

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA



ATC/AAFC BRANCH ABN 96 091 342 304 OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER Issue No 85 June 2022

President's Message



Hello again everyone.

Well it's that time of year again, and I guess that it comes as no surprise to most that, as a result of our recent AGM, which was held at the Box Hill RSL on Friday the 6th of May, there were no changes insofar as the Branch's Executive positions are concerned.

i.e. the Executive positions remain as being :-

President, yours truly.....
Vice President, Peter Wilson,.....
Secretary, Hugh Tank,.....
Treasurer, Tony Synhur.....
Delegate, John MacDonald.

Appointed positions remain as :-

Returning Officer, Graeme Smith.....
Archives, once again, yours truly.....
Newsletter Editor, Ian Cohn.

On behalf of the committee I take this opportunity to thank those members who attended the meeting.

Being the first Friday of the month, those who attended the meeting retired upstairs afterwards to the bistro for lunch and convivial interaction.

Now..... for what was a puzzling and worrying tale which thankfully, had a happy ending.....

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
or
Box 486, Mt Beauty, VIC, 3699
Deadline for next issue – 26SEP22

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)

A few years ago, a member of the Hearn family (ref. Hearn's Hobbies which was founded by Jack, Keith and Bruce Hearn, all of whom were R.A.A.F. pilots during WW2 and conducted aero modelling activities for the Air Training Corps for many years) donated a 10 feet (3.05 metres) wing span, radio controlled model of Charles Kingsford-Smith's tri-motored aircraft the "Southern Cross", (which the Hearn's built and it was flown across Port Phillip Bay to Point Cook by Keith Hearn, in a following boat, back in the 1950s) to the Box Hill RSL for their archival collection.

In turn, Brian Tateson, the Box Hill RSL's memorabilia officer, who is responsible for and creates the amazing historical displays which are a regular feature at the Box Hill RSL, in turn kindly and officially re-donated and transferred ownership of the model to our Branch for display in the Benalla Air Museum amongst the many other items of our Branch's collection.

Following negotiations it was placed on display at 4 Wing's AAFC H.Q. at Point Cook for safe-keeping in the meantime, but earlier this year when the Benalla Museum's Curator, John Currie advised us that space was available at the Museum, the model had "somehow disappeared" which naturally was a matter of great concern to us.

Eventually, after much investigation it was discovered that "somehow" the model had found its way to the Hearn's Hobbies model shop in the city where it was suspended on public display as an historical exhibit and understandably, the present management was not well disposed towards the prospect of handing it back to us which resulted in several long discourses.

Thankfully, we had the proof of ownership in the transfer document and its authenticity was also confirmed personally by Brian Tateson of the RSL which eventually led to the reluctant return of the model to the RSL where it has since been picked up by John Currie and is now on display where it belongs amongst our collection in Benalla.

Our grateful thanks to Brian and John for their assistance with this successful outcome.

On the 11th of May, a small group of our members made a trip up to Benalla Air Museum and were able to view the "Southern Cross" in its new home where it belongs. It had been my intention to accompany the members on the day, but unfortunately, a mild dose of Covid had other plans for me.

A report on this excursion, submitted by Carol McBain is located elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please note:- As indicated on our Branch Calendar, The Committee has tentatively booked the Box Hill RSL's Upton Room for our prospective Christmas Luncheon on Sunday the 11th of December. It is a requirement that we have to have a minimum number of 50 to be able to have bar service which is really a necessity. So, please start thinking about it now and be ready when we call for bookings in due course.

Enjoy the fruits of Ian's and the contributors' labours in this issue and hope to see you at a monthly luncheon sometime soon.

Regards to everyone and good health.

Laurie.

Member Stories

If you have an anecdote about your experiences as a Cadet or Staff member in Air Cadets, in the RAAF, ADF, or any other life experience which would be of interest to our readers, please submit it to the Editor. PO Box 486, Mt Beauty, VIC, 3699 and scsiac@bigpond.com .



