

# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA



## ATC/AAFC BRANCH ABN 96 091 342 304 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER Issue No 82 September 2021

### President's Message



Hello once again to all members.

I hope that you're managing to retain the best possible health and some form of sanity during these seemingly never ending openings up and shuttings down.

I must apologise for, and confess that I find it very difficult at present to even "scrape my brains" (which was an old expression of my father's), in trying to present some form of Inspirational Message, as our dutiful Editor, Ian Cohn always refers to this contribution as being.

Perhaps my problem is partially due to the fact that within the last five days, Adel and I have had two trips to a Covid testing station due to our being notified that we were what they call Tier 2 contacts, and all because there are still plenty of selfish, irresponsible clowns out and about who are frequenting shopping centres whilst not wearing masks. Thankfully, we have been duly notified as being negative on both occasions.

Our Branch Calendar has taken rather a beating this year and our next monthly luncheon at Box Hill RSL on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September is looking doubtful at present. However, members for whom we have email addresses will be notified at the earliest opportunity as to whether or not this lunch will be held.

Office	Holders
President	Laurie Bell
Vice President	Peter Wilson
Secretary	Hugh Tank
Treasurer	Tony Synhur
Delegate	John MacDonald
Returning Officer	Graeme Smith
Newsletter Editor	Ian Cohn

Please send your contributions to  
[scsiac@bigpond.com](mailto:scsiac@bigpond.com)

or

Box 486, Mt Beauty, VIC, 3699

### Welfare

Branch Welfare Officers  
**Hugh Tank** on 03 9877 3424  
and **Peter Wilson**

If you are aware of any member who is unwell please contact Hugh or Peter.

## President's Message - continued

There are still a few other items during the remainder of the year i.e. another two luncheons.....

Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> .....

Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Both subject to notification as above.

Centenary of the RAAF, Point Cook, November ??? (Subject to notification as above.)

Once again this year, the originally intended Branch Christmas Luncheon for Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> appears to be very much in doubt. (Again subject to notification as above.)

Kindest regards to everyone and hope we can get together for a while, sooner rather than later.

As previously, take care and get your vaccinations.

Laurie.



### AAFC News

From SQNLDR(AAFC) Samantha O'Sullivan  
Staff Officer Development & Community Engagement  
4 Wing Headquarters, Point Cook

#### FIREARMS TRAINING // 4WG SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Over the June/July school holidays, 88 cadets from all around 4 Wing undertook firearms theory and practical training at the Melbourne International Shooting Club and RAAF Williams, Laverton.

As part of AAFC training, cadets had the opportunity to participate in a Firearms Training Elective. They are then required to undertake a weekend course on the safe handling of firearms and given a 1:1 supervised safety practice to ensure they are fully competent. Once achieved, they participate in range practices at select locations within the wing.

A fantastic AAFC activity to undertake on school holidays and these Cadets will now be able to participate within their Squadron and Wing range practices when they return to full Operations.



## 02/21 PROMOTION DETACHMENT

The June school holidays marked the commencement of the 02/21 4 Wing Promotion Detachment. This was the first detachment to have run SNCO, CWOFF, CUO courses since January 2020, and the first detachment to have run all courses concurrently since January 2019.

The detachment consisted of over 110 cadets, 36 adult staff members and 4 cadet staff who held instructing and course roles, who all worked tirelessly for the 2 week duration to support and complete the training program. Operations were predominantly based at the Point Cook base which is a first for some years now and the old P161 building catered for 4 courses with P144 home to Detachment HQ and a JNCO Course. Cadet Executive courses were based at Laverton

### //CADET EXECUTIVES COURSE DINING IN NIGHT //

During the 02/21 Promotion Detachment, the Cadet Under Officer's and Cadet Warrant Officer's courses organised a training Dining-In Night at the Combined Officers and Sergeants Mess of RAAF Base Williams - Laverton.

Dining-In Nights are an integral part of the Air Force's customs and traditions, serving as an occasion for members to gather socially, and enjoy fine food. Dining-In Nights are presided over by the President of the Mess Committee (PMC) and supported by a Vice President.

For this occasion, the PMC was CFSGT Charlotte O'Sullivan of 53 CUO Course, supported by CFSGT Megan Partington of 38 CWOFF CSE as Ms Vice. The Detachment Commander, SQNLDR(AAFC) Lachlan Saunders, was invited as the Guest of Honour.

