



# CONTACT

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## BALLARAT BRANCH MARKS COMPLETION OF RESTORATION OF AIRPORT HUT 48



*Juliana Addison, MP with Peter Schoutens and Mrs Janet Bates examining the records of all Wireless Air Gunners that passed through 1WAGS Ballarat.*



*Ballarat Branch President Noel Hutchins with guest speaker, WWII veteran and graduate of Course No.2 1WAGS, Mr Jack Bell outside the newly restored Ballarat Branch rooms*

**For over 50 years, Airport Hut 48, also known as the former RAAF Officers' Mess, at the Ballarat Aerodrome has been unused and in a state of disrepair. Now the historic site that once housed Wireless Air Gunner trainees has been restored for public use by the Ballarat City Council and Heritage Victoria.**

The Ballarat Branch of the Air Force Association hosted an official opening of their newly allocated rooms in the recently restored Airport Hut 48 on Thursday 28 March, with guest speaker WWII veteran, Mr Jack Bell, 101.

Ballarat Branch President, Noel Hutchins said, "This official opening is also our opportunity to formally acknowledge the Ballarat City Council and Heritage Victoria for undertaking the restoration of this historic WWII building and allowing the Air Force Association to re-establish rooms here."

"We also recognise the dedication and hard work of members of our Association here in Ballarat who have campaigned for a number of years for this site to be returned to its former glory."

Continued on page 2.



*BEFORE: Airport Hut 48 as it was left 50 years ago.*



*AFTER: Airport Hut 48 is returned to its former glory as members and guests attending the official opening are welcomed by Ballarat Branch Secretary Rob Petty.*



*L-R: Jack Bell, Noel Hutchins and Mrs Margaret Wood.*



*Ballarat Branch Secretary Rob Petty, AFA Victoria Board member Chris Hudnott and Ballarat Mayor, Cr Samantha McIntosh.*

Guest speaker, WWII veteran Jack Bell, 101, who completed Course No. 2 at No.1 Wireless Air Gunners School at RAAF Base Ballarat in 1940, gave a memorable address to the gathered guests including Juliana Addison, MP and Ballarat Mayor, Cr Samantha McIntosh.

Among the invited guests were grandchildren of Wing Commander C. O. Fairbairn, the very first Commanding Officer of No 1 Wireless Air Gunners School, Catherine Calvert and Charles Fairbairn-Calvert. Jack Bell was as thrilled to be able to talk with them as they were with him. "He is just so much like his grandfather" said Jack about Charles.

Margaret Bennett, the daughter of Wing Commander Reynolds, a post-war Commanding Officer from 1948 to 1952, was also in attendance as was her son Trevor Bennett. Margaret is the widow of WWII RAF pilot John Bennett, President of the AFA Ballarat Branch in 2000 and 2001 who passed away in 2001.

The Air Force Association's occupancy of rooms in Airport Hut 48 harks back to the building's historic link to its WWII past.

Following the outbreak of WWII, a RAAF base was established in Ballarat in 1940. The No 1 Wireless Air Gunners School – commonly known as 1WAGS – was established under the Empire Air Training Scheme to train Wireless Air Gunners for the fight against the German Air Force in Europe.

After the end of WWII, the RAAF base became a radio training school and Hut 48 was turned into the Officers' Mess.

An important part of the Branch's plans for the restored site includes a memorial to all the Wireless Air Gunners who trained in Ballarat but never returned from the war.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### **Peter Colliver, OAM**

It was absolutely fantastic news to see that Peter Colliver had been awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Australia Day Honours list. Peter has contributed significantly to the Air Force Association over many, many years. Without the contribution

that Peter has made, it is true to say that the Air Force Association in Victoria would not be in the strong position that it is in today. Our heartiest congratulations to Peter.

### **Productivity Commission and the Advocacy Review**

These two reports have consumed a significant amount of the Victorian Division's time over the last few months. The Productivity Commission draft report released just before Christmas ran to over 700 pages with potentially significant changes for all veterans. The Advocacy Review was much smaller but also has significant changes proposed.

Continued on page 3.