AAFC News

AUSTRALIAN AIRFORCE CADETS – NO 4 WING UPDATE

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

4 Wing - Australian Air Force Cadets

RECRUIT TRAINING WEEKENDS

RAAF BASE WILLIAMS

Cadets from Metropolitan 4 Wing have recommenced their combined squadron Recruit Training Weekends for 2022 at RAAF Base Williams - Laverton and Point Cook

Recruit Training Weekends are an integral part of the cadet experience, providing cadets with the opportunity to experience life on an Air Force base including aspects of dining in the mess, room preparation and marching on base. This also is the introduction to teambuilding and for some making life long friendships with cadets from other parts of the state.

Cadets continued their home training subjects including practical drill lessons and enjoyed a fun night of inter-squadron team building. Cadets are also treated to a flight in the Diamond DA-40 aircraft, a memorable highlight for all who have never experienced flight in a light aircraft before. The training conducted over the weekend culminates in a parade on Sundays, where cadets march out in uniform for the first time in front of family and friends. We look forward to seeing more Squadrons on their Recruit Training Weekends in the coming months between March and August!



RECRUIT TRAINING WEEKENDS – RAAF BASE WAGGA

As part of the new 4WG strategy to provide variation in cadet experiences, a combined Recruit Training Weekend was held at RAAF Base Wagga in NSW for cadets from 420SQN Wangaratta, and 412SQN Albury.

Cadets undertook a range of recruit stage lessons and training from the AAFC Manual of Learning Management, as well as practical skills to prepare them for life on base including grooming, bed making, uniform preparation including tying ties and boot cleaning. NCOs had the opportunity to instruct classes, act as flight commanders and show leadership learned from their recent promotion courses.

CPL Peter Ellis from RAAF WAG 1 RTU visited to conduct general Drill Skills Instruction, and revise movements as per Air Force Drill & Ceremonial Manual and AAFC Manual of Learning Manual. He also spent time providing feedback to Cadet NCO's regarding Fault Correcting and Drill Instruction.

Cadets were also able to visit the RAAF Wagga Air Force Museum at the completion of the weekend, and hear from volunteer staff about the history of the base and take a closer look at the various decommissioned aircraft on public display.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022 - BREAK THE BIAS

Tuesday 8th March marked International Women's Day, with this year's theme [#breakthebias](#) focusing on creating awareness and action around gender bias, discrimination and stereotyping.

A series of interviews with 4Wing female staff and cadet members were featured to discuss how they view International Women's Day, and the opportunities that they have been presented in their AAFC careers

The AAFC currently has over 9,500 members across staff and cadets ranks, of which almost 27% of those is made up of female cadets and 30.5% of adult supervisors including uniformed staff and Defence Approved Helpers. This is exceeding many national organisational benchmarks.

We are extremely proud that our youth development organisation demonstrates a commitment to equity & diversity through its wide range of training, opportunities, and experiences to all members across Australia.



FIELD TRAINING

Fieldcraft provides cadets an opportunity to develop skills in field safety, navigation techniques, leadership, military fieldcraft, scenario-based military-like training, and living in the field.

In the first term cadets have enjoyed around 12 different opportunities to venture into the field, ranging from recruit level introductory training weekends to more advanced NCO Hikes at the Cathedral Ranges State Park, and Adventure Camps at Howman's Gap.

Now sporting the new General Purpose Uniforms (GPUs), the challenge to master camouflage and concealment has really increased!

Later in the year, up to 100 more experienced cadets will have the opportunity to participate in an all-Wing scenario-based bivouac which will provide them with the format to practice and demonstrate their field, teamwork, leadership and followership skills by undergoing a series of carefully crafted activities. This will be supported by AAFC fieldcraft subject matter experts (SME) to provide both challenges and guidance in the outdoor environment.



AIR FORCE CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL DEDICATION - POINT COOK

On 30 March 2022 a delegation of 4WG cadets and staff attended the Air Force Centennial Memorial ceremony at RAAF Williams Point Cook.