This event was an opportunity for the CUO and CWOFF candidates to put into practice the knowledge they had learned on how to effectively plan, organise and run a Dining-In Night. This event also served as an opportunity for the candidates to thank their course staff as they neared the end of course. We look forward to seeing these CUO and CWOFF candidates in action running Dining-In Nights at their home Squadrons later this year.



## **4WG END OF COURSE PARADE // 2/21 PROMDET**

On Saturday, 10 Jul 21, a Ceremonial Review Parade was held for the graduation of CUO, CWOFF, SNCO, JNCO courses of the 4 Wing 2/21 Promotion Detachment at RAAF Base Williams - Point Cook.

The Parade Commander was CFSGT Alex Lynch of 401SQN Surrey Hills, and the Parade Warrant Officer was CFSGT Angus George of 401SQN Surrey Hills. The Host Officer was SQNLDR(AAFC) Lachlan Saunders, the Detachment Commander, with the Reviewing Officer AIRCDRE Joseph Medved, Director General - Defence Aviation Safety Authority.

Congratulations to all cadets who put on a spectacular display for friends and family, matched by weather that was equally as superb. Underlying this display was two weeks of hard work and dedication by our cadets to become future leaders of the AAFC.

The parade showcases the drill and ceremonial aspect of the training undertaken by our cadets. For the duration of this detachment, our cadets have also undertaken training and testing in areas of fieldcraft, leadership, instructional technique, and organisational understanding for their respective courses.

4WG thanks and acknowledges the detachment staff who go above and beyond to train, supervise and support our cadets in the school holidays. The success of this detachment is attributed to the long hours spent by the staff team working behind the scenes.



## **// AWARD RECIPIENTS // 02/21 4WG PROMOTION DETACHMENT**

Congratulations to all cadets who graduated from the 4 Wing Promotion Detachment held at RAAF Base Williams - Point Cook & Laverton, over this Term 2 school holidays.

Special mentions go to the Course Duxes and Award recipients:

246 JNCO Dux - LCDT Nathan Tickell (412SQN)

247 JNCO Dux - LCDT Catherine Reynolds (420SQN)

137 SNCO Dux - CCPL Hayley Booth (408SQN)

138 SNCO Dux - CCPL Lucy Ryan (412SQN)

139 SNCO Dux - CCPL Kiamah Dowling (406SQN)

38 CWOFF Dux - CFSGT Angus George (401SQN)

53 CUO Dux - CFSGT James Shearwood (402SQN)

The Warrant Officer Ron Douglas Shield for the Dux of 38 CWOFF Course was awarded to CFSGT Angus George of 401SQN.

The Air Vice Marshal Wrigley Sword of Honour for the Dux of 53 CUO Course was awarded to CFSGT James Shearwood of 402SQN.



The Flight Lieutenant V.P. Daly Award for highest mark overall in Instructional Technique was awarded to CFSGT Presley Johannesen from 427SQN and 38 CWOFF course.

The Flight Lieutenant Ack Loveless Memorial Award for the highest overall mark in Leadership Practical and Theory was awarded to CFSGT Presley Johannesen from 427SQN and 38 CWOFF course.

The Flight Lieutenant (AIRTC) Edward A. Grimshaw Memorial Trophy for the candidate displaying fair play and commitment on the CUO or CWOFF course was awarded to CFSGT Samuel Simillie of 53 CUO and 401SQN.



The Squadron Leader (AAFC) Albert Lindner PSM Shield for the Overall Dux of SNCO Courses is awarded to CCPL Hayley Booth of 137 SNCO and 408SQN.

The Ross Watson Memorial Shield for the Overall Dux of JNCO Courses is awarded to LCDT Nathan Tickell of 246 JNCO and 412SQN.

CUO Sam Davis of 403/408SQN, CUO Campbell Perkins of 414SQN and CUO Jean Palamara of 414SQN were recognised for their efforts as Cadet Staff and received a 4 Wing Challenge Coin.

CUO Perkins and CUO Palamara received an Officer Commanding Commendation from WGCDR(AAFC) Kylie Walker for their support of two consecutive promotional detachments.

CPL(AAFC) Kevin Welsh was promoted to SGT(AAFC) to recognise his long term support of the AAFC.

