

# Air Force Association

The official newsletter of the Air Force Association – Victoria ABN: 96 091 342 304

VOLUME 75 ISSUE 2 // WINTER 2020

## CONTACT

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*Dawn at Torquay on ANZAC Day*

### AN ANZAC DAY LIKE NO OTHER

**Anzac Day 2020 was different to any in recent memory. This year we came together in spirit, instead of in person.**

*This year, as we draw on our own strength and resources to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, ANZAC Day becomes even more poignant, as we acknowledge and commemorate those whose own resilience and sacrifice defined our nation.*

Max McGregor, President, AFA Victoria

Anzac Day is the day Australians come together to remember the service and sacrifice of our men and women who have served in conflicts around the world.

But this year, for the first time in a century the streets were empty; there were no suburban dawn services, no mid-morning marches or afternoon two-up matches.

Commemorative ceremonies and events normally held across the country were cancelled due to the public health measures put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, this did not dampen the intentions of the thousands of Australians who kept the Anzac spirit alive and honoured our veterans and service members from the safety of our own homes.

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People gathered in their driveways and on their balconies around the country to remember the service and sacrifice of those who have served our nation. Candles were lit, poppies displayed and as we listened to a Dawn Service broadcast on radio or TV and recited the Ode, we remembered them.

It was certainly an ANZAC Day like no other.

Lest We Forget.

## A SPECIAL GALLERY OF COMMEMORATION

Air Force Association Victoria members were invited to share their unique ANZAC Day experience with a photo of themselves for our special ANZAC Day gallery. You can



*: A grandchild's message on ANZAC Day 2020*

see some of these memorable and poignant images in the middle section of this edition of Contact and also in our website [Photo Gallery](#)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Like everyone else, AFA Victoria continues to feel the effects of COVID19. The lack of certainty regarding when, and if, restrictions can or will be relaxed or lifted makes planning for future events very difficult in the short term.

Looking towards November and assuming that by then most restrictions will be lifted, we have had discussions with Air Force about our annual pilgrimage to Point Cook. At this stage the proposal is that AFA Victoria will revert to our normal day of the Sunday before Remembrance Day for our Pilgrimage. If we obtain approval this will be for AFA Victoria members and guests only. A light lunch in a marquee is planned as the old Officers Mess will still be closed for renovation.

Looking even further into the future for Remembrance Day 2021, there is somewhat more certainty although changes to the plans are still occurring. For 2021 we will not be able to attend on the Sunday before Remembrance Day. Our event will have to occur on Remembrance Day due to the number of personnel residing at Point Cook for the Avalon Airshow. It is proposed that our ceremony will commence at 1100, and then all will proceed to the Chapel for the dedication of the new Chapel and the laying-up of the old Squadron Colours. Then we can adjourn to the re-furbished Officers Mess for lunch. If this goes ahead as proposed this should be a special day

We have been busy with other aspects important to our organisation. We are still trying to lease our investment property, and we have been close to securing an acceptable lease with nothing positive to show for our efforts. Currently there are two organisations in discussion with our agent to lease the whole of the property so there is still hope in this difficult time.

One other aspect that is under development is for AFA Victoria to conduct a "poppy service" at funerals for our members. The RSL has conducted poppy services for RSL members for many years, but soon we will be able to provide this service for AFA members if so desired. I am seeking volunteers for two groups:

1. The formation of a steering group to oversee the documented processes and the training provided to those conducting these services.

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- Members who are interested in conducting this service on behalf of AFA Victoria.

Anyone interested in being a member of the steering group or actually conducting the Poppy Service, please advise our Office Manager, Barb Stallard [office@afavic.org.au](mailto:office@afavic.org.au) or on 03 9813 4600.

Finally, please stay safe. It is pleasing to report that no members are reported to have contracted the COVID19

virus, and Branches are continuing to reach out to members to ascertain their wellbeing. Keep up the good work everyone.

Max McGregor

*President  
AFA Victoria*

## SAVED FROM THE RUBBISH BIN #2 – THE BOYS OF HUT 15

**In the Summer 2018 edition of Contact we shared a story about an envelope of faded snapshots that were found in a rubbish bin. That story was about a particular photo of a crew taken in front of a Beaufort aircraft. Now here is the story behind some more of those old photos.**

Some time ago, a builder, who was demolishing an old suburban house in Melbourne, noticed an envelope with faded snapshots dumped in a rubbish bin. Recognising the photos as Air Force related, he passed them on to aviation historian Kevin O'Reilly.