This was a unique opportunity for our cadets to represent the AAFC as guests of the RAAF, and to participate in the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the formation of our Air Force.

The new memorial at Point Cook will forever honour the 350,000 Australians who have served in Air Force since 1921 including 11,191 Australians who died serving, and 3,143 Air Force members who have no known grave.

CUO Patrick Nguyen 405SQN was selected to lay a wreath at the newly unveiled memorial on behalf of the AAFC.

Cadets were treated to an air display by the Roulettes, in addition to meeting and conversing with several VIPs including Director General Cadets – Air Force AIRCDRE Craig Heap CSC, Warrant Officer - Air Force Fiona Grasby OAM, senior members of the AAFC Foundation including chairman Air Vice Marshal Kym Osley AM, CSC, and the event Master of Ceremonies WGCDR Peter Overton AM, whom many will also know from his years as a 60 Minutes reporter and news presenter.

They also had a group conversation and several photos with Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, AO, DSC at an after function later in the day, as well as Presidents of RAAF Association Max McGregor (Victoria) and Laurie Bell (ATC/AAFC) who are long term supporters of 4WG. OC 4WG WGCDR(AAFC) Kylie Walker thanked cadets for their participation and professionalism in representing the AAFC, presenting them with a 4WG Challenge coin.

Our thanks to CO 21SQN and Air Force HQ for extending the invitation for our cadets and staff to participate in such a historic occasion.





ESSENDON FIELDS 100th ANNIVERSARY



At the invitation of RAAF Williams Base Liaison Officer (PCK) SQNLDR Kylie Long, a delegation of cadets from 407/416SQN Moonee Ponds had a busy but successful day supporting the static Air Force 100 display at Essendon Airport's 100th Anniversary EXPO and Community Event.

Cadets were trained in the use of the VR headsets by SQNLDR Kylie Long and the RAAF team before managing supervised interactions with members of the public throughout the display. Around 120-150 individuals or groups flowed through the stand with thousands attending the EXPO that weekend.

The simulators were set up to fly the F35 Lightning and the FA/18 Super Hornet out of Amberley or East Sale. The RAAF flight simulators were a very popular display and had capacity queues all day. The cadets performed admirably on the stand, earning significant compliments from SQNLDR Long and WGCDR Sellick at the end of the day. Recruit cadets were able to join a tour of the aircraft displays, experiencing the RAAF simulators and visiting the Essendon Fields Museum. Highlights of the day included additional exhibitions and aircraft displays by Police Air Wing, Air Ambulance, Chinook Helitanker, Royal Flying Doctor Service and GAM aviation.

CADET REFERENCE GROUP CONFERENCE 2022

At the end of March, the Cadet Reference Group held the CRG Conference with Wing and Squadron CRG Representatives.

Lead by the new 2022 CRG Chairperson CUO Charlotte O'Sullivan and Deputy Chairperson CUO James Male, the team came together to meet each other for the first time, discuss how the CRG functions within the AAFC framework as the voice of the cadet body, to collaborate on ideas and learn more about how representatives can support their squadrons with information, activities and new incentives.





Guests speakers were PLTOFF(AAFC) Ryan Adams and PLTOFF(AAFC) Meg Goulding who were both CRG Chairpersons during their time as cadets, shared their experiences with our new leadership team. They were also treated to an audience with Commander (AAFC) Mark Dorward who dialled in to them from the National Senior Leadership Conference to discuss their ideas and perspectives on improving the cadet experience as well as their thoughts on other platforms like training and activities

CRG representatives will take the learnings and ideas back to their squadrons in order to further encourage cadet engagement in decision-making and future planning and operations throughout 2022 and beyond.

GENERAL SERVICE TRAINING – RAAF BASE EAST SALE

Cadets continue to enjoy the opportunities the AAFC provides outside of regular parade nights by way of training camps held during the school holiday period. The GST program for April 2022 was Leadership focused providing a more in depth look at what skills a AAFC Cadet leader needs to master as well as the art of followership.



