake>

GROUND BREAKING WORK ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND MENTAL HEALTH EARNS CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS



Squadron Leader Del Gaudry has been awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross.

Squadron Leader Del Gaudry has been awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and her contributions to the welfare and mental well-being of Royal Australian Air Force members.

SQNLDR Gaudry who started life in the Women's Royal Australian Air Force (WRAAF), has been in and out of the Service over the past 47 years in both the permanent and Reserves.

Speaking about the award, Squadron Leader Gaudry, who has served in the RAAF for just on 25 years, said, "I am incredibly honoured and humbled to receive this recognition at the end of my Air Force career."

"I am particularly proud of the work we have done to integrate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations and peace processes, and to support the return, resettlement, and reintegration of individuals in post-conflict settings."

You can read the full story on SQN LDR Gaudry's award on our website

WANTED: "THE RAAF IN RUSSIA" PUBLICATION

If you know of the above book – published circa 1996 - and where to it can purchased or borrowed, please contact our office: info@afavic.org.au



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.

[AD ASTRA PODCASTS](https://raafa.org.au/media/#videos) or visit <https://raafa.org.au/media/#videos>

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

One of Geelong's remaining World War II veterans and Geelong Branch member, Mrs Jan Morgan, celebrated her 100th birthday in January with a surprise morning tea organised by John Delia, President of Geelong Branch.

Mrs Morgan turned 100 on 1 January and on 10 January, GPCAPT Lloyd Sellick, Chief of Staff, HQAFTG, Laverton and Base WOFF Brad Parmenter visited Jan's aged care facility to present her with an Air Force Centenary banner and medallion.

Jan was an original member of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force in 1942 and was working at the RAAF's Melbourne headquarters when she took the urgent signal that Darwin had been bombed by the Japanese. Soon after, she transferred to Sydney, taking US general Douglas McArthur's messages when he arrived to oversee allied operations.

Towards the end of the war, Jan met and married Spitfire pilot Owen Morgan and had three children.

The Geelong Advertiser attended the morning tea, sharing Jan's story with its readers.

Congratulations and happy birthday to Mrs Jan Morgan.



Jan Morgan with Geelong Branch President, John Delia (L) and Geelong Branch member, John Price



The Geelong Advertiser covered Mrs Jan Morgan's centenary birthday party. Pictured with Jan are GPCAPT Lloyd Sellick, Chief of Staff, HQAFTG, Laverton and Base WOFF Brad Parmenter.

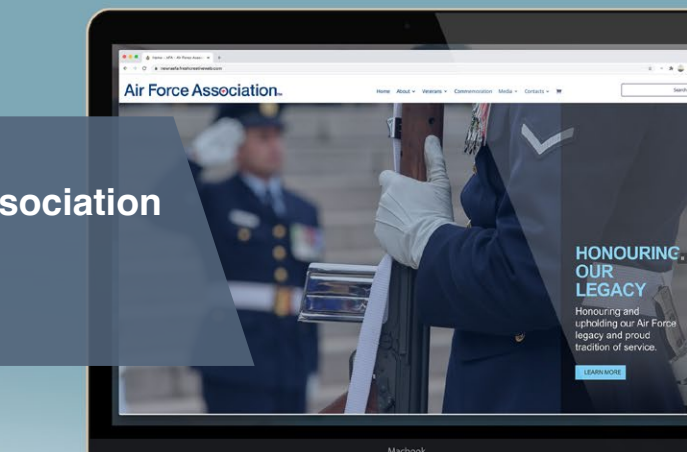


Celebrating Jan's centenary birthday from L to R: John Price (Geelong Branch), WOFF Brad Parmenter, Mrs Jan Morgan, Jan's daughter Kate, GPCAPT Lloyd Sellick (Chief of Staff, HQAFTG, Laverton) and John Delia (President, Geelong Branch) with the Air Force Centenary banner.

WWW

For all national Air Force Association news visit our website!

www.raafa.org.au



GENERAL INFORMATION

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| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
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| Bendigo | Glenis Gordon | 03 54369293 |
| Catalina | Ronald Kirk | 03 98193527 |
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| 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

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

AUTUMN 2024

Contributions by 23 February 2024

Publication: 8 March 2024

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

Wings is the official publication of the Air Force Association



AROUND THE BRANCHES

ATC/AAFC

Greetings to all branches and members. I hope this finds you keeping well.