*\*\* Note masks were briefly removed for the purpose of official photos, all other COVID safe precautions were taken to ensure the safety of all Cadets, Staff and Parents.*

## AUGUST

### //AAFC80 ANNIVERSARY //

As a part of the AAFC's 80th Anniversary a video is being created showcasing cadets and staff from all over Australia telling their stories and favourite parts about the Australian Air Force Cadets.

A few weekends ago 4WG spent some time at Point Cook filming their parts for this unique project and telling their stories. Thanks to LAC(AAFC) Koopmans for assisting in filming the DA40 Diamond aircraft, and interviews with OC 4WG WGCDR(AAFC) Kylie Walker, National Instructor of the Year CPL(AAFC) Meg Goulding from 401SQN Surrey Hills, and National Cadet of the Year finalist CWOFF Kyle Charles from 408SQN Ringwood on the day.

A follow up interview was conducted with the AAFC80 Patch design winner CUO Charlotte O'Sullivan from 403SQN about how her design came about. We are all extremely keen to see the final product once released.



### 4 WING Operational Pause

The Victorian State Lockdowns have resulted in 4 Wing calling another Operational Pause into action on 05 AUG 2021, to ensure cadets and staff are protected and complying with all government regulations. This type of disruption to normal parading was felt most in 2020, but 4WG staff and cadets continue in their resilience to meet the challenge

Cadets have been kept engaged over the last few weeks by opting in weekly Squadron Virtual Parades over Zoom, and then other activities like participation in the 2021 Push up Challenge raising money to support vital services like Lifeline and HeadSpaced, 4Wing Online Debating Competition on a Thursday evening, the 4WG Trivia nights on Saturday afternoons and a RAAF Roulettes Zoom Webinar with Roulette 7, FLTLT Aimee Heal, courtesy of Learning Systems.

The Senior Leadership team (OC 4WG and Staff Officers) meet online once a week and then are joined by the Wing Leadership Team (CO's and XO's) every fortnight to discuss organisational announcements, forthcoming deadlines and other matters of business to keep the Wing running for our cadets.

### // 1RTU 4WG GRADUATES //

On 05 August 2021, two former 4 Wing cadets graduated and marched out from No.1 Recruit Training Unit (1RTU) at RAAF Wagga as members of the Royal Australian Air Force.

(Left to right below): Aircraftsman Thomas Peters is a current 4WG Staff member and was a CUO at 407/416SQN Moonee Ponds in 2018. Thomas will undergo training to become an Avionics Technician. Aircraftsman Rick Van Dooren was a CUO at 419SQN Shepparton in 2019 and will become an Aeronautical Life Support Fitter.

Congratulations to both and we wish them all the best as they move onto further courses for their roles.



### VIETNAM VETERANS DAY SERVICE // 413SQN WARRNAMBOOL

Cadets and staff of 413SQN conducted drill and ceremonial duties to support the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at the Warrnambool Vietnam Veterans Monument. Given the short relief in Regional Victoria restrictions, the Warrnambool squadron was the only unit to have been able to honour their activity and this was most appreciated by their local RSL.



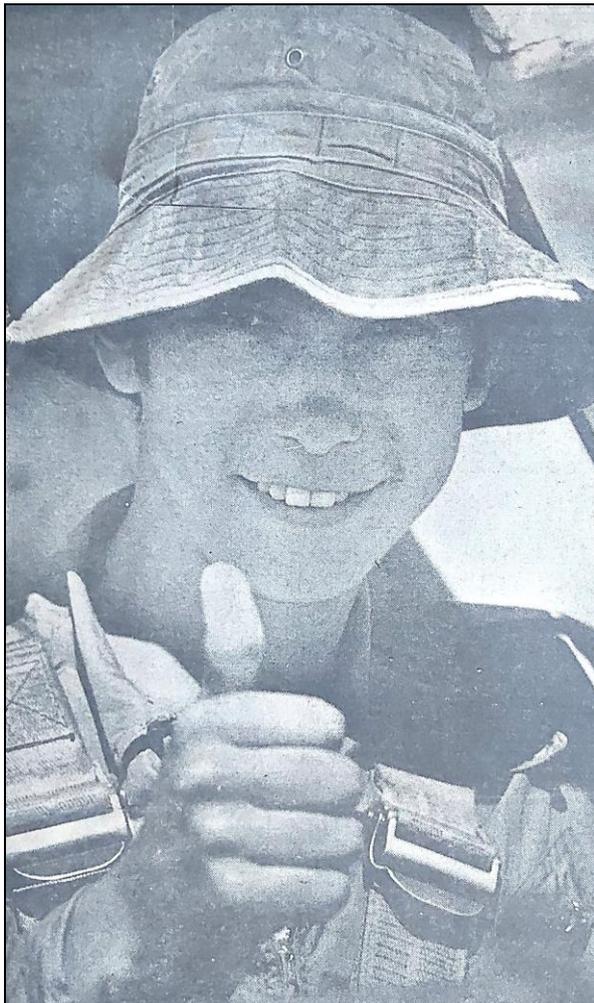
## 4 WING ANNUAL PARADE – SUN 10 OCT 2021