A number of the photos were related to 1WAGS trainees at No 1 Wireless Air Gunners School Ballarat during WWII, in particular the 1 WAGS Course 9 (Hut 15] which commenced on January 9 1941.

Kevin did his National Service at RAAF Ballarat in 1955 and has now passed these historical 1WAGS photographs to the Ballarat Branch where they are now included in the 1 WAGS Memorial website.

Thanks to the diligence of the photographer (presumably Thomas Worley 407659 who was on the same Course and whose kit bag number appears in one of the photos), names have been included on the back of some photos and as a result all members of the 1 WAGS Course 9 [Hut 15] have been able to be identified.

Forty-four trainees from Course 9 were killed during the war, with this Course having the highest amount of fatalities. Thomas Worley was killed in 1942 in a flying accident at RAF Edgehill, Sherington, UK.

These young men who had volunteered were responding to a call to arms for air crew at the behest of the Empire Training Scheme which undertook to supply partly trained airmen for the defence of England. It is easy to see, by looking at their faces, that these young fellows were full of enthusiasm for the adventures that were ahead of them.



*(Above & Below) The young men of 1 WAGS Course 9 (Hut 15) Ballarat in 1941*



Sadly, of the fourteen occupants of Hut 15, only four would survive WWII and most would be killed within two years of their training. The attrition rate amongst the early air crews in this war was horrific.

You can read more about the bravery and legacy of these young men of 1WAGS Ballarat by visiting the [1wags.org.au](http://1wags.org.au) website for and follow on Facebook – **1 WAGS Memorial**.

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Edgar Brown 401024 and Edgar South 401054 both of Course 9 and Hut 15 play at the fountain. Neither boy survived WW2. Edgar Brown was killed in a flying battle in India. Edgar South died whilst a POW in Thailand.



No. 1 WAGS Base theatre in 1941. Occasion unknown but possibly passing out parade and address.

You can also read the other story in our [Summer 2018](#) edition of [Contact](#)

## THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE E-7A WEDGETAIL INTO SERVICE

**2020 marks the 10th Anniversary that the E-7A Wedgetail came into service in No 2 Squadron as part of Project Wedgetail.**



No. 2 Squadron RAAF Boeing 737 AEW&C aircraft

In January 2000, No 2 Squadron was re-formed to operate Boeing 737 Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) aircraft procured as part of Project Wedgetail, out of RAAF Base Williamtown and RAAF Base Tindal.

On 26 November 2009, the RAAF accepted the first two of six Boeing 737s, and by the end of 2010, the squadron had begun training.

In 2011, after a period of conversion training for its crews, it took part in Exercise Talisman Sabre with US and Australian forces. The squadron forms part of the Surveillance & Response Group's No. 42 Wing, which is responsible for the RAAF's AEW&C capability.

No 2 Squadron now has six E-7A Wedgetail aircraft, which are based on the Boeing 737-700 and combines long-range surveillance radar, secondary radar, passive



No. 2 Squadron RAAF Boeing 737 AEW&C aircraft

detection surveillance receivers and tactical/strategic voice and data communications systems. This provides the Australian Defence Force with the ability to survey, command, control and coordinate a joint air, sea and land battle in real time.

You can take the "RAAF E7-A Wedgetail tour" video link here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYAk3fFacCE>

The latest video on the 10th anniversary of the E-7A Wedgetail into service can also be found on YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zIGNgCe\\_Ww&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zIGNgCe_Ww&feature=youtu.be)

Thank you to Walter Sherman, President, 2 Squadron Branch for this story.

# WING COMMANDER (RETD) SHARON BOWN APPOINTED NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION.

RAAF veteran, Wing Commander (Retd) Sharon Bown is the Air Force Association's new National Vice President, it was announced at last month's Annual General Meeting.



A decorated RAAF Nursing Officer and veteran, Sharon is a highly regarded motivational speaker and author, a Member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial and is also the Air Force Association's representative on the Female Veterans and Families' Forum.