After an extremely uncertain and somewhat shaky start due to the required lack of numbers, the Christmas Luncheon was enjoyed by approx. 40 attendees. Many thanks to our Secretary, Hugh Tank and Box Hill RSL's Function Manager for kindly allocating for us a large segregated section of the Bistro dining area in lieu of the usual function room downstairs. We found that this area proved to be so well suited to our needs that it could be the answer to catering for lesser numbers at future Christmas luncheons should lack of numbers again prove to be the case.

On Sunday 22nd January,

I once again had the pleasure of being an invited guest at the AAFC's Graduation Parade of the Performance, Development and Leadership Course which was held at PCK in perfect weather.

Again, the standard of drill and the cadets' presentation was impressive, of which they can all be proud.

Congratulations to WGCDR (AAFC) Kylie Walker and the 4 Wing Staff who were involved on the day.

The first couple of monthly luncheons for this year have proved to be very popular with our members and we hope this trend continues. For obvious reasons, it's been some time since this has been the case and

it's been good to see the members enjoying each others' company again.

On a lesser note, the attendance at the earlier announced Special General Meeting, which was held at the Box Hill RSL prior to lunch on Friday 3rd February, was disappointing. However, I take this opportunity to thank those few who did attend and the apologies from those few who were unable to be there.

Vale: Richard Orr

As most would be aware, Richard was a former Treasurer of the Association for a number of years and up until recently, also a popular member of our branch, attending our luncheons as and when he

was feeling well enough to do so.

Our deepest sympathy to Leona and the family.

Vale: Wendy Watson

After a long illness - much loved wife of Graeme, a Branch member of many years.

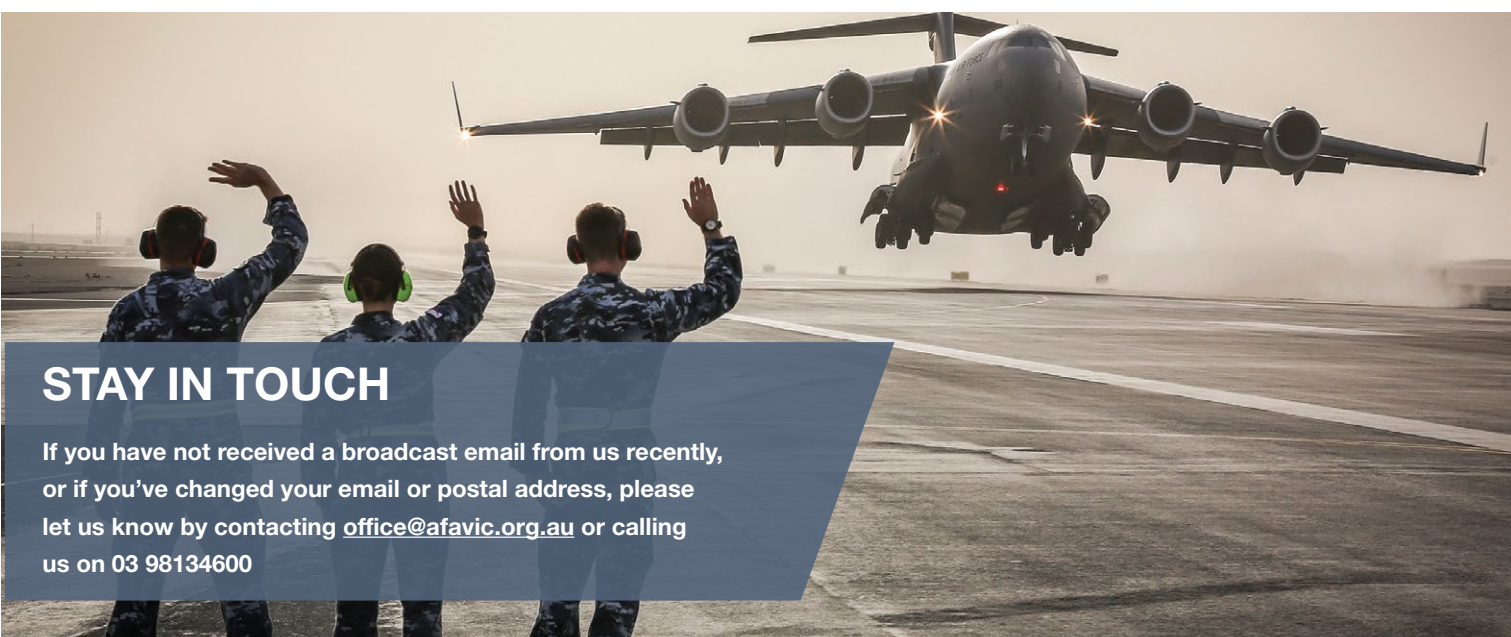
Our sincere condolences to Graeme and the family.

