

Air Force Association

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Air Force Association National President, Carl Schiller OAM CSM gave the response to AVM Meredith's presentation.

‘INVITED TO A WAR’ BY AVM ALAN REED AO

LAUNCH OF THE LATEST PUBLICATION IN THE AUSTRALIAN AIR CAMPAIGN SERIES.

On 24 July 2022, AFA National President, Carl Schiller and several members of the Vietnam Veterans Branch were invited to Laverton Officers Mess by Air Force History and Heritage Branch for the launch of the latest book in the Australian Air Campaign Series titled ‘Invited to a War’.

The book is largely based on the autobiography by the late AVM Alan Reed AO with the same title and the date of the launch was significant as it marked one year to the day of the passing of Alan Reed on 24 July 2021.

The book was officially launched by the current Deputy Chief of Air Force, AVM Stephen Meredith AM, DSM and in his forward to the book AVM Meredith writes:

“This book is not intended to be Alan's life story – that can be found in his published autobiography of the same title as this work. Rather, the team in the Air Force's History and Heritage Branch have used Alan's autobiography, with his permission, to weave together a work that present to today's modern-day Aviators, the little-known stories of one man who reached the upper echelons of the Air Force as an air vice-marshal in the late 1980s.”

Continued on page 2



Deputy Chief of Air Force, AVM Stephen Meredith AM, DSM officially launched 'Invited to a War' - the latest book in the Australian Air Campaign Series.

This work has intentionally been produced with additional sidebar stories of the types of aircraft Alan flew as well as stories pertaining to the experiences he and his peers faced during those times, all with the intent of aiding the reader to gain a greater appreciation for the personal histories that underpin today's Air Force.

Sadly, Alan passed away in July 2021 and will not get to see this tribute to his career in the Royal Australian Air Force. I hope it helps keep alive the memory of a great Aviator, and servant to our country and our Air Force. Thank you, Alan Reed, for your service. I wish you blue skies."

In his address to those present at the launch, Air Force Association National President Carl Schiller OAM CSM responded to the presentation by AVM Meredith:

"When Gus (Alan's son) asked if I would respond to the Air Marshal's presentation, I was thrilled and felt extremely privileged having known Alan Reed since he was a junior officer at the RAAF Academy, Point Cook back in the 1960s.

Air Marshal, you have described the wonderful career of an outstanding military aviator and leader who was fortunate to combine his passion for flying with his profession. His courage was acknowledged when, flying his 'Carolina Kangaroo', he was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses in the Vietnam War. Not a bad effort flying an unarmed reconnaissance aircraft.

You mentioned the myriad of aircraft from Tiger Moth to F111 Alan flew and that he took 'any chance to fly'. However, I reckon he would have liked to have avoided his Werribee sewage farm experience.

Yes, Alan's life could be described as high adventure, I suspect buttressed by a good measure of luck, much of which he made himself. And lucky he was:

graduating from No 13 Pilot's Course and surviving avoiding 'incoming' during his first night in Vietnam

surviving 10 'out of country' sorties during the Vietnam War regaining control following an F111 engine stall at Mach 2.4

but his closest call, was his being bumped on a Lincoln flight that crashed killing all on board.

Alan knew he was lucky. He penned a wonderful poem titled 'Lucky', only weeks before his passing, which reflected on his life's good fortune.

Lucky to:

be born
live a long life
fall deeply in love with Aileen
have two wonderful sons with her
have gorgeous grandchildren, girls and fly
And, I guess – to be Invited to a War

I should read the last few lines of his poem:

But lucky have I been and lucky still I am
To live the life I have done, is way beyond my dream
So lucky – that's the theme of this, my life refrain
And lucky is the hope – that things the same remain
But lucky me, I drift on – to things I know not what.
So lucky me, whatever – it matters not a tot.

Alan was grateful for the gift of life, the love of his family and flying. I'm sure that both versions of 'Invited to a War' will provide readers the inspiration to reach out to achieve their dreams. The book reflects a great man, aviator, leader and a life well lived.

Air Marshal, we know that Alan enriched our lives."



L) The newly published 'Invited to a War' and (R) AVM Alan Reed's original autobiography.

'Invited to a War' is the latest publication in the Australian Air Campaign Series launched by Air Force History and Heritage Branch

Both versions of 'Invited to a War' are available to purchase online and at good bookshops.