Working in East Timor as a RAAF aeromedical evacuation nurse in 2004, Sharon was seriously injured and narrowly escaped death in Timor-Leste when the UN helicopter she was travelling in crashed in a violent storm. She survived a broken back, a shattered jaw, and aviation fuel burns, and not surprisingly, was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Sharon later served as a commander of a surgical team in Afghanistan in 2008.

Today, Sharon continues to be of service to the men, women and families who serve, providing a valuable

insight into the sacrifice and unique qualities of their lives in the service of others.

This year, Sharon was invited to deliver the national address to commemorate Anzac Day.

In her address, Sharon encouraged Australians cast themselves in the image of the ANZAC:

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*"Let us do more than just honour those who have defended Australia.*

*In this time of crisis, let us recognise our innate capacity to do the same.*

*To unite and protect the more vulnerable among us.*

*To realise that the qualities for which we honour the Anzacs, live on within all of us.*

*Endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, mateship and Devotion - to duty, to each other, to Australia."*

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You can read Sharon's full ANZAC Day Address on the Australian War Memorial website: <https://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/speeches/anzac-day-2020-veterans-response>.

WWW

Have you checked out the  
AFA Victoria website?

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





# AUDITOR'S REPORT: AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION - VICTORIA

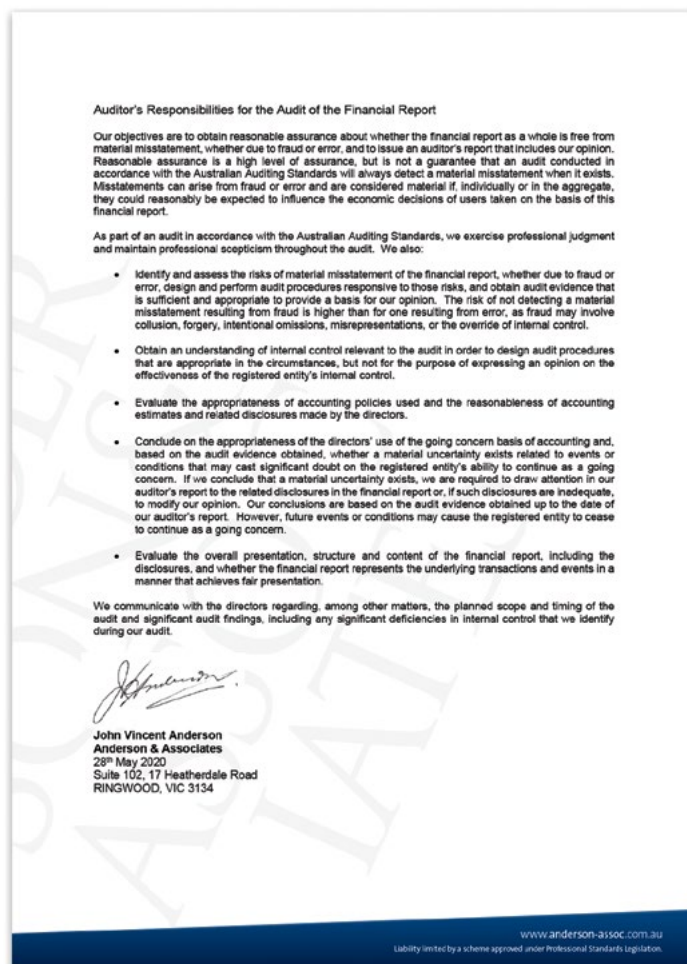
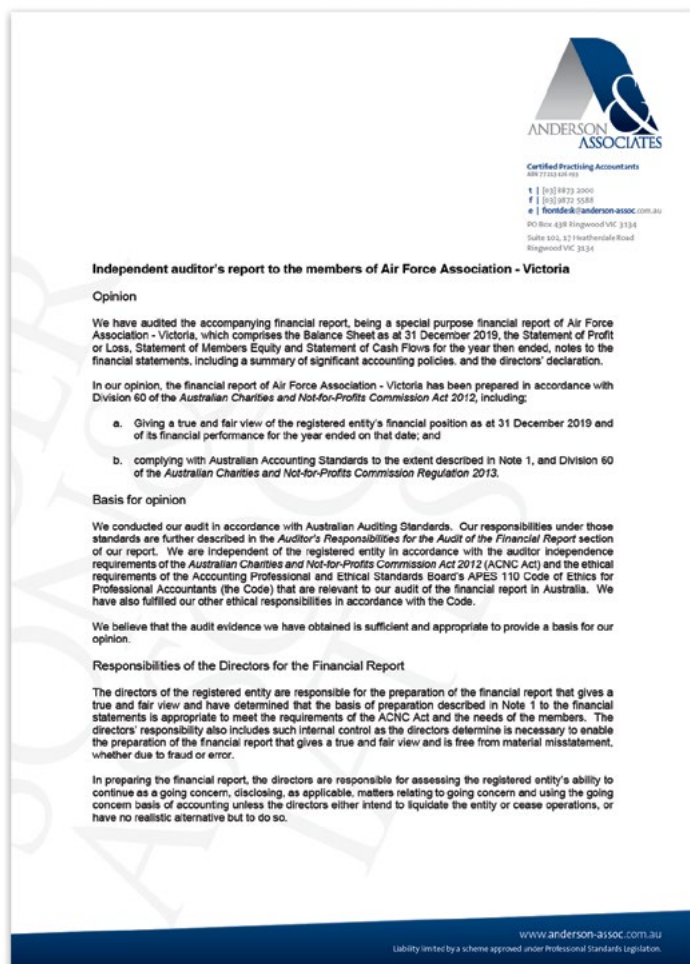
On the 28th May 2020, the Air Force Association - Victoria received the independent auditor's report to the members of Air Force Association (Victoria).

