

AFA - Victoria Engineer Branch Report - June 2018

On behalf of the committee members:

On Tuesday 10 April 2018 we held the regular bi-monthly committee meeting at the Mail Exchange Hotel in Bourke Street; our second meeting for this year with the main discussion points being presentation of the new updated web site and finalization of the midyear luncheon arrangements.

The annual midyear luncheon was held On Wednesday 13th June in the rooms of the Batman's Hill on Collins Melbourne; our usual venue. The facility is centrally placed being opposite the Southern Cross railway station and is well serviced with transport links, amenities and services. This was also the first time we had the opportunity to try out our new updated office equipment which worked fine.

The luncheon MC was John Clarkson and the guest speaker was David Gardner OAM Director of the RAAF Museum at Point Cook; Glen Gould and Noel Hadfield as usual, supported by other members, provided the essential “back room support”.

David gave a very interesting and passionate presentation on the RAAF Museum and followed up with some updates on events planned for the future of the bases at Laverton and Point Cook all of which was very well received by the members.

Attendance for the luncheon was down slightly mainly due to a number of regular attendees have health issues needing attention but still we had some 35 in attendance and the overall presentation and luncheon ran very well.

For the first time we had a video camera available with a tripod stand and with the assistance of Glen and Carol Gould, who turned camera operators for the event, the entire luncheon was captured on video and can be viewed via the link:

<https://www.reoa.org.au/gallery>

Enjoy.

Our President Kingsley McRae reminded all about the benefits and opportunity to join the AFA Vic and encouraged all to do so who were not already members. Kingsley also reminded members about the RMIT Alumni “plaque” initiative - “the donor wall”.

The RAAF has a very long history of association regarding technical training across a number of levels at RMIT and many of us did our initial radio technician training and/or engineering training at RMIT Melbourne. Already we have collected a total sum of \$725 from members towards being involved in this project.

Due to the impact of ageing as well as the changes in the location and structure of the engineering members in the current RAAF, attendees were asked what would best serve the members' needs for the future and did they still wish to continue with the current format, ie, semi-formal luncheons with a guest speaker. The members were unanimous in their views to continue with the current format.

On another topic, many of us have spent time serving in Butterworth Malaysia and for those who were not aware, the week of 25 June 2018 was the 60th anniversary of the presence of the RAAF in Butterworth-how the time flies. I am sure there are many who have happy memories of their time serving in Malaysia or Malaya as it was known.

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bi-monthly committee meeting for committee members at the Mail Exchange Hotel which is on the corner of Spencer and Bourke streets.

- First Monday in the month commencing February 2018 unless we decide otherwise due to a conflict in dates/activities.

Monday 5 Feb 2018-completed

Tuesday 10 April (date changed due to Easter holidays)-completed

Monday 4 June-completed

Monday 6 Aug

Monday 1 Oct

Monday 3 Dec

- Mid year lunch at Batman's Hill on Collins 1200 Hrs Wed 13 June-completed
- End of year lunch 1200 hours Thursday 8 Nov-venue and luncheon form to be determined.
- Anzac Day-same as past years but to be finalised.
[Note: All dates subject to change and to be confirmed throughout the year].

Point of Contact (POC)

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We wish you all ongoing good health and wellbeing in 2018.

Ron Ledingham

For Kingsley McRae and the Committee Members