The version mentioned in this story is part of the Air Force History and Heritage Branch Air Campaign Series and published by Big Sky Publishing.

AVM Reed's earlier autobiography is also available on-line through [Amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au).



We are slowly learning to live with COVID19, and it will be a long time until we return to a pre-COVID lifestyle. However, we are now in a situation where we can plan to hold events with some confidence that the events will occur.

We will be holding our usual Remembrance Commemoration at Point Cook on 6th November, the Sunday before Remembrance Day. Due to ongoing works at Point Cook, no buildings are available to hold our usual luncheon, so we will travel to Laverton after the ceremony for lunch at the Combined Officers and Sergeants Mess (COSM).

After lunch our guest speaker will be Hugh Dolan who will present on the subject "Overturning the Gallipoli Myth". Hugh is a former RAAF Intelligence Officer who was granted access to the records held by the Australian War Memorial and will use some of these official records during his presentation. Some of you may have been lucky enough to hear Hugh speak at Point Cook in the pre-COVID era when he presented on the subject of "The Use of Air Power at Gallipoli". Spaces are still available but filling fast.

I have previously reported on the changes that are being made to the structure of the National body (AFA Ltd) and the development of a new National Constitution. Both of these initiatives are well advanced, with a draft of the new National Constitution having a final review with the lawyers.

Optimistically I expect that the Board of AFA Victoria will be able to review this document by the end of September. AFA Victoria has already prepared a draft Constitution for Victoria based on the draft National version, and I am confident that once we are in possession of the legally approved National Constitution only very minor changes will be needed to our new Victorian Constitution. The new constitution for Victoria will be circulated widely before we put it to the vote at the AGM. This body of work will allow AFA Victoria to be a much more modern organisation.

Our Expression of Interest for acquiring land and buildings at Laverton is still under consideration by Air Force and the ADF. We await a decision. Even if we are successful in this venture it will probably be several years before we would be able to occupy whatever is granted. Definitely a long-term project. I met with the Victorian Minister for Veterans Affairs and his staff on 1st September seeking his in-principle support for some of the buildings at Laverton. The Minister agreed to write to the Federal Minister for Defence and the Minister for Veteran Affairs supporting our request.

Veteran homelessness continues to be a significant issue for veterans and their families. Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) recently made a presentation to the Board on veteran homelessness, highlighting that the figure for veteran homelessness is significantly greater than the figure for the general population.

The Board is strongly of the view that helping homeless veterans is an area that we must become involved with. The Board continues to engage with PWC, and we expect that a proposal from PWC will be considered at the October Board meeting. While we have had only a single experience in helping a homeless veteran (successfully I must add), we acknowledge that we are not the experts in this field, which is one reason why we seek to partner with PWC in this venture. It has been clearly documented that homelessness can lead to suicide, and therefore something that we must become involved in.

We cannot continue just to be a commemorative and social organisation, we must move in the direction of becoming an effective welfare organisation. We have to try to help those in need, and we will.

Max McGregor

President

Air Force Association - Victoria



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION – AN ORGANISATION FOR THE FUTURE

Successful and enduring organisations do not come about by accident. A close examination will reveal they have benefited from good management, were outward looking, strategic and adaptive. The Air Force Association that has its genesis from an Army originating Australian Flying Corps Association has had several iterations in its lifetime.

Starting from a potential membership pool of 3,720 AFC airmen, the Australian Flying Corps Association morphed into an air force association during WWII to capture RAAF membership. Had it not made this transition, the Association would have folded as membership was restricted to Australian Flying Corps veterans and their advancing ages would have sealed its fate.

The AFC and RAAF Association benefited from the potential membership pool of 215,000 RAAF WWII veterans. Subsequent conflicts involved much smaller numbers of RAAF personnel. In the 80s, RAAF strength hovered around 22,000 personnel. However, in 1996, the Government downsized the ADF with the RAAF being reduced to 13,000 members.

A few years ago, the National organisation was restructured to form a company limited by guarantee and changed its title to Air Force Association to better identify itself with the RAAF which preferred to be called Air Force. The National Board encouraged divisions to alter their titles accordingly.

Changes to military superannuation schemes and societal attitudes have seen personnel serving for lesser periods. It has been argued those separating after a short service period have a lesser connection with their Service compared to older generation veterans who often served for twenty plus years. In addition to these changes, governments now provide a greater range of veteran and family support services than what were available to earlier generations who had to rely on ex-service and other community support organisations for assistance.