The two-page overview is presented below. A copy of the full audited annual report will be made available to any member requesting one.

Peter Colliver OAM

Treasurer

Air Force Association – Victoria



## MEET THE BOARD



### PETER W COLLIVER, OAM, B BUS, FCPA

A registered tax agent and SMSF auditor, Peter is a principal of a Melbourne suburban accounting practice, and National Secretary of the Air Force Association. He is, also, an accredited quality reviewer for CPA Australia.

Peter has a 29-year history with the Air Training Corps (now Australian Air Force Cadets), and the RAAF Reserve. He joined No. 4 Flight, Victorian Squadron, Air Training Corps (now 404 Squadron, AAFC), as a cadet, in 1959, and upon age retirement enlisted in the RAAF Reserve. He was posted back to 4 Flight for instructional duties, and remained

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until December 1970, when he resigned from the Reserve to pursue studies, and attend to family commitments.

In 1982, he joined the Victorian Squadron, as Squadron Warrant Officer, serving concurrently as an instructor with No. 8 Flight (now 408 Squadron), and, subsequently, was posted to No. 1 Flight (401 Squadron), as Chief Instructor. Appointed Flight Lieutenant, he returned to Squadron Headquarters, as Finance Officer, and later Staff Officer Administration, with promotion to Squadron Leader, following.

In June 1988, he became Acting Commanding Officer, and was confirmed as Commanding Officer and promoted Wing Commander (AIRTC) on 1 July. Shortly, before handing over command of the squadron, in November 1993, he was appointed to co-ordinate AIRTC involvement in the RAAF's 75th Anniversary.

In November, 1993, also, Peter commenced the first of three periods as Treasurer of the Air Force Association, in Victoria. He subsequently served as Vice President (2003-2004), and as the Division's longest-serving President (2004-2012). He was National Vice President of the Association between 2006 and 2012, and was elected National Secretary in 2014. Peter completed 50 years' membership of the Air Force Association, in March 2018, and in July, of that year, was honoured with Life Membership.

Peter was a member of the Victorian's Veterans' Council, 2007 – 2013, and has been, since 2002, Honorary Treasurer of Ryder-Cheshire Australia Limited, a charitable foundation established by the late Group Captain Leonard, Baron Cheshire VC OM DSO\*\* DFC and his wife, the late Sue, Baroness Ryder of Warsaw and Cavendish CMG OBE.

Peter is married to Helen, and they live on the rural fringe east of Melbourne; they have three horses, four children, and seven grandchildren.

## DIANNE HOOPERT

I was born in Maitland (Hunter Valley) NSW in August 1948. Ever since I can remember, I was going to join the Air Force. I had an uncle serving and told my Mum, 'when I grow up, I'm going to go into the Air Force'. I didn't know what the Air Force was, but it sounded good to me.

After finishing school, and working in some uninteresting jobs, I decided the time had come to live my dream. Convincing my father that the Air Force was for me, he reluctantly signed the dotted line and granted me permission to go into the Air Force. I was 19 when I enlisted into the WRAAF as a Teleprinter Operator. It was certainly a different way of life – a life that I learnt to love.