AFA-Victoria made a submission to the Advocacy Review and contributed to the response by our National President Carl Schiller. The response by Carl was a very well-reasoned and objective response, which was well received by the Productivity Commission and DVA. With the Advocacy Review, the issues raised by AFA-Victoria were all included in the final report, so it was a very successful outcome. The two reports are in many ways interrelated, so it will be interesting to see just what the Government of the day accepts or rejects. With the Productivity Commission handing down its final report mid-year, nothing is going to change in the short term.

### DFRDB Review

The Government has only recently announced a review into DFRDB and specifically the commutation problems that some veterans have experienced.

If any AFA-Victoria member has experienced a problem with DFRDB, particularly the commutation aspect, then I urge you to provide the details of your issue to our Office Manager Barb Stallard [office@afavic.org.au](mailto:office@afavic.org.au) so that we can compile a list of the issues and make a submission on your behalf.

### Max McGregor

President  
AFA-Victoria

## IN MEMORY OF TWO BRAVE SQUADRONS

**On Tuesday 19 February, the bombing of Darwin in 1942 was re-enacted with air raid sirens, guns and fighter planes, WWII veteran Brian Winspear, 98, was there to unveil a long-awaited plaque in recognition of his fallen RAAF colleagues from No 2 and No 13 Squadron.**

Flying in the islands now known as Indonesia and Timor, and out of northern Australia, the RAAF's No. 2 and No. 13 Hudson bomber squadrons were all but wiped out in their World War II operations. The two squadrons were in Darwin from 1941 to 1943, losing 200 aircrew and 9 out of their 12 aircraft.

In recognition of their heroism - unprecedented or duplicated in RAAF history – both squadrons were awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation (see photo). But until now they have had no formal commemoration in their own country.

As part of a project strongly advocated by the last surviving air crew member, Flight Lieutenant (Ret) Brian Winspear AM and supported by the Order of Australia Association, Northern Territory Branch and the City of Darwin Council, a commemorative plaque – 'In Memory of Two Brave Squadrons' - was unveiled in Darwin by Mr Winspear. The bronze plaque sits on Darwin's Cenotaph.

Brian served in the RAAF from December 1940 to November 1945 and during this period he was posted to both Darwin and Timor with No 2 Squadron (Hudson Bomber) flying as a wireless operator, rear air gunner and navigator. At the time of his discharge, he was serving as the Squadron Signals Officer with the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

Brian resides in Tasmania and is the author of 'My Back Seat War', based on diaries he kept during the war. He

recently gifted one of the last copies of his book to the Air Force Association's own No 2 Squadron Branch.

Brian still leads an active lifestyle playing pennant bowls at the Royal Hobart Bowling Club.

*Brian Winspear's 'My Back Seat War'*



*FLTLT Brian Winspear (ret'd) returned to Darwin for the 77th anniversary of the Darwin bombings to unveil a commemorative plaque honouring 2 and 13 Squadrons. (Image source: AAP).*

*The United States Presidential Unit Citation is awarded to units of the uniformed services of the United States, and those of allied countries, for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941.*





## MEMORIES OF 2 SQUADRON DURING WORLD WAR II (PART 2)



Alex Greig at his home in Sorrento

**In our last edition we featured Part 1 of the memories of No.2 Squadron by Mr Alex Greig (125672). Part 2 continues his story...**

On 9 September General Sir Thomas Blamey, Australia's only Field Marshall, delivered the terms of the surrender to Lt-General Teshima, Commander of the Second Japanese Army on the occasion of the Morotai signing. The words read out were harsh and unequivocal:

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*In receiving your surrender, I do not recognise you as an honourable and gallant foe...the atrocities inflicted upon the persons of our nationals as prisoners of war and internees, (were) designed to reduce them by punishment and starvation to slavery.*

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At this pivotal moment of the cessation of an armed conflict that had persisted for almost four years, the role of 2 Squadron suddenly shifted to provide air cover for the ground staff overseeing the surrender and disarmament of Japanese troops. The bombs carried by the Mitchells were replaced with food supplies and leaflets to advise those hiding in the jungles of Bali, Lombok, Flores and the Celebes that fighting had ceased.