While many contemporary veterans are not readily drawn to ex-service organisations, there are those that need their support, the kind of which is not provided by governments. Homelessness or in danger of becoming homeless, emergency accommodation for a range of reasons, assistance with DVA claims, and wellbeing support are typical of the gap in government support measures.

Air Force has 14,313 full-time and 5,500 part-time members few of which will become Association members. Consequently, it's likely with an aging membership the Association's membership will decrease. However, despite a declining membership, the Association is capable of becoming a powerful veteran and family support organisation.

Over the last few years, the Association has developed a close and supportive relationship with Air Force. Recently, the National Board approved a revised national structure designed to improve the governance arrangements of our federated association and agreed to a draft new Constitution. The Constitution will morph the Association into a 'beneficial' organisation which will focus on supporting veterans and families in need while continuing to meet the time-honoured objects laid down by the Australian Flying Corps Association. Consequently, Association members will continue to enjoy membership privileges but with the knowledge their Association is doing honourable work. Being a recognised 'beneficial' organisation will improve the Association's access to grant funding and fundraising from philanthropic persons and organisations.

The Air Force Association is improving its governance, looking outward, being strategic and adaptive.

Carl Schiller, OAM, CSM

National President, Air Force Association Limited

HONOURING THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE MALAYA EMERGENCY AND INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION.

The National Malaya Borneo Veterans Association Australia held it's annual Service at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne on Wednesday 31st August.

The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association of Australia was established in June 1995 and has branches in all states and territories. They honour the memory and sacrifice of all those who served during the Malayan Emergency and Indonesian Confrontation.

The Malayan Emergency took place between 1948 and 1960. Australians from all branches of the Armed Forces served over a 13-year period. Thirty-nine Australians were killed

The Indonesian Confrontation took place between 1962 and 1966. Twenty-three Australians were killed during the Confrontation.

The Service was supported, as always, by Staff and Students from the Thomas Carr College. Air Force provided a flyover.

The Service was also supported by the Sabah Sarawak Borneo Natives Organisation Inc and a floral tribute was laid by their President Emily Elvera Edward.

Ballarat Branch President Noel Hutchins attended the commemoration service in his capacity as a Malaya/ Borneo veteran and member of the MBVAA and provided the photographs and information for this story.



Owen Marshal, President of the MBVAA, prepares to lead Malay Borneo veterans, with assistance from students of Thomas Carr College



Noel Hutchins pictured with Malaysian Vice Consul Mr Nor Azizi Abdullah and Malaysian Consulate Immigration Official Mr Naeem Azmi Diaz Ahmad.



Students from Thomas Carr College proudly show their Certificates of Participation.



Emily Elvera Edward, President of Sabah Sarawak Borneo Natives Organisation Inc. with Noel Hutchins.



Portrait bust of Sir George Jones in his home town of Rushworth, Victoria (source: Monument Australia).

In the latest in our series 'Aces and Innovators', this two-part edition by Chris Hudnott looks 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.

PART 1: AIR MARSHAL SIR GEORGE JONES (WORLD WAR I – WORLD WAR II)

THE AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS

George Jones was born on 18 October 1896 near Rushworth, Victoria. His father owned a small property, was also a gold miner and was tragically killed in a mining accident when George was three months old, leaving his family in poverty. The youngest of eight children, Jones started school at Gobarup (a 3 mile walk each way). With the terrible drought of 1902, the family sold the property and moved to Rushworth and a change of school for George (where one of his contemporaries was Frank McNamara VC). Jones finished school at 14 and moved to Melbourne and worked as a motor mechanic while studying a part time course in fitting and turning and enrolling as a cadet in the Compulsory Military Training Scheme before transferring to a militia unit.

When war broke out, Jones enlisted in the AIF and volunteered for transfer to Gallipoli where he arrived in September 1915. Most of the fighting was over but he experienced the harsh weather conditions and meagre rations until his unit was evacuated in December.

After serving with the Imperial Camel Corps, Jones successfully applied to the AFC (No 1 SQN and then 2 SQN) as an 'air mechanic' with a posting to England working as a First-Class Air Mechanic before successfully being selected for pilot training. Training commenced in August 1917 and he graduated as a pilot on his 21st birthday in November. Operational training followed and with only 62 hours flying, he was considered ready for active service in January 1918.