It is with great disappointment that Wing Commander (AAFC) Kylie Walker, Officer Commanding 4 Wing has announced that the **4WG Annual Parade at RAAF Williams Point Cook has been cancelled** for 2021, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. A tough decision to make but in light of the continued lockdowns and Operational Pauses that have resulted, it was decided that a call needed to be made in conjunction with the Air Force Liaison Officer's team.

---

## Historical Items

The Editor recently un-earthed some old files and came across this article from the Albury based Border Morning Mail newspaper dated Friday Jan 17, 1975.



Ten RAAF training corps cadets are learning to glide at Benalla Army camp as part of their training.

The students are from Melbourne, Geelong and Gippsland. Next week 10 more cadets will take the course.

RIGHT: Flying Officer Charles Lambeth, the cadets' chief instructor, chats to Corporal Shane

Vonarx, of Carrum, Melbourne, before being towed up for a training flight yesterday.

Ground instruction is being given by Flying Officer Ian Cohn, assisted by instructors of the Gliding Club of Victoria.

ABOVE: Glen Greaves, of Geelong, gives the "thumbs up" sign before taking a flight.

# Recollections from Hugh Tank

## MEMORIES OF AN A.T.C. CADET



**1951 / 52:** Two winter camps to ‘Point Cook’ Vic.

Cadets from various Flights met at A.T.C. H.Q. in North Melbourne and were entrained to Laverton Railway Station. An Air Force truck took our kitbags to Point Cook Air Force Base and the cadets were marched eight miles to Point Cook along a narrow road, (still is), through low lying marshy paddocks with the occasional farm house. It was very cold, and I was grateful for a brand new Air Force ‘great coat’.

I went to two camps at Point Cook. On the first one, we were taken to Williamstown Rifle Range where I fired a .303 rifle, a Bren gun, an Owen sub machine gun, and an American .45 Thompson sub machine gun.

On the second camp I remember seeing a real World War II film of an assault by Japanese troops in the islands above Australia; (remember this was just 5 or 6 years after the World War II.) We were shown this in the old picture theatre at Point Cook. I think this historic building is now condemned because of asbestos.

**1952 / 53:** I did several camps to ‘Laverton’ Air Force Base. In those days the Melbourne to Geelong road was a narrow undulating road that passed the end of Laverton Air Base runway. The sign as you passed the runway said ‘Beware of Low Flying Aircraft’. A similar sign was erected on the Geelong Road heading toward Melbourne.

Several incidents I recall:

1. We were taken on an ‘Air Force Dakota’ plane to view the ‘heads’ at the end of Port Phillip Bay. I remember our parents had to sign a form authorising our flight. Half way across the Bay, one engine of the Dakota broke down and we had to return to Laverton on one engine.
2. I was with one group of cadets at the edge of the parade ground watching another group being drilled. In the group we were watching, one cadet was very tall, head and shoulders above everyone else. I remember the Drill Instructor screaming out at the top of his voice, “Will that constipated giraffe PLEASE get into step.” It must have been summer as we were dressed in Summer Drabs. ‘Light Khaki trousers’, ‘web belt’, ‘Light Khaki long sleeve shirt’, ‘black tie’, ‘black shoes and socks’, and a dark blue serge side cap with a dark bronze A.T.C. badge.
3. At that time there was a potato famine and you could not buy any potatoes at all in Melbourne. I wrote to my parents (the stamp was a Defence Force Stamp which cost one penny), a normal stamp cost twice as much. At the camp we had roast potatoes, mashed potatoes, boiled potatoes and chips. So then we knew where all the potatoes were.  
On another occasion I was watching a Sikorsky helicopter taking off and landing (the first helicopter I had seen). Also taking off were Canberra Jet bombers, taking off with rocket canister assistance. Each canister (two per aircraft) cost forty pounds each, a fortune in those days.  
There was a line up of Lincoln Bombers (all silver, the latest and last version of the Lancaster Bomber), they were either just arrived or just going to Malaya.
4. Looking like I had nothing to do, which is the worst thing you can do on any military establishment; when an Air Force jeep (dark blue), pulled up beside me with two Air Force personnel in the front, one was a Warrant Officer, the other a Flight Sergeant. One of them