Alex continued with the Salvation Army's welfare activities that focused on locating those local people seriously affected by the Japanese occupation and requiring support to resume their traditional activities.

The Mitchells were stripped of their armaments and converted to transports in order to be used as air



B25 Bombers over northern Australia (image courtesy AWM)

ambulances flying to Labuan, then to Singapore, to repatriate the most urgent medical cases.

Over the ensuing months, members of 2 Squadron were discharged and Alex reported his own return being particularly tense with his plane beset by a number of mechanical issues including a wireless transmission break down. This necessitated some very low flying to sight the ocean's 'white caps' in order to establish coordinates before final touch down at Laverton. The plane certainly lived up to its distinctive signage: *The Bad Penny* (i.e. 'always turns up') which had been carefully inscribed on the nose cap.

The Mitchells were destined not to remain part of the RAAF inventory and were scrapped, whilst the facilities at Hughes airfield became overgrown with little remaining to testify to the Squadron's presence during those tumultuous war years.

However, in 2012 the air strip was repaired and resurfaced for use by fire-fighting aircraft, and more recently there has been a proposal to restore it as a separate general aviation airport.

Of course, No 2 Squadron remains an operational RAAF unit based at Williamtown and Tindal and currently forms part of Australia's Surveillance and Response teams.

It has had a proud history since its first mission in 1916 at the Western Front as part of the Australian Flying Corps and it was awarded special recognition with a Presidential Citation in WWII for "*outstanding performance of duty in action*" for its attacks on Japanese shipping in Australia's northern islands.

Post-war, Alex did not veer from his passion for the welfare field that had been fostered during his war experience and was involved in a number of areas including disadvantaged youth and family, child protection, personnel work, disability services and community organisations. In a time of optimism in the social welfare field, he became involved in many new initiatives including the first programme of work experience to facilitate young people's transition into the workforce, especially in the impoverished inner-city areas.

*Mr Alex Greig (125672) is 93 years old and lives in Sorrento with his wife Deidre.*

# B-24 LIBERATOR VETERAN TURNS 100

**World War II B24-Liberator pilot, Ed Crabtree, turned 100 on 27 February.**

The oldest surviving veteran of the B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia group, Ed has been working with the team in Werribee to restore what is thought to be the last B-24 Liberator in the southern hemisphere.

The Herald Sun caught up with Ed at the Werribee hangar to acknowledge Ed's milestone birthday. Many happy returns, Ed!



## DFRDB REVIEW – LET US KNOW

The Government has recently announced a review into DFRDB.

AFA Victoria will be making a submission on behalf of our members.

You are invited to submit details of your DFRDB issues - particularly the commutation aspect - to our Head Office (c/ Barb Stallard at [office@afavic.org.au](mailto:office@afavic.org.au)).



## OFFICE BEARERS

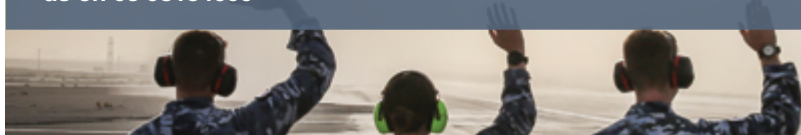
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#### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