His very first combat flight, flown in a Sopwith Camel, involved destroying a German Albatross D5 aircraft. During another combat, his aircraft ran out of fuel and he glided towards the lines, only just reaching friendly territory but landed in a shell hole. He was badly shaken by the event - to the extent that on his next flight he attempted to land at twice the correct speed.

In March 1918, he was seriously wounded by machine gun fire and suffered petrol burns. It was not until July that he re-joined the Squadron and was involved in further engagements with enemy aircraft shooting down another four. On one occasion, he was leading a formation of nine aircraft and encountered a large enemy formation. Six enemy were shot down in this action and Jones was credited with two for which he was awarded the DFC.

At the end of the war, No 4 SQN returned to England, and a few weeks later sailed for Australia arriving in Melbourne in June 1919.

BACK TO THE MOTOR TRADE

Jones had been away from Australia for 4 years and found the prospect of civilian life somewhat daunting – eventually returning to the motor trade in Melbourne where he was put in charge of the machine shop. About a year later, the highly decorated and fellow 4SQN veteran, Harry Cobby, walked into his workshop and surprised Jones by saying that he was re-enlisting in the Air Force which inspired Jones to apply. Jones successfully passed the interview (before WGCDRs Williams and Goble), was offered a short service commission 'and thus began over 30 years in the Royal Australian Air Force'.

EARLY DAYS IN THE RAAF

Jones was posted to Point Cook as OIC of the motor transport repair section before being appointed to run the aircraft and engine repair shop and test fly the aircraft that were re-conditioned – a somewhat risky task when on one occasion the aircraft suffered a broken main wing spar and, on another, crossed aileron controls.

After 5 years running the workshop, Jones was posted to the Flying Training School (FTS) at Point Cook in August 1926 and given the task of carrying out an inventory of stores for the unit which had become overwhelmed with the aircraft and equipment that had been gifted to Australia at the end of the First World War. He also carried out flying instruction at the FTS.

After 5 years in command of the Point Cook workshops and a promotion to FLTLT, Jones began to feel more

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Portrait bust of Sir George Jones in his home town of Rushworth, Victoria (source: Monument Australia).

confident about his future with the RAAF. He passed the promotion examinations for SQNLDR and set his aim at qualifying for one of the two annual positions at the RAF Staff College in England. Jones was the only one of three candidates who passed (the others being Frank McNamara VC and Frank Lukis).

Jones recalls that the then Chief of Air Staff (Richard Williams) thought there had been a mistake - both McNamara and Lukis had served under Williams in No 1 SQN in the Middle East). However, the results were confirmed, Jones was promoted to SQNLDR and he and his wife (and son) departed for London in December 1928 for a two-year posting (one year at Staff College and a second year in other attachments) with another officer, Bill Pastra who was too old to take the examination and was selected as a special case.

Jones found the course difficult but graduated with a very satisfactory report and was then assigned to attend a flying instructor's course at the Central Flying School which he enjoyed and graduated top of the course. He visited several fighter squadrons where he was able to fly some of the latest fighter aircraft. With an interest in aircraft construction, he was also able to arrange visits to almost every aircraft factory in England. Even then, he firmly believed that Australia should have been establishing an aircraft industry in Australia although 'nothing was done until 1937 and then it was much too late'.

Just prior to his return to Australia, the R101 airship had been completed and was scheduled to complete a return flight to Karachi. As the senior officer in England, he had expected to be chosen to be included on this flight but his Staff College colleague, Bill Pastra, was selected instead. The airship crashed at Beauvais in France and Bill was amongst those killed.

Returning to Australia, Jones was posted to Point Cook for two years as CO/CFI of the Flying Training Squadron followed by a further two years as Director of Training at RAAF Headquarters - responsible not only for pilot training but also training of all specialist officers and other ranks in their various trades.

As part of a later review, Jones, accompanied by ACDRE Mackinolty, pointed out weaknesses in aircraft supply and pressed for establishment of an aircraft industry in Australia. This resulted in Jones, Mackinolty and an engineering officer being appointed to a committee to make recommendations for setting up an aircraft industry. The committee recommended that the Hawker Hart should be adopted, and that the Ordnance Factory at Maribyrnong form the nucleus of the organisation. The report, unfortunately, was not accepted by Richard Williams and Jones suspected that Williams preferred fighter aircraft with a rear gunner and at the outbreak of World War II, Australia had no specialised single-seat fighter to match the Japanese Zero.