Cadets experienced sessions with 1FTS, Officer Training School Leadership Reaction Course, flight tower visits, and flight simulators. Cadet executives also ran a session for the JNCOs allowing them to converse with more senior cadets on their roles and expectations as new leaders, and how they can learn to improve communication, training, and a better cadet experience for others.

Cadets were also treated to flights on both the C-130 Hercules and Spartan aircraft with flights over south-eastern Victoria.

FIREARMS TRAINING ELECTIVE PROGRAM

Across the span of one week in April 2022 a total of 93 personnel including 87 cadets and 6 IOC/OOC completed their FTE courses at Melbourne International Shooting Centre. What a hugely successful week in providing extra-curricular training for our cadets and staff, with one full day of theory covering all aspects of safety and usage, and then upon successful completion of this a practical session at MISC under the full and careful supervision of our qualified Range Controlled Officers. Cadets then receive a qualification in this field which allows them to go on to regular Wing practices and potentially work up to Wing and National competitions. A big shout out to SQNLDR(AAFC) Danny Salmon who coordinates this program for us, and his team of RCOs for their commitment to continuing to offer marksmanship and sportsmanship opportunities within our Wing.



ANZAC DAY 2022



In commemoration of ANZAC Day, cadets and staff supported over 55 services around Victoria in the lead up to, and on 25 APR 2022. This was the first time in almost 3 years that we could assemble without restrictions, and our members were out in numbers!

We are exceptionally proud of all our cadets and staff for their support of their local ANZAC services – some attending up to 5 different events - right across Victoria. This ranged from Dawn Services, daytime services and marches, school services at the Shrine of Remembrance, and RSL lunches.

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

Upon completing their march, cadets held their ANFs at the Shrine of Remembrance overlooking the official Commemorative Service, creating a stunning backdrop.



VRA ROGAINING CHALLENGE 2022

Around 96 cadets from squadrons across 4WG gathered at Creswick yesterday morning for the VRA School Scouts & Cadets Rogaining Challenge for 2022. This was possibly one of the biggest attendances over many years and great to see the sea of blue ready to compete.

This is an annual event within 4WG that allows cadets to exercise their navigational skills as well as strategic planning, leadership and fellowship to get through almost 20km worth of bush land to secure markers at different locations. It was worth noting the amount of new LCDTs with little fieldcraft experience who attended the activity to have a go!

Teams of up to 5 work to gather the most amount of points in the shortest amount of time with two trophies up for grabs: VRA sectional trophy and the 4WG “Golden Boot”

Winners this year for the Cadets Rogaining Section were:

920 points - 414 SQN

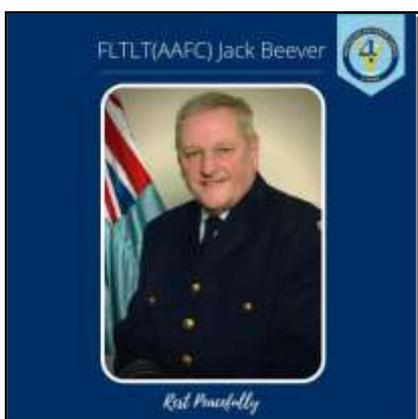
740 points - 402 SQN

690 points - 403 SQN

Winner of the 4 Wing Golden Boot 2022 was: 414 SQN with 1570 points



IN REMEMBRANCE - FLTLT(AAFC) JACK BEEVER 4 WING



22 May 2022 was the first anniversary of the passing of our dear friend and colleague FLTLT(AAFC) Jack Beever who dedicated over 25 Years of service to the AirTC and AAFC.

Jack was a former CO at 25FLT Ballarat as well as held various senior roles in 4 Wing HQ including Staff Officer Management Services and Staff Officer Wing Safety, as well as IT officer and 4 Wing Logistics Officer

As a volunteer, Jack’s work ethic, passion and support of our youth development philosophy, and for the cadets and staff alike will always be a source of inspiration to those who knew and valued him. His humour and genuinely good nature was synonymous with the way he approached his duties and how he extended himself. Jack gave so

much to all of us, nothing was ever too much trouble.