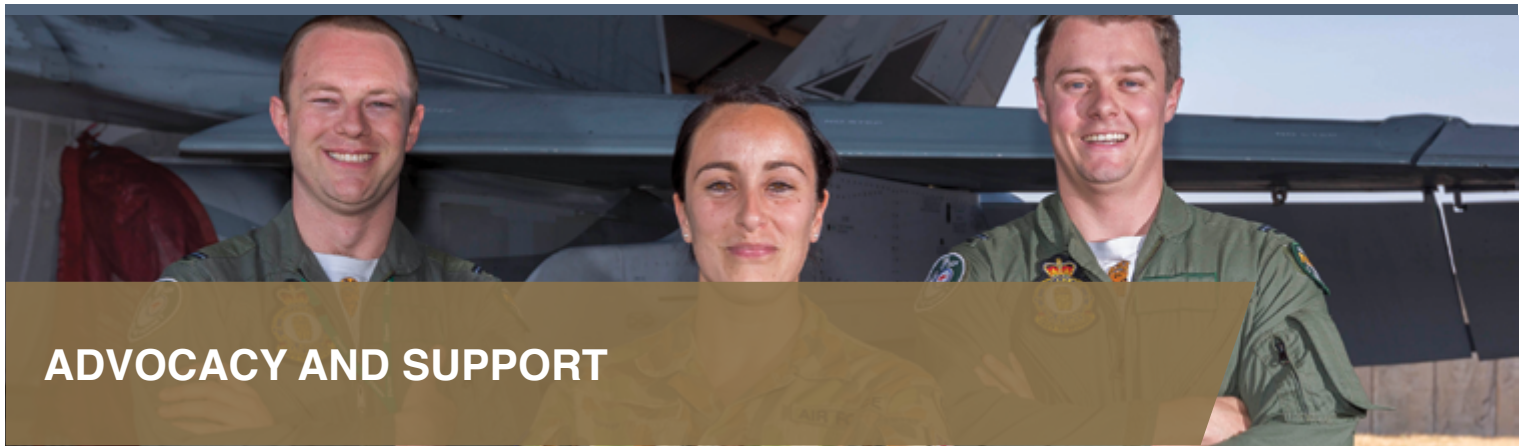
Max McGregor – President  
Carl Schiller OAM CSM – Immediate Past President  
John Sedunary – Vice President  
Daryl Topp – Vice President, Administration  
Peter Colliver, OAM – Treasurer; Chairman, Welfare Patriotic Fund  
Chris Hudnott – Director Communications  
John Clarkson – Director  
John McCrystal – Chairman, RAAFA Foundation, Ceremonial  
Di Hoopert – Director, Welfare Services  
Peter Finkelstein – Honorary Solicitor

## STAY IN TOUCH

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







## ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

### FROM THE FLIGHTLINE - NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**In this excerpt from his National President's message, Carl Schiller talks about developing the Air Force Association to manage and deliver a range of support services to our veterans.**

The 2015 Aspen Foundation's study into Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) named five that stood out as iconic Australian institutions. The study included other ESOs that have voluntarily assisted and cared for veterans and their families and provided invaluable service to the veteran community. The Air Force Association was not listed among them. The Association is also not featured on the ADF's Engage website along with other ESOs that provide a range of support services to veterans.

Late last year, I mentioned in my Open Letter to the membership that the Association generally has focused on fellowship and commemoration and, over the years, let decline its practical support of veterans and their families. It has become 'club like', so it's not surprising it did not feature in the Aspen Foundation's study.

AFA Ltd (national) has become very influential at government level and among the more substantial ESOs. It has developed a reputation for providing well balanced arguments on proposed veteran and family support initiatives/programs, including well received submissions on the recent Productivity Commission Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans and the Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill. It played a significant role in the development of the Advocacy Training Development Program and provided extensive input to the Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study. However, the Association needs to practise what it preaches and, that is, to provide 'hands-on' support to our veterans and their families.

The national Board is examining how the Association can manage and deliver a range of veteran and family support services that would provide consistent outcomes to veterans regardless of their place of residence. The Board endorsed a proposal to develop a National Advocacy Service that has aims consistent with the

Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study recommendations. Clearly, there appears an opportunity for the Association to become a national provider, among other ESOs, of compensation and wellbeing advocacy services. The Board asked NSW Division to develop the policy and procedures for this service, and to further explore its proposal for an Air Force Association National Veteran and Family Crisis Centre. I have great confidence in NSW Division's ability to develop effective national veteran support programs.

Although some Divisions have significant assets, the penury of others means there is no equal opportunity for AFA support of veterans and families across the country. Consequently, it seems important that these support services be national support programs managed and funded by AFA Ltd with the 'hands-on' support provided by volunteers and/or paid support staff. Identifying the funding source will be a challenge. Ideally, a contemporary structured Air Force Association with well-developed, managed veteran support programs is likely to have an improved chance of attracting corporate and other forms of sponsorship.