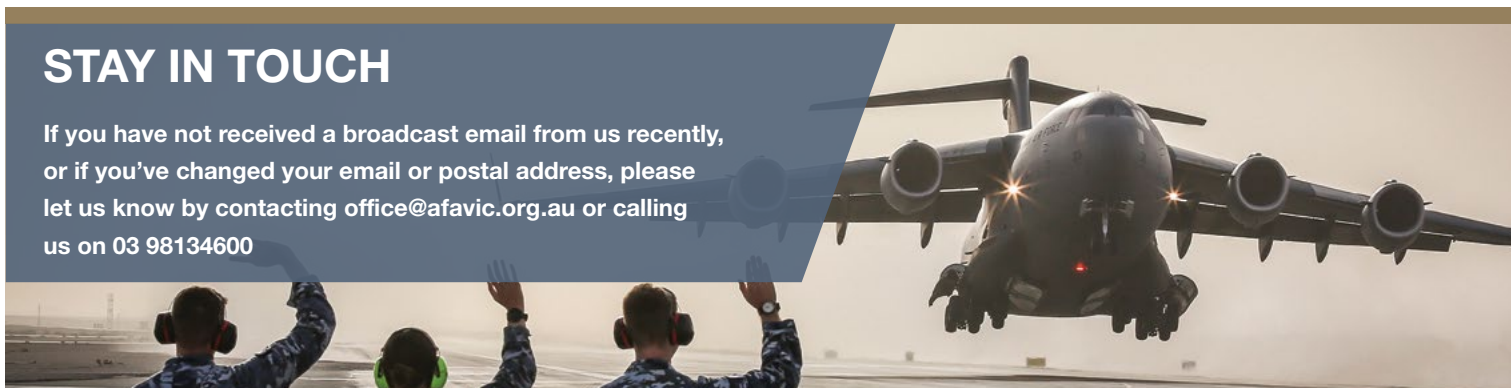
I married in January 1971 and was fortunate that the rules had changed and I was able to stay in the Air Force for a further two years. I elected discharge when my husband was posted to Townsville and I couldn't be co-located with him.

11 years and 2 children later, I enlisted into the RAAF Reserves. I served from 1984 to 2013. My Units were 22SQN, 21SQN, 27SQN, 21SQN, 13SQN and 21SQN. Sadly, I lost my husband to cancer in January 1999. In the year 2000, I had a six-month attachment to Darwin for Op Warden. This was during the Timor conflict. On gaining the rank of Flight Sergeant, I was posted to 13SQN (Darwin) where I had a stint of 8 months being in charge of the CommCentre and its staff. It was quite a challenge but certainly one that I embraced.

I had also been Women's Advisor, an Equity Advisor and any other hat that was bestowed upon me. During all this time, I was a Public Servant. I also volunteer at Airshows Down Under and have been on the AFA Victoria Board for four years.

## 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





# ANZAC DAY 2020



## ANZAC DAY 2020

SO, IT'S ANZAC DAY IN MELBOURNE, A VERY FANCY TOWN  
BUT THE YEAR IS TWENTY-TWENTY AND THE CITY IS SHUT DOWN  
IT'S THE VIRUS DON'T YOU KNOW IT, WE'RE IN A CHANGING WORLD  
SO WHAT HAS REALLY HAPPENED, WHAT HAS THIS WORLD UNFURLED?  
IT'S A NASTY LITTLE MONSTER, SMALLER THAN THE SMALLEST THING  
YOU WILL NEVER SEE IT BITE YOU BUT YOU MAY FEEL ITS BITTER STING  
IF YOU'RE OLDER OR WITH PROBLEMS, KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM THE CROWD  
YOUR CHANCES REALLY AREN'T SO GOOD IF, WITH AGE YOU ARE ENDOWED

SO ANZAC TWENTY TWENTY, IS A VERY DIFFERENT TIME  
NO MARCHES THROUGH THE CITY, TO OUR AMAZING SHRINE  
NO FOOTY IN THE AFTERNOON, TO ADD TO ANZAC DAY  
NO COLLINGWOOD OR ESSENDON, IN THEIR MARVELLOUS DISPLAY