On behalf of all past and present members we send out our love, thoughts and prayers to Marg, Chris, Belinda, Victoria and Phoebe.

Vale.

AIR FORCE DRONE RACING TEAM COMES TO 4 WING

A fantastic opportunity held at the end of May at 414SQN Melbourne Girls College, with cadets getting an up-close demonstration from the Air Force Drone Racing Team!



Branch Benalla Visit

From Carol McBain

BUS TRIP TO THE AIR MUSEUM AT BENALLA AIR FIELD

Because there were very few members who wanted to attend this organised day trip, Murray McBain came forward in asking the management team at the Retirement Village where he and wife Carol live if we could hire the Village 11 seater bus for the day.

Yes, was the reply, because there were 3 people from the Village who would make up the number going. Unfortunately, at the last minute, Laurie Bell was unable to attend.

So, on Wednesday 11th May at 8.30 a.m., 8 people piled into the bus at the Village and set off for Benalla with the bus ably driven by Murray. It was a pleasant trip on a mild and reasonable day weather wise.



The trip took approximately two and a half hours with no stops on the way to Benalla arriving at about 11.00 a.m. We were warmly welcomed by John Currie, the curator of the Air Museum. John and his staff escorted the group around the Museum explaining the origins and anticipated completions of the aircraft being restored. We were also pleased to see the arrival of member Doug Williams who lives in Benalla next to the airfield.



Following the tour of the Museum we then headed to the Benalla Golf Club for lunch where we were happily greeted by Jan Williams who attended lunch with Doug and the rest of us. We all enjoyed the lunch in the pleasant surrounds of the golf club and catching up with each other.

It was then the journey home in the bus with members being entertained by the loud conversation between Carol and Graeme Garrett.

In conclusion, Murray was thanked by the group for his “alcohol free” driving and it was unanimously confirmed that the day was a big success.

(Members of the group were John MacDonald, Victor Stewart, Carol and Murray McBain, Peter Wilson, Graeme Garrett, Tony Synhur, and Barry Sharwood a resident of the Village and a relative of Tony Synhur.)

April Meeting



May Meeting - The AGM



The Grace By Carol McBain.

AIR CADET BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 2022

The ATC/AAFC Annual Meeting comes around each year,
previously held in April.

And it is usually the same people who agree the Committee
vacancies to fill.

Most of us enjoy the monthly meetings which bring us together.

So it is good to feel that you bring us this sort of pleasure.

So we thank you sincerely from the bottom of our heart.

To keep the show going and not let it fall apart.

Now it is time for lunch so let us give our grateful thanks

To the Lord above for the food and drinks to fill up our tanks.