Our Association mainly comprises Air Force veterans or family members of Air Force veterans. About 5,500 veterans separate each year, a trend for almost 12 years, which means nearly 70,000 veterans have entered the civilian community during this time. It is likely about 18,000 families would need some form of support from an ESO.

I felt a real sense of pride when I attended the recent Avalon Air Show. I saw our young Air Force and other service personnel being very professional and keen. They exuded confidence and were proud to wear the uniform.

We need to let them know we are here for them. Together, I am certain we can develop an Association to support our veterans.

**Carl Schiller,**  
OAM CSM  
National President



# AFA FOUNDATION ANNUAL BURSARIES

**Two young women who are about to commence their tertiary education were the recipients of this year's AFA Foundation Bursaries.**

Chloe Reed (granddaughter of AVM Alan Reed and Dr Graeme Killer) is commencing a Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Global Studies at Monash University, and Lucinda Sonneman Mathieson will be studying Marine and Antarctic Science at the University of Tasmania.

Lucinda is the granddaughter of former 9 SQN pilot, Ross Mathieson. Ross represented Lucinda at the meeting as his granddaughter had already moved to Hobart. Both students were also presented with Encouragement Awards kindly donated by four members of the Branch Committee.

Chloe and Lucinda must be congratulated for the quality of their applications and we wish them well in their future educational endeavours.

The purpose of the bursary is to provide educational financial assistance to children or grandchildren of a person with operational service, or three or more years of continuous full-time service, as a member of the Australian Air Force. The Bursary will be administered on behalf of the Foundation by the AFA Vietnam Veterans Branch

To find out more about AFA Foundation Bursaries and how to apply, visit <http://raafavic.org.au/news/25801/raaf-association-foundation>.



*Chloe Reed receiving the AFA Bursary from the AFA Foundation Chairman John McCrystal*



*Ross Mathieson on behalf of his daughter, Lucinda receiving the Snow Coughlan Encouragement Award from Gill Coughlan*

## CONTACT: EDITORIAL DATES

### SUMMER 2018

Contributions by 16 November 2018

Publication: 7 December

### AUTUMN 2019

Contributions by 25 February 2019

Publication: 5 April 2019

### WINTER 2019

Contributions by 1 June 2019

Publication: 28 June 2019

### SPRING 2019

Contributions by 2 September 2019

Publication: 25 September 2019

## AFA VICTORIA BRANCH CONTACTS

2 SQN	Walter Sherman	0407152479
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
Engineer	David Graham	0407 248 874
Fighter SQN	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
Geelong	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
Gippsland	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
Melbourne WAAAF	Jessie Reed	03 98029073
North Metropolitan	Rod Garmaise	03 93093543
Vietnam Veterans	Gill Coughlan gilly4346@gmail.com	
RAF	Val Boyd	0417512177
Sunderland SQNs	Ricky Hattam	03 52413431
Williams	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600

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## AROUND THE BRANCHES

In addition to the President's Reports below, you can also find Newsletters and other information about our Branches on our [AFA Victoria website](#). Simply go to the Branches dropdown menu on the front page.

### ATC/AAFC

Hello to all Branches and a belated Happy New Year to everyone. We hope that you all enjoyed good health and had a safe Christmas whilst doing all that you had planned or in simply relaxing and pondering over all of those New Year Resolutions (which often don't come to fruition despite the best of intentions...!).

VALE: On the passing of our Branch member Audrey Steer, wife of our late member David who was a photographer with the R.A.A.F. in years past. Both were former residents of Adelaide and our condolences to the remainder of the family who all still reside in South Australia.

Our Branch's Christmas Luncheon 2018 was a great success and the Committee thanks all of our members and their friends who supported the function so strongly again on this occasion.

We also thank our special guests on the day, National President, Carl Schiller and his wife Christine. Victorian State President, Max McGregor and Rosemary and AFA Victoria Office Manager, Barbara Stallard for accepting and joining us.

Our first monthly luncheon in February got off to a good start for the year and we look forward to continuing numbers of attendees



*Laurie Bell with National President, Carl Schiller and Victoria President, Max McGregor at the ATC/AAFC Branch Christmas Luncheon.*

throughout 2019. Visitors - be they friends of members or from any of the other Branches - are always welcome to join us on the first Friday of each month at the Box Hill RSL from 1130hrs.