Laurie Bell.

President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ATC/AAFC BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE



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If you have not received a broadcast email from us recently, or if you've changed your email or postal address, please let us know by contacting office@afavic.org.au or calling us on 03 98134600

BENDIGO BRANCH

Do hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyable New Year bringing in 2023 soberly.

Bendigo Branch held its Christmas function on 4th December at the Windermere Hotel, enjoying a 2 course meal of 3 meats & roast veggies followed by plum pudding, custard & cream. We were entertained by the Saucy Sisters who sang some old favourites & Christmas carols. We especially loved

their version of 12 days of Christmas.

Our February meeting was our Branch AGM where we had our previous executive returned for another year. As one of our members states that we have to remain till we get the job right, ha ha.

On 12th February, eight of our members attended the POW Commemorative Service in Ballarat. The service, as usual, was

excellent, lovely weather. Sadly, there is no longer a living POW in Victoria.

On 19th February, six of our members attended the Darwin Defenders Commemorative Service held at BDRSL Memorial Gardens, once again great weather with the one and only living Darwin Defender being a RAAF Association Bendigo Branch member.

Glenis Gordon
Secretary

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BENDIGO BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

RAAF RADAR BRANCH

ANZAC Day reunion April 2023 – Lunch and general meeting.

The RAAF Radar Branch will hold its April Anzac Day Reunion 2023 as follows:

TIME: 12 Noon

DATE: Thursday, 20 April 2023

VENUE: Bentleigh RSL, 538-540 Centre Road, near corner of Jasper Road (Melway 77E1)

COST: Meal and drinks at own expense

Members spouses, other family, friends, and carers, plus other interested AFAV Members are all most welcome to join us.

The venue is 400 metres east of the Bentleigh railway station on the Frankston line, with trains from the city every 15 minutes. A taxi stand is situated at the station. The RSL is wheelchair friendly. The main entrance is on Centre Road and RSL Members can enter via the rear car park door by swiping their

membership card and progressing to the dining room.

Following lunch, our General Meeting will include a special presentation by RAAF Historian Dr Steve Campbell-Wright discussing the Point Cook RAAF Base, including the WWII training of RAAF and WAAAF Radar Mechanics and Operators.

Please ensure our Reunion is in your diaries! We are looking forward to again being together for this Reunion.

Contact RAAF Radar Branch President, Chris Harnath, via: harnathc@bigpond.com

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE RAAF RADAR BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

BALLARAT BRANCH

2022 ended on a high note for Ballarat with nearly 40 attendees at the end of year Christmas Lunch with a spirited display of Christmas headwear.

2023 set off in the same way as previous years, with a welcome picnic lunch next to Lake Wendouree.

Our Branch has seen

changes in 2023 as our former President, Noel Hutchins, took the decision to move to Queensland in the last quarter of the year. Noel over his 5

years in the role was very active in reinvigorating the Branch and all members thank him sincerely for this contribution. The new Branch President is

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Peter Dowling.

Social luncheons are still held on the second Tuesday of each month in Hut 48 (the ex-Officers' Mess from 1WAGS) at Ballarat airport, with meetings focussed around interesting guest speakers and the use of the audio-visual equipment purchased

with a government grant through Catherine King's office earlier in 2022. This equipment makes a huge difference to the hard of seeing and hard of hearing!

We have also been most fortunate this year in securing sponsorship of our 1WAGS website from APCO Alfredton. Maintenance

of this website is the single largest expense to our Branch and this sponsorship is greatly welcomed. To date, there have been over 80,000 visitors to the site, which is one of our proudest achievements.

Sue Alexander
Secretary

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BALLARAT 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 Mervyn McDougal <i>Technical</i> | 01/01/2023 |
| Mrs Gloria Welch Melbourne <i>WAAAF</i> | 29/01/2023 |
| Mr Richard Orr <i>ATC/AAFC/Technical</i> | 03/02/2023 |
| Mr Mac Ford <i>Catalina</i> | 21/02/2023 |
| Mr John Elliott <i>Vietnam Veterans</i> | 27/02/2023 |

Let Us Not Forget

Air Force Association

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