In January 1936, Jones was promoted to WGCDR and appointed Director of Personnel Services. In the same month, the Minister for Defence, Sir Archdale Parkhill, delivered a speech emphasising the importance of manufacturing aircraft in Australia and highlighted the negotiations that were proceeding regarding the development of this industry resulting in the formation of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation later that year.

Part 2 of the life of Air Marshal Sir George Jones from WWII to his post-war career will be available in the Summer edition of Contact.



George Jones (far right) with other pilots of No. 4 Squadron AFC, British Occupation forces in Germany, December 1918. (source: Monument Australia)

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

Vietnam Veterans' Day (18 August) this year marked 60 years since Australia's first involvement in the Vietnam War and 50 years since the withdrawal of Australian combat forces in 1972.

This year's final service at the Shrine of Remembrance was organised by the Victorian branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association and will be the last major gathering of veterans from the many Vietnam Veterans Sub-Branched around Victoria, with future annual commemorations expected to focus on more local services.

2022 also marked the 56th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan when in 1966, in a rubber plantation near the village of Long Tan, Australian soldiers fought one of their fiercest battles of the Vietnam War. Two helicopters from No 9 SQN RAAF played a significant part in this battle by resupplying ammunition to Delta Company, 6th RAR, at a critical time in the battle.

Approximately 60,000 Australians served in the Vietnam War. Of these, 3,000 were wounded, and 521 were killed. Significantly, over 200 of those killed were National Servicemen.

The service started at 0930 with a 'Gunfire Breakfast' after which veterans marched from the lower forecourt to the Second World War Memorial Forecourt prior to the main service which was 'live streamed' and broadcast to those attending on large video screens.

This year's program included a tribute to Australia's and New Zealand's Vietnam War fallen and featured Vietnam-era music by entertainers Normie Rowe, John Schumann, Mike Brady, Denise Drysdale, and Marcie Jones.

The service and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand veterans were remembered in two significant and moving addresses from the Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Linda Dessau AC and the Premier, the Honourable Daniel Andrews.

The commemoration service was recorded by the Shrine and may be viewed by visiting the Shrine of Remembrance website: <https://www.shrine.org.au/vietnam-veterans-day-commemoration> where the video of the Commemoration Service is located.

With thanks to Chris Hudnott and Geoff Rose for this article and photographs. Other images courtesy of the Shrine of Remembrance.



The Shrine of Remembrance - Vietnam Veterans' Day 18 August 2022.

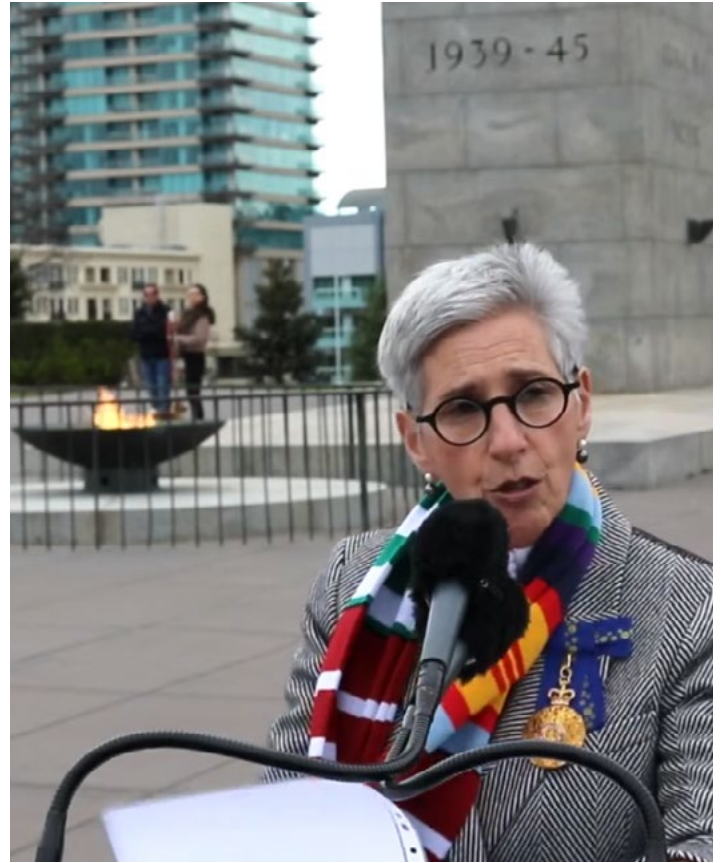


(L to R): Singers Normie Rowe, John Schumann, Marcie Jones, Mike Brady and Denise Drysdale.