Best wishes to all,  
Laurie Bell (President)

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THE ATC/AAFC BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

### BALLARAT

At our 2019 AGM on 5th February, the Ballarat Branch farewelled into retirement from the job as President, Dr Tom Roberts OAM. At that meeting, I was elected as the new President. I have very big shoes to fill.

At a Branch that has been operating since 1945, Tom has set the record of having served the most years as the President of our Branch.

Tom served for six straight years from 2007 until 2012. After a one-year break, he

was back again for two more years 2014 and 2015. Another couple of years later, Tom was back for 2018. This year, he decided to call 'time'. A nine-year record. Thank you for your service Tom.

While our Branch has sadly lost some members who have passed away in recent times, the membership is growing quite rapidly. I expect another four people to finalise their membership in the next week or so. This



surge in membership sees the new committee consist of ten members, a stark contrast to our recent past.

It is quite an exciting time for me to take the reins at our Branch, with the restoration of the former RAAF Ballarat Officers Mess building being

completed. The huge cost of the restoration was met by the Ballarat City Council, with a \$200,000 contribution from Heritage Victoria.

An official opening of the rooms given to our Branch was held on 28 March. (see front page story – Ed.)

In recognition of his service, one of our rooms will house “The Tom Roberts Library”, which will, of course, hold a copy of “Wingless” by our own Dr Tom Roberts, OAM.

Noel Hutchins  
President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THE BALLARAT BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

## BENDIGO

Another year, but first I have to finish off 2018.

Bendigo Branch held their Christmas function on 6th December at the Windermere Hotel. We had a wonderful time, feasting on a delightful meal, after which Richard H conducted our swindle with lots of great prizes. During the course of the function we were entertained by the Rusty Divas. A band of lovely ladies who sing foot tapping songs & carols. Sadly, this was their last outing as they wish to retire. It was great to have Tom & Penny Roberts (Ballarat), Barb Stallard (HQ), National

President, Carl Schiller & wife Christine, reps from Ex-Navalmen's Club joining us.

2019 started off with our annual meeting. We now have new bodies at the helm, President, Ray Gray, Senior Vice President, Trevor Taylor, Vice President, Peter Simmons, then there is still me as Secretary/Treasurer. I take this opportunity to thank Roy Gaffee & Richard Henson for their assistance throughout their terms & wish the incoming guys well for 2019.

The Bendigo Branch was represented at the ex-Prisoners of War

Memorial Service at Ballarat on 3 February. Once again this was a wonderful service even though the temperature was 39 degrees - most unlike Ballarat.

It was inspiring to see Jack Bell ex RAAF still attending - what an amazing man.

A number of our members attended the Darwin Defenders Service on 19 February conducted by Bendigo District RSL. Bill Hosking, one of our members was a Darwin Defender and together with Norm Smart they laid a wreath in memory of their mates who lost their lives on 19 February 1942.

On 22 February, Past President of Bendigo Branch, RAAF Association, Audrey Lehey (Herbert) #104275, WAAAF, passed away aged 94. Audrey was president of our branch from 1984/1987.

Glenis Gordon

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THE BENDIGO BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

## ENGINEER



*The Engineer Branch and Friends at the RMIT Alumni Luncheon  
L-R (seated): Bob Fretwell, Richard Orr, Carl Dillon, David Graham, Brian Fuller, Michael Kolowale, Kelvin Lillingstone-Hall  
L-R (standing): Ian Douglas, Kingsley McRae, Brian Livingston*

### MID-YEAR LUNCHEON

Action is in hand to book the Batman on Collins Function Room for Wednesday 12th June. The cost per head will remain unaltered at \$50

Members are asked to note the date in their diaries, and also to invite partners and interested friends.

### COMMITTEE CONFIRMATION

Glen Gould – Treasurer;  
John Clarkson – Functions;  
Noel Hadfield – Secretary.