BUT THERE'S MOVEMENT IN THE CITY, AS THE WORD WAS PASSED AROUND  
WE'LL LIGHT A TALLOW CANDLE AND PUT IT ON THE GROUND  
THE LIGHT WILL SHINE AND LIFT OUR THOUGHTS, TO THOSE WHO BUILT OUR NATION  
THEIR LIFE THEY DID NOT GIVE FOR NOUGHT, THEIR LIFE WAS OUR SALVATION  
WE'LL ATTEND OUR OWN DAWN SERVICE, THAT SYMBOL WON'T BE BROKEN

WITH MEDALS ON AND THOUGHTS OF MATES, IT'S REALLY NOT A TOKEN  
WE WILL LISTEN TO THE BUGLER, AS HE REACHES THE LAST POST  
AND THEN WILL COME REVELLE, THE TUNE WE LIKE THE MOST  
AND LATER WE WILL SIT ALONE, IN OUR QUIET ROOM  
AND SHARE OUR THOUGHTS, OUR REVERANCE BY COURTESY OF ZOOM

FROM WARS WHICH RIPPED OUR WORLD APART, THOSE AUSSIE BLOKES WERE THERE  
THEY GAVE THEIR HEART, THEIR LIFE, THEIR ALL AND WITH THEM WE MUST SHARE  
WE PRAISE THEM WITH OUR HEARTFELT THANKS, FOR THINGS UNKNOWN THEY'VE DONE  
THEY DID THEIR VERY BEST, TO MAKE OUR NATION ONE.

TO OUR AUSSIE MATES NOW FALLEN, IT'S THEM WE NOW RESPECT  
THEY'RE ALWAYS IN OUR MEMORIES, DESPITE SUCH PAST NEGLECT  
SO IT'S ANZAC DAY IN MELBOURNE AND HERE WE ARE WITH FRIENDS  
WE KEEP OUR SOCIAL DISTANCE BUT OUR RESPECT IT NEVER ENDS  
WE ARE HERE TODAY TO THANK YOU, TO OUR HEROES GONE BEFORE  
HOW HUMBLE WE MUST FEEL NOW AND FEEL FOREVER MORE  
THEIR LIGHTS ARE SHINING FULL AND BRIGHT, AS WE GATHER HERE

TODAY

WE REMEMBER THEM FOREVER, THAT IS THE AUSSIE WAY.

Alan Reed AO DFC(US), April 2020



Written and presented on ANZAC Day 2020 by Alan Reed.

## ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE AT HOME.



Peter Colliver



Rick Holmes





Alan White



Christopher Redmond



AIRCDRE Rowan Story AM RFD



Rosemary McGregor



Noel Hutchins



Stephen Brown



Ann Petty



Rob Petty



Peter Schoutens





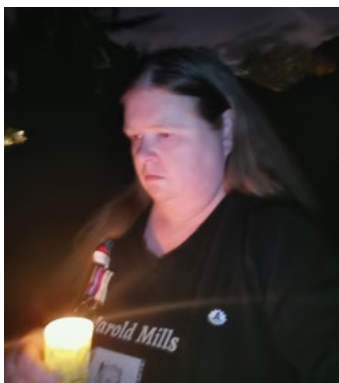
Loraine Potter



Paul Rourke  
and B24 Branch members



Geoff & Noela Rose



Christine Davies on behalf of  
grandfather Harold Mills



Stan Roberts



Kingsley McRae



Elaine Craig



Norma Mullins & Granddaughter Tahlia



Max McGregor



Stan White and daughter Detective  
Snr Constable Mary White



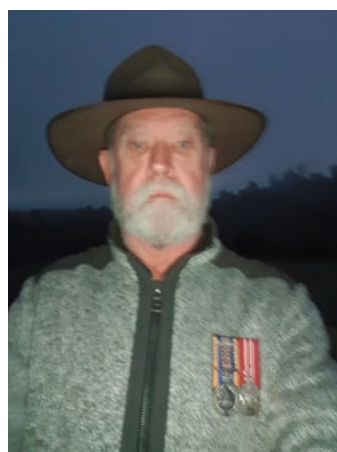
Neil Boulton



Ted Hayes



Thomas Barber



Mike Dance.