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY



The Eternal Flame surrounded by wreaths on Vietnam Veterans' Day.



The Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Linda Dessau AC delivers her address.



AFA Victoria President, Max McGregor, prepares to lay a wreath.



Defence Representatives lay wreaths on behalf of the three Services.



The entertainers provided a musical tribute



Members of AFA Victoria's Vietnam Veterans' Branch gather for the formal march step-off.

A DAZZLING NIGHT AT BALLARAT'S PACIFIC BALL

The Ballarat Branch held their now annual Pacific Ball on Saturday the 27th August and once again the amazing event was a sell-out.

A great night was had by all with good food, good company and polished dancing by those who attended. The vocal trio The Pacific Belles provided a memorable performance of Air Force/WW2 songs and harmonies.

The annual Battle for Australia Commemorative Service was to be held on the Sunday morning at the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial at Lake Wendouree, complete with Flypast provided by 100 Squadron RAAF Point Cook Museum.



The Pacific Belles at Ballarat Branch's Pacific Ball.



Ballarat Branch President Noel Hutchins and Secretary/Treasurer Peter Dowling together with The Pacific Belles after they had changed into their 'Pacific Outfits' for their second performance

Sadly, for the third year in a row, the Commemorative Service had to be cancelled due to the sodden ground at the Memorial from frequent heavy rain. A fact of life in Ballarat. The 2020 and the 2021 Service were cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions.

However, plans for 2023 are ready to go. So put the last weekend in August in your diary as the weekend that you go to Ballarat.

Noel Hutchins
President – Ballarat Branch

RETURN TO POINT COOK – ANNUAL POINT COOK PILGRIMAGE AND SERVICE



After the past few years of COVID restrictions, Air Force Association – Victoria is pleased to announce that planning is underway for the Annual Pilgrimage and Service to be held at Point Cook on Sunday 6th November 2022.

The formal Ceremony and proceedings will be conducted in the morning at RAAF Base Point Cook. This will then be followed by a luncheon at the combined Officers/Sergeants Mess at Laverton Base, with a presentation by our special Guest Speaker, Hugh Dolan.

Further details will be announced shortly, However, please book early by contacting Barbara Stallard at office@afavic.org.au or on 9813 4600.



The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide inquiry is focused on the identification of systemic problems and solutions to suicide and suicidality among serving and ex-serving ADF members.

Royal Commissioners, Nick Kaldas APM (Chair), The Hon James Douglas QC and Dr Peggy Brown AO presented the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide to the Governor-General, His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) on 11 August 2022, and it was tabled in Parliament on 11 August.

Overall, the Interim Report made 13 urgent recommendations including:

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

The report recommends that the Australian Government should, without delay, implement legislative reforms to simplify and harmonise the veteran entitlement system.

CLAIMS PROCESSING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The claims system is complex and difficult to navigate, with 41,799 claims in backlog as of 31 May 2022. The report recommends:

- The Australian Government and DVA should eliminate the backlog by 31 March 2024.
- The Australian Government should resource DVA to implement a program of work aimed at improving the administration of the DVA claims system.
- DVA should report to the Government on its future funding needs, and the Government should use this advice to inform the departmental funding it provides to DVA.
- The Australian Government should remove the application of the Average Staffing Level cap policy on DVA - a policy which has limited the number of Australian Public Service staff DVA could employ.

PROTECTIONS TO ENGAGE WITH THE ROYAL COMMISSION

The Report also expresses concern about inadequate legal protections for persons who may want to engage with the Commission.

The report recommends that the Australian Government design legislative amendments that provide protections for these cohorts to allow the Commission to receive information potentially vital to the fulfillment of its terms of reference.

You can access the Interim Report [here](#) or <https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/interim-report>

The Royal Commission is expected to release its final report in mid-2024. The Commissioners will continue to engage with stakeholders, gather testimony, and analyse data, with submissions able to be made to the Royal Commission until 13 October 2023.