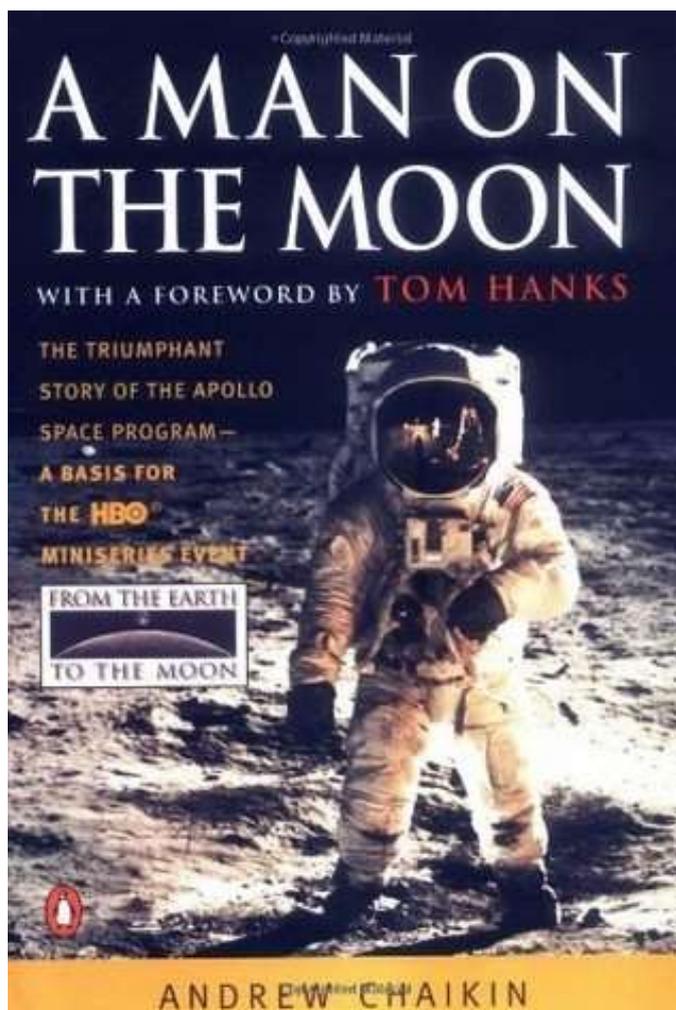
Amen

June Meeting



Members posing in front of the new RAAF display cabinet at Box Hill RSL.

Book Review



Title: A Man on the Moon: The Voyages of the Apollo Astronauts

Author: Andrew Chaikin

Publisher: Penguin Putnam Inc

ISBN: 9780143112358

First published in 1994, A Man on the Moon describes all of the voyages of the Apollo program astronauts in detail, from Apollo 8 to 17. Many of us know the tales of Apollo 11 and 13, but what about all the others? Andrew Chaikin spent years recording the stories of the men who rode a column of fire off the earth with the goal of landing on, and then exploring the Moon. He has knitted these into a compelling narrative that follows the challenges, surprises and achievements of one of the most remarkable achievements of humanity in the 20th century. From turning the delay of the Lunar lander into the triumph of Apollo 8 going to the moon, to those famous first steps and all of scientific knowledge gained, this book does not just focus on the more well know missions, it shares the detail of all the necessary steps to get there and what was discovered on each mission.

For those that prefer to listen, as I do, the "Audible" audio book is expertly narrated by Bronson Pinchot. I can highly recommend this book to anyone even vaguely interested in history and/or aerospace.

Nick Cohn

The Editor's Epistle

Thankyou to our contributors to this edition of the Newsletter, our President Laurie, SqnlDr (AAFC) Samantha O'Sullivan, Carol McBain, Vic Stewart, John MacDonald and Nick Cohn.

On Murphy's Law

Murphy's Law is a jocular principle that is commonly stated as "if anything can go wrong, it will." The so-called law is often said to have been created by Captain Edward A. Murphy, an engineer at Muroc Army Airfield (known today as Edwards Air Force Base) in 1949.

There are corollaries of Murphy's Law.

Beauty is skin deep, ugly goes to the bone.

Never argue with a fool, people may not know the difference.

Friends come and go. Enemies accumulate.

The other queue always moves faster.

Anything you try to fix will take longer and cost more than you thought.

A short cut is always the longest distance between two points.

Almost anything good in life is either illegal, immoral or fattening.

The light at the end of the tunnel is a locomotive bearing down upon you.

In order to get a loan from the bank, you must prove that you don't need it.

Murphy's golden rule – whoever has the gold makes the rules.

Remember - Murphy was an optimist

Internet Links of Interest

How to out Scam the Scammers

Mark Rober - [Pranks Destroy Scam Callers- GlitterBomb Payback - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsLJZyih3Ac)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsLJZyih3Ac

AFA ATC/AAFC Branch page

raafavic.org.au/content/758/branch-atc-aafc

Brian Shul on piloting the SR-71 -

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nuAZfKSvvg

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA



ATC/AAFC BRANCH

ATTENTION - ALL ADULT MEMBERS 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.

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