Thomas Nunn



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## COVID-19 INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

**Do you have COVID-19 symptoms?**  
**First contact your doctor or Medical Centre by phone.**

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### General

Department of Health: [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

### COVID-19 Specific.

[www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert](http://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert)

**This will provide: Daily updates, answering your questions about the latest news, current facts and figures, travel advice, key contact and phone numbers.**

**OR call: 1800 020 080 (24/7 assistance)**

### Counselling

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 436 (24/7 assistance)  
[beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au)

Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24/7 assistance)  
[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

## VETERANS SUPPORT

Department of Veterans Affairs: 1800 555 254 (office hours)  
[www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

Open Arms (Counselling): 1800 011 046 (24/7 assistance)  
[www.openarms.gov.au](http://www.openarms.gov.au)

## CARE PACKAGE SUPPORT

Australian Red Cross: 1800 733 276 (office hours)  
[www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

Salvation Army: 13 72 58 (office hours)  
[www.salvationarmy.org.au/contact-us](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/contact-us)

## CONTACT: EDITORIAL DATES

### SPRING 2020

Contributions by 24 August 2020

Publication: 11 September 2020

### SUMMER 2020

Contributions by 23 November 2020

Publication: 15 December 2020

### AUTUMN 2021

Contributions by 26 February 2021

Publication: 12 March 2021

### WINTER 2021

Contributions by 31 May 2021

Publication: 11 June 2021

## 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	Darrell Robinson	0409 942 856
Gippsland	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
Melbourne WAAAF	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
North Metropolitan	Rod Garmaise	03 93093543
RAAF Radar	Chris Harnath	0425 770 011
RAF	Val Boyd	0428 174 070
Sunderland SQNs	Ricky Hattam	03 52413431
Vietnam Veterans	Gill Coughlan gilly4346@gmail.com	
WAAF	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600
Williams	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600

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## AROUND THE BRANCHES

### BENDIGO

There isn't a lot to report this time because of COVID 19 as you are all aware of. Our meetings have been cancelled since April, but hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel.

On 9th February, 2020 a number of our members attended the 16th Anniversary Service of the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat. This is a most inspiring service. Our President, Ray Gray, laid a book on our behalf. This book will be presented to one of the schools in the area.

On 5th March, our branch

celebrated the 99th Birthday of the Air Force with a dinner consisting of a 2 course meal. A lovely birthday cake was cut by Peter Dodd & Bill Hosking.

On 8th March a number of our members attended the Sandakan Commemorative Service, held on a delightful day in the Crook Street, Bendigo park. Ray Gray laid a wreath on our behalf. At the conclusion of the service we attended a luncheon at the BDRSL.

Our President has put together a list of members, who are being called on a weekly basis, checking

on their needs. I have continued to do a monthly newsletter with some jokes to keep the members hopefully laughing.

Sadly, ANZAC Day services were cancelled. Blair & I held our own Dawn Service at home. As we live in the 'bush' our neighbours are about 3 kms away, so we couldn't see or hear their services. Our Australian flag was flying at half-mast with a wreath placed at base. I drove my car to the front & turned the radio which was tuned into ABC playing The Last Post. We recited the Ode, then went inside for breakfast.

Clem Bell & his wife who live at the top of a court, had their own service and those who had slept in were wide awake at the conclusion.

Glenis Gordon  
*Secretary*

WANT TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT THE BENDIGO  
BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

### CATALINA

*(Ed. note: Apologies to the Catalina Branch as their report did not appear in the last edition of Contact. Although late, we hope you will enjoy the story and interesting photos below.)*

When the Catalina Branch held its Christmas Luncheon last year, Chris Hudnott, Air Force Association Board Director was the Guest Speaker.

The luncheon was well attended by 23 Catalina

veterans, family and Branch committee members. Amanda Stefancic represented Wesley College, which participates in the Anzac Day March and a Shrine Pilgrimage with the Catalina Branch.

Chris Hudnott and President Ken Scott first met in 1964 when they were both cadets at the RAAF Academy at RAAF Point Cook.

Chris flew fighters after graduating as a pilot. He



Catalina Branch members at their November luncheon

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was one of 36 RAAF pilots who were attached to the USAF as Forward Air Controllers during the Vietnam War. Chris gave a detailed and interesting account of the attributes, training and operations of RAAF FACs in Vietnam.

These images below show a selection of aircraft Chris flew in Vietnam.