For more information about the process for the Royal Commission and how to make a submission or contact the Commissioners, please visit the Royal commission website: <https://defenceveteransuicide.royalcommission.gov.au>

AVCAT SCHOLARSHIPS - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



**AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST**

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust supports the children & grandchildren of Australian Veterans with the cost of tertiary education, through the provision of scholarships that help pay for textbooks and expenses and help ease the cost of living.

Applications for scholarships open each year on 18 August and close on 31 October.

AVCAT scholarships include Long Tan Bursaries and sponsored scholarships. Sponsored scholarships are for

the children and grandchildren of ex-serving veterans. Long Tan Bursaries are for the children and grandchildren of Vietnam Veterans and are available in each state and territory.

2,930 scholarships have been awarded since 2003 and are funded by ex-service organisations and private donors. The Long Tan Bursary is funded by the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs.

All bursaries and sponsored scholarships are for tertiary education and are \$4000-\$6000 per year, for three years.

For further information and to apply please go to: <https://avcat.org.au/scholarships/>

For further information and to apply for the **Long Tan Bursaries** please go to: <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/overview/consultations-and-grants/grants-and-bursaries/long-tan-bursary>

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	(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

SUMMER 2022

Contributions by 14 November 2022

Publication: 10 December 2022

AUTUMN 2023

Contributions by 20 February 2023

Publication: 10 March 2023

WINTER 2023

Contributions by 20 May 2023

Publication: 3 June 2023



AROUND THE BRANCHES

BENDIGO BRANCH

VALE: Mrs Norma Hill widow of Mr. Jack Hill

Mr Herbert Jackson

RAF # 2254007 - Tail Gunner, Bomber Command

The Bendigo Branch has made the decision to alter the venue for its meetings to the Windermere Hotel. Discussions were held regarding Jack Fay's medals. The members felt that his medals should be placed on display at the Bendigo RSL Memorial Museum as Jack was a Life Member of RSL & RAAF Association and had no living relatives. The BDRSL has been approached and they agree with us & will follow up.

At our July meeting, we

had Georgie Redmond from Heart Foundation & Ambulance Victoria who spoke about the Warning Signs & Action Plan for an impending heart attack. This was a very informative talk.

At our August meeting Mrs. Ruth Hosking OAM, spoke to the membership about Aged Care and what you need to know, another very informative talk which gave everyone food for thought.

After successfully completing the funeral eulogy course held by AFA Victoria, we now have two members who are qualified to perform a RAAF Eulogy service at the request of fallen ex-service

veterans' families.

Congratulations & many thanks to John & Reinhard.

Bendigo Branch also welcomed a new member, Leonie Chappell who served as an engineer reaching the rank of Squadron Leader during her 20 years of service. We look forward to hearing Leonie's story at the September meeting.

Vale Herbert Jackson, a member Bendigo Branch for over 45 years.

Herb was Tail Gunner with Bomber Command who completed 29 missions and was about to leave for the 30th mission when peace was declared in Europe. After his tenure with RAF was completed, Herb & his family moved to Australia,

as they felt it would have a better opportunity.

We will miss this lovely gentleman who passed away on 30th June, 2022, aged 98.

Rest in Peace Herb.

Glenis Gordon

Secretary

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BENDIGO BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

BALLARAT BRANCH

How disappointing for the third year running to have to cancel our Battle for Australia Commemorative Service.

Having needed to cancel both our 2020 and 2021 Services due to Covid restrictions, things were looking good for a successful holding of our Service this year. The City of Ballarat were very much

on board with us and ready to set-out areas for the marquees and other things on the Friday afternoon before the event.....but disappointingly, the parks and Gardens people needed to advise Council

that there was no chance of them being able to set up the necessary infrastructure for the Service due to the completely soggy conditions of the lawn area in front of the

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memorial where the needed infrastructure would go.

However, we were able to proceed with our Pacific Ball on the Saturday night, and what a great success it was. Our Ball organiser Ann Petty once again did a superb job. Ann puts in so much work to make the event feel and look special; and special it was.

Our recent July and August social luncheon meetings were very much appreciated by members with the July social luncheon featuring a special screening of "The Glenn Miller Story" with our members enjoying lunch at the movies.