said “jump in son”. I jumped into the back seat and there on the seat beside me was a .45 Thompson Sub Machine gun and several boxes of ammunition.

We headed off toward the small radar tower at the end of the Air Field. I know that there was a ‘small’ arms firing range behind it; so they were going for a practise shoot. When we got there the perms went rabbiting with a .45 Thompson Sub Machine gun.

5. Refuelling Jet Vampire Fighters. One day at Laverton I was given the job of helping to refuel a Vampire. Dressed in Air Force blue overalls and white sand shoes a ‘perm’ (Permanent Air Force), said to me, “get up on the wing and I will hand you up the hose and nozzle.” An Air Force refuelling tanker pulled up, painted red with white lettering on the side, which said, “no naked flames within one hundred feet.” An Air Force perm handed me the hose and nozzle and in doing so pressed the trigger and soaked me in Aviation kerosene. I looked around as the tanker driver opened the door of the cabin and lighted a cigarette, throwing the match on the ground.

### **1953/54: R.A.A.F. BASE ‘FOREST HILL’ WAGGA N.S.W.**

At Box Hill High School, No. 8 Flight, I was standing with another cadet looking at the A.T.C. Noticeboard. There was a notice to all cadets interested in attending an Engineering camp to Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., to write their name on the notice board, so we did.

We found that we were selected to go to this camp at Wagga. Cadets from various Flights met at A.T.C. H.Q. in North Melbourne and were trucked to Spencer Street Railway Station. There we were entrained for Albury N.S.W. via steam train. During the journey to Albury a great commotion and laughing was heard in the next carriage. The Officer travelling with us in our carriage said “what is all the noise and laughing going on in the next carriage?” So he threw open the window and poked his head out. The cadets in the next carriage had acquired some condoms and were filling them with water, letting go out of their window, and the water filled condoms would ‘burst’ on the side of the train.

The Officer who put his head out of our carriage window got a face full of water and because the train was a steam train belching out black smoke, when the Officer pulled his head back inside all we could see were two white eyes and a black face. He looked like Al Jolson taking off the Black Minstrel Show. We roared laughing.

When we crossed the Murray River on the rail bridge leading into Albury N.S.W. (It must have been summer), a man was floating on his back in the Murray River, drifting along on the current. What we could see that the man could not see was a tiger snake drifting along in the current between the man’s outstretched legs.

We arrived at the Albury station and had to wait many hours for a connecting train to Wagga. (In those days N.S.W. had a different size rail gauge to Victoria). Again, I was very glad to have my Air Force great coat.

Finally we arrived at Wagga Wagga Rail Station and had to wait for Air Force trucks to take us to Forest Hill Air Base. It was 2 a.m. before we could bed down for the night in a long Nissan Hut with louvre windows all the way down each side.

The next morning we spent some hours cleaning all of the red dust that coated everything in the hut. After we had finished we were called out on Parade. During the Parade, a Willy Willy dust storm came out of nowhere and coated the entire Base in red dust. We raced back to the hut to shut the Louvre windows but were too late, so we had to clean the hut once again.

I never did get to R.A.A.F. Base East Sale Vic. However, years later, when I was on a construction site; one lunch time, one of the men asked (Old Bob) what did he do in W.W.II? Bob replied, “I was in the Blue Orchids”. One of the younger men said, “What’s that?”. Old Bob replied, “The Bloody Air Force mate”. The young fellow said, “Where were you?”. Bob replied, “East Sale”. The young man said, “Did you get anything?” (meaning medals). Bob replied, “Yes mate, The East Sale Star”. The young man said, “What’s that?”. To which Old Bob replied, “The Bloody local newspaper”.

