



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION - VICTORIA GEELONG BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 9

Greetings fellow Branch members

So far this year, with the easing of COVID restrictions, the Geelong Branch has been able to conduct its monthly meetings at the Geelong RSL. Our meeting attendance numbers have been steady at 10-12 members which is followed by a fellowship lunch. The Branch continues to support members in need of various assistance through our welfare support. We have had a couple of new members join with a prospective 92-year-old WW2 tail gunner who flew in Ansons. Roy is a knowledgeable and entertaining gentleman.

Our last meeting was held at the B24 Liberator Museum, Werribee, with 11 members attending, kindly hosted by Branch President Tony Muller along with tour guide, Charles. A highly informative tour of the museum which was enjoyed by all and was followed by a fellowship lunch at the Werribee RSL.

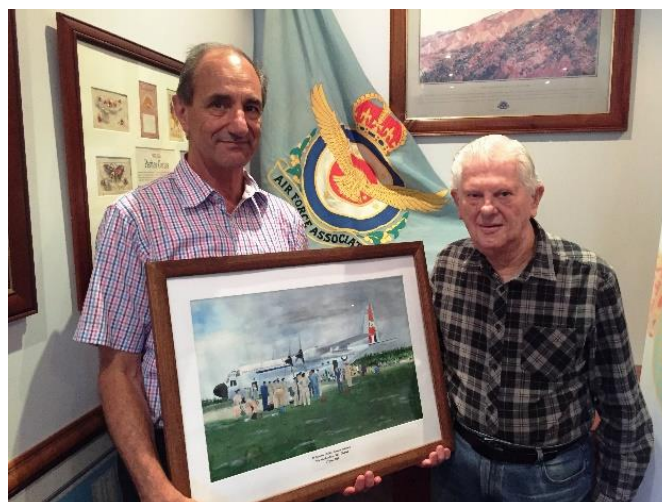


This year's Anzac Day in Geelong was a low-key event, with reduced numbers attending the various closed Dawn Services in the region with the main march in Geelong City. The Geelong RSL very kindly invited me, representing the AFA-Vic Geelong Branch to be the keynote speaker at the Dawn Service and wreath laying ceremony, in line with the Air Force 100th Anniversary. One of our members, Kevin Wilkinson and his wife Joyce represented the Branch and marched behind the AFA banner behind the Geelong 427 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets. I was also very privileged to be invited, while representing the RAAF, to receive the salute as the marchers reached the saluting point, accompanied by the RSL President, Andrew Hanns and Geelong Councillor and Veterans portfolio holder, Eddy Kontelj. A very humbling and proud moment.



The local Geelong Advertiser, on a recommendation from the Geelong RSL, printed an article prior to Anzac Day, focusing on the Air Force's 100th Anniversary and interviewed three Geelong Branch members – Jan Morgan, Laurie Price and yours truly. Each told of their respective experiences of their service in the RAAF. A professionally written article which received many favourable comments while increasing the exposure and the existence of the AFA-Vic Geelong Branch.

And lastly, one of our Branch members, Kevin Wilkinson donated a painting, which he painted himself and taken off a photo from his tour with 79 Sqn to RTAF Base, Ubon, Thailand in 1962, which will be proudly displayed in our meeting room at the RSL. Thanks, Kevin and well done.





The Geelong Branch looks forward to continuing its existence in the Geelong area with monthly meetings with more activities planned in the coming months, COVID permitting.

Regards,

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