### ANZAC DAY PROCEEDS FUNDS

The Air Force Association Victorian Division (AFA Vic) has approved in principle the granting of \$1,300 to

the AFA Vic Engineer Branch for expenditure on welfare activities in 2019, from the ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund. The Engineer Branch Committee will draft submissions accordingly through the AFA Vic.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The Committee's next meeting will be Monday 1st of April at the Mail Exchange Hotel (Bourke St near Spencer St) at 12 noon, and visitors are most welcome.

### **RMIT ALUMNI LUNCHEON: 4TH MARCH.**

A most enjoyable Luncheon and Working Meeting was held with the Committee and friends of the Engineer Branch and the REOA,

together with many familiar RMIT personnel from years gone by.

The Branch discussed the wording of the RAAF Commemoration Plaque to be installed on the Donors' Wall in the recently refurbished Capitol Theatre. The Plaque will reflect the history of the RAAF - RMIT association, going back to 1939 and World War 2. Some 13,000 RAAF technical personnel were trained through the then Melbourne Technical College, and subsequently many hundreds during the days of Diploma Courses (Radio, Mechanical, Electrical) and the Diploma Cadet Squadron (DCS) and the Engineer Cadet Squadron (ECS) up to the early 1990's. The Capitol

Plaque will be installed later this year.

The Luncheon Keynote Speaker was Dr Collette Burke, the Victorian Government Chief Engineer. One particularly resonant topic was the current shortage of Engineers in industry, exacerbated by significant numbers of new graduates being not "job ready" - a contrast to the recollections of our cohort!

### **DCS AND ECS PLAQUES - CANBERRA:**

A Plaque Commitment and Laying ceremony was held on Thursday 28th March 2019 at the RAAF Memorial Grove, Federal Highway ACT, recognising the contribution

that various engineering training schemes made to RAAF engineering capability between 1954 and 1992. This recognises particularly the role RMIT/ RAAF Frognall played successively through the Fellowship Diploma Courses (Radio), the Associate Diploma Courses (Mechanical, Electrical), the DCS and the ECS.

After the Ceremony, there was a 'Big Frognall Reunion' Dinner at the Ainslie Football Club, ACT. The dinner attracted over 200 people and was a grand occasion.

We wish you all ongoing good health and happiness

Carl Dillon  
(On behalf of David Graham and the Committee)



*L-R: Kingsley McRae, Rebecca Booth, Carol Gould, Glen Gould, Alan Gibbs, Rick Toholka, Rod Harris, Ian Douglas*

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THE ENGINEERS BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

## **VIETNAM VETERANS**

The Vietnam Veterans Branch AGM was held on 17 February 2019 with a number of important items on the agenda.

Our long serving Branch Treasurer, Maree Jongkryg, has, after more than 12 years, decided to step down from the position and

spend more time with her family. We thank Maree for her service and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation at the AGM. Gareth Davis will be assuming the Treasurer responsibilities.

President Chris Hudnott summarised some of the



*Maree Jongkryg and her Certificate of Appreciation with Branch President Chris Hudnott and AFA (Vic) President Max McGregor*



work that the Committee has undertaken over the last few months including update of the website and the on-going transfer of paper records to digital format. The Branch Banner has also been modified (now equipped with air vents) to make it easier to handle on Anzac Day and VV Day.

The meeting also saw the presentation of the annual AFA Foundation Bursaries. This year Chloe Reed

(granddaughter of AVM Alan Reed and Dr Graeme Killer) and Lucinda Sonneman Mathieson (granddaughter of former 9 SQN pilot, Ross Mathieson) were the proud recipients. (*see earlier story in Contact – ed.*)

We continue to liaise closely with the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Philip Island and a few committee members will be visiting the museum in March to provide advice

on enhancing the Air Force display in the Air Operations Section.

The Branch would also like to congratulate National President, Carl Schiller and the 13 members of the hard-working committee who made the Armistice Commemoration at Point Cook such a memorable event last November.

Chris Hudnott  
President

WANT TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT THE VIETNAM  
VETERANS' BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

## CATALINA

The Catalina Branch held its annual Christmas luncheon at the Mail Exchange Hotel in Melbourne on 22 November 2018. President Mr Ken Scott welcomed our Patron and Shrine of Remembrance Governor Group Captain Annette Holian and 15 members, family and friends, to a memorable afternoon of conversation and food.