Hugh Tank

## Recollections from Ernest Horth

Former 15 Flight Staff member

I grew up in Sydney and at Penrith High School joined 23 Flight ATC. At age fifteen years I joined the RAAF in January 1954 and trained as an Engineering Apprentice (Aircraft Engine Fitter) starting at what was then called RSTT Wagga. Taking early discharge at the end of 1959, I commenced procedures leading to training for the ordained ministry in the Anglican Church. This brought me to Ridley College, Melbourne.

When the door of opportunity opened in 1963, I was accepted by the RAAF with rank of Pilot Officer to serve with then 15 Flight Melbourne High School. I appreciated the experience gained but was sad that RAAF ended this association when I became an ordained minister in February 1965. Geoff Lloyd was OC 15 Flight at the time giving great leadership and encouragement.

I became an Army Chaplain in 1968 and served in the ARA and then Army Reserve.

Ernest Horth.



1963 or 1964 Melbourne High School. Ernest Horth in middle with Officer cap.



East Sale. 1964 Promotion Course - Ernest Horth is third in from right front row.



Promotion Course Adjutant 1964. East Sale.

## What our Members are Doing From Graeme Smith

### N scale Model Railway

Just before the big lockdown last year (due to Covid-19) I purchased an N scale model railway from a member of my National Serviceman's Association, it was a track layout only and with 6 modules that joined together to form the layout (see Pic 1).



Pic 1 - Before



Pic2 - After

Now with his help with some rolling stock, and a few visits to a Hobby Shop near me to get more Locomotives, rolling stock, track extensions and building kits etc. I managed to build up the layout (see Pic 2) most of this was done during that long three months of lockdown.

Now by the way this was the first time I had tried my hand at Model railway, and the only other modelling was during my time as a Cadet in the ATC making model aircraft run by the 'Hearn' brothers at ATC Headquarters North Melbourne.

---

## Editor's Epistle

Thanks to all the contributors for this edition.

A very expressive award winning picture from the VIGEX Photographic Competition caught my eye recently. It is "FORWARD MARCH" Monochrome Open Section By Paul Keene England.

It is available at [https://vigex.co.uk/digital2021/gallery2021/m\\_1\\_aw\\_0002.html](https://vigex.co.uk/digital2021/gallery2021/m_1_aw_0002.html)



Finally, to cheer me up during these trying virus lockdown times, our friendly neighbourhood Peacock, Lonely Percy, recently decided to fly up onto my roof and squawk loudly. Thanks Percy.

Your Editor

*Impiorum requies*

## Internet Links

AFA ATC/AAFC Branch page

[raafavic.org.au/content/758/branch-atc-aafc](http://raafavic.org.au/content/758/branch-atc-aafc)

National Servicemen's Association -

[www.nashos.org.au/](http://www.nashos.org.au/)



Air Force News <https://Defence.gov.au/news/raafnews>

Alumi website - [Australian Air Cadets Alumni Home](http://Australian Air Cadets Alumni Home) [www.aircadetsalumni.org.au](http://www.aircadetsalumni.org.au)

Air cadets Alumni Magazine

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/s5pd7v2jyqi9pxs/May%202021%20Newsletter.pdf?dl=0>

---

## AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA



**ATC/AAFC BRANCH**

**ATTENTION - ALL ADULT MEMBERS  
of the  
AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS**

The AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (Victorian Division) would welcome you as a member of our Branch. As part of this proud Association with its long standing record of Service, the ATC/AAFC Branch membership consists of former ATC, AirTC and former and currently serving members of the AAFC. Associate memberships are available for partners.

**For membership enquiries, please contact:**

**Laurie Bell – Branch President**

**Hugh Tank – Branch Secretary**

**General Enquiries**

**43 Stenhouse Av, Brooklyn, 3012 Vic.**

**11 Paulette Court , Blackburn South,  
3130, Victoria.**

**The Air Force Association:  
03 9813 4600**

**03 9314 6223 or 0412 505 887**

**03 9877 3424**

**[office@raafavic.org.au](mailto:office@raafavic.org.au)**

**[lauricandadel@gmail.com](mailto:lauricandadel@gmail.com)**