In August, we welcomed a presentation by local

photographer and historian, Gordon Harvey. Gordon gave us some of the early history of the Ballarat Airfield.

Noel Hutchins

President

Note: You can read the full Ballarat Branch newsletters on the AFA Victoria website: <https://afavic.org.au/content/769/branch-ballarat>, and also visit the 1WAGS website: 1wags.org.au

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BALLARAT BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

ATC/AAFC

Greetings everyone

As of now, Branch activities still remain very much in the slow lane and things have not picked up as quickly as we had at first hoped.

Our Branch's first Friday of the month luncheons have been taking place at Box Hill RSL but attendances continue to fluctuate.

In many cases, this is due to reports of poor health and to those members who are restricted in any way, we send our best wishes and

look forward to seeing them again in the near future.

Going back some way, on Wednesday the 11th of May, a small party of members made a bus trip visit Benalla Air Museum and on behalf of those who were able to attend, thanks to Murray McBain for organising the use of the bus and acting as driver for the day.

On the subject of the Museum, a considerable number of display cabinets became available to us recently and these have

been picked up and transported to Benalla for display purposes.

The committee has been looking into the planning of holding a Branch Christmas Luncheon at Box Hill RSL on Sunday the 11th of December and has sent out a call to members for expressions of interest.

Hopefully, the response will be sufficient in numbers to allow the function to take place

Best wishes to all Branches

and members.

Laurie Bell

Branch President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ATC/AAFC BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

VIETNAM VETERANS

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

As mentioned earlier in this edition of Contact, this year was the last major gathering of veterans from the many Vietnam Veterans' Sub-Branches around Victoria for Vietnam Veterans' Day on 18th August, with future annual commemorations expected to focus on more local services.

As always, our Branch was well represented and as is customary, we gathered around our plaque in the grounds just to the west of the Shrine before the main service - to reflect on the service and sacrifice of RAAF personnel.

We laid a wreath and reflected on those members of our Branch who have passed away in the last 12months including Brian

Patten, Gareth Davis and Ken Ewin. We also remembered those of our community not able to join our short commemoration through illness or hospitalisation and wished them a speedy recovery.

At the end of the main commemoration, we travelled to a city hotel for an enjoyable lunch and catch up with our colleagues.

Although this year marked the final major gathering of VVAA Sub Branches, AFA Victoria Vietnam Veterans' Branch members will continue to meet for a brief service at the RAAF Vietnam plaque on 18 August each year – and gather later for the traditional 'after service' luncheon.

The 11th January next year will mark 50 years since

the Governor General proclaimed, “cessation of hostilities in Vietnam by Australian forces”, thereby formally ending Australia’s combat role in the War. To mark this anniversary, our Federal Government is planning a commemorative program, including a service at the National Vietnam Memorial in Canberra.

NOTE: You can see our full

story on this year’s Vietnam Veterans’ Day on pages 8-9 of this edition of CONTACT.

With the disbandment of No 2 SQN Branch of AFA Victoria, a number of the members of the Branch have joined the Vietnam Veterans’ Branch of AFA Victoria.

These include the following members:

- Walter and Ivy Sherman,
- Carl and Christine Schiller,
- John and Suzanne Elliott, and
- Stephen Young and his partner Alison Connellan.

A sincere WELCOME to you all.

Chris Hudnott
Branch President

Note: Access the Vietnam Veterans’ Branch newsletters on the AFA website by going to: <https://afavic.org.au/content/756/branch-vietnam-veterans>

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE VIETNAM VETERANS’ BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE



Members of the Vietnam Veterans Branch gather at the RAAF Vietnam Veterans plaque near the Shrine to reflect on the service and sacrifice of RAAF personnel.

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 Roger Townsend <i>Headquarters</i>	08/06/2022
Mrs Norma Hill <i>Bendigo</i>	10/06/2022
Dr Albert Benson <i>Fighter Squadrons</i>	20/06/2022
Mr Ken Tyzzer <i>21 Squadron</i>	2022
Mr Stan Guilfoyle <i>Catalina</i>	02/07/2022
Mr Ray Ettridge <i>RAF</i>	04/06/2022
Mr Alan Day <i>2 Squadron</i>	24/07/2022
Mr Herbert Jackson <i>Bendigo</i>	30/06/2022
Mr Harold Shinkfield <i>Catalinas</i>	18/08/2022

Let Us Not Forget

Air Force Association

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