Our guest speaker was Mr Tony Muller from the B24 Liberator Australia Memorial Restoration Group. He noted that both the B24 Liberators and the Catalinas, made by Consolidated USA, were fitted with the same Pratt & Whitney R1830 radial piston engines. Tony revealed some amusing stories behind the "Rise of the Phoenix" A72-176. In 1989 a fuselage was retrieved from the backyard of a house in Moe. The owner,

George Toyne, purchased it in 1948 for 127 pounds. A wing was found in Papua New Guinea, a tail and turrets in Darwin and the flaps were found on a Queensland farm. A visitor to the museum donated a complete radar unit that his father had brought home from the war which is now a working display in the museum. 2018 marks 30 years since the initial meeting in Wagga to begin the B24 restoration. The now accredited museum is housed in two former WW2 hangers on the Point Cook Satellite aerodrome in Werribee.

We are pleased to congratulate our Treasurer Jennifer Newton as a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) 2019 for her services to the community of Hampton. Jennifer's achievements include: an active volunteer with the Australian



*Branch Christmas function. Back Row L-R: Alison Macfarlane, John Ford (Committee), Bev Keegan (Committee), Ray Rees' son, Clive Carmichael, Tony Muller (B24), Jennifer Newton (Treasurer), Ken Scott (President), Group Captain Annette Holian (Patron).*

*Front Row L-R: Jim Goldsworthy (LAC 116229), Mac Ford (LAC 143309), Ray Rees (WAG 85021), Tom Runnalls (WO 428363), Ron Kirk (Secretary), Ian Clark (LAC 149711). (Not in photo: Stan Guilfoyle AM (FO 418395))*

Volunteer Coast Guard; past President and active member of Rotary Club Hampton; and advocate and supporter of local war veterans.

### ANZAC DAY MARCH, THURSDAY 25 APRIL

The new Catalina assembly point is outside the railway station in Flinders Street, near the Elizabeth Street entrance. The assembly time (not the step off time) is 10:25 am.

### CATALINA BRANCH AGM

Thursday 16 May from 10:00 am at the Air Force Association offices in Hawthorn East. The AGM will be followed by a light lunch.

Ron Kirk  
Secretary

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT  
THE CATALINA BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

## VALE

The following members have passed away since our last publication.  
May they rest in peace.

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*It is with the  
greatest respect  
and fond  
memories, we  
remember our  
colleagues who  
have passed on  
before us.*

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Mrs Ruby Woodhead: WAAAF .....	20/11/2018
Mrs Audrey Steer: ATC/AAFC .....	04/12/2018
Mr Thomas Speller: Headquarters .....	17/12/2018
Mr John Netherway: Ballarat .....	21/01/2019
Mr Lachlan McBean: Ballarat .....	15/02/2019
Mr Robert Greenwood: AFC Vietnam Veterans.....	19/02/2019
Mrs Audrey Lehey: WAAAF .....	22/02/2019
Mr Dudley Marrows, DSO DFC Legion de Honor: Sunderland Sqn .....	11/03/2019



*Lest We Forget*

### VALE DUDLEY MARROWS, DSO DFC LEGION DE HONOR, 101.

**A WWII war hero and Sunderland flying boat captain with 461 Squadron, Dudley Marrows passed away on 11 March, aged 101.**

He famously piloted his Sunderland flying boat craft that sank a German U-boat in the Bay of Biscay in July 1943, before dropping a life raft to save some of submarine's sailors. Mr Marrows received the distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery.

Former deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer paid

tribute to the brave pilot and his actions in the Bay of Biscay off the west coast of France.

"He noticed there were no life rafts as the submarine went down and against operating orders turned back and released two life rafts before heading home to base," Mr Fischer told AAP ([see full article here](#)).

More than 40 years later in Germany Mr Marrows met the commander, Wolf Stiebler, of the submarine he had sunk and the two became friends.

In 2015 Mr Marrows received France's highest decoration, the Legion of Honour, for his role in liberating the country during the war.