### DIARY DATES FOR 2020

#### Pilgrimage to the Shrine

Sunday 23 August at 1400 hrs (to be confirmed)

#### Christmas Lunch

Mail Exchange Hote

Thursday 3 December 1200 hrs.

Best wishes

Ron Kirk

*Catalina Branch Secretary*



*Guest speaker, Chris Hudnott with an image of the Cessna O-2 Skymaster he flew during the Vietnam War.*



*Bronco OV 10 on the Concrete Apron Prior to Take Off*



*CatalinaBranch\_Cessna O-1D Bird Dog 1 in Flight*



*CatalinaBranch\_Cessna O-2 Skymaster in Flight.jpg*

WANT TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT THE CATALINA  
BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

## NO 2 SQUADRON



The No 2 Squadron Branch Annual General Meeting was successfully held on 4th May 2020 using the BlueJeans video / telephone conferencing app. We had a total of 15 members join the meeting, however, two were unable to take part due to technical difficulties. The technology was a steep learning curve for a number

of us, nevertheless, things went smoothly with only minor glitches. I would like to thank the Air Force Association - particularly Max McGregor (President Air Force Association Victoria) and Carl Schiller (in his capacity as the National President Air Force Association) for giving us access to this system.

A majority of the membership voted in support of a Special Resolution to wind up the Victorian No 2 Squadron Incorporated Association and to the transfer the remaining funds to the No 2 Squadron Branch (Air Force Association Victoria). The Financial

Membership of the No 2 Squadron Branch is 31 members. A total of 25 members submitted a 'Yes' vote with only six members not voting. It should also be noted that the Secretary did not receive any 'No' votes. The Consumer Affairs Victoria requirement is that a minimum of 75% of the membership agree before a Special Resolution can be passed. In our case, the minimum number of 'Yes' votes required was 23.25 (i.e.: 75% of 31) and accordingly with 25 votes the Special Resolution was successfully carried. The decision to become a Branch of the Air Force Association Victoria negated the necessity to

be a separate incorporated association. As a Branch we are in a more secure financial position. From the members' perspective nothing has changed.

On the social front, the meeting agreed with the Committee's proposal to hold our annual reunion / fellowship luncheon - originally planned for 19 Apr 20 - later this year, once the Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted - hopefully November. Hopefully, the world will have returned to some sort of normality by then - but we will still need to be mindful of those with compromised health issues before setting a firm date.

On the welfare front, we managed to ring 27 of our members, which is a pretty good hit rate given that some live in nursing homes or they have wrong phone numbers listed. I was really surprised to see how pleased they were to hear a friendly voice asking them how they were going. Some calls lasted well over half an hour. All appeared in reasonably good spirits, giving the circumstances and none required any welfare assistance. A common response from veterans when you ask them if they need welfare

assistance. But I must say the most said that DVA was providing them with good ongoing care and that they were being well looked after.

### ELECTION OF 2SQN BRANCH COMMITTEE

The following committee members were elected unopposed:

**President:** Walter Sherman  
**Vice President:** Graham Henry  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** John Elliott  
**Committee Members:** Carl Schiller and Molly Agius

I would like to thank these folks for volunteering to serve on the committee and wish them well for the coming year.

Walter Sherman  
*President*

WANT TO KNOW MORE  
ABOUT THE NO2 SQUADRON  
BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON  
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION  
VICTORIA WEBSITE

## VIETNAM VETERANS

Our Branch AGM was held on Sunday 16 February 2000 and as usual was preceded by the presentation of Bursaries (sponsored by the RAAFA Foundation) and Encouragement Awards (funded by generous donations from committee members). This year the two Bursaries was awarded to two young ladies who were enrolled in tertiary courses and were both in need of financial support. The two Encouragement Award candidates were also enrolled in tertiary courses.

Who would have thought that within just a few short weeks, our lives would be so affected by the COVID 19 pandemic? To use the military metaphor, we were to be confined to barracks

for an extended period and to exercise life-changing practices in how we related to others in the very few activities we were permitted outside our homes.

Participation in video committee meetings quickly became much more disciplined and efficient and although larger gatherings for Anzac Day were not possible, a smaller gathering of over 25 Branch members were able, through the technology of "Zoom", to remember those Air Force personnel who lost their lives on operations and to honour all who served in Vietnam. We were also privileged to hear AVM Alan Reed recite the poem he had written specifically for this year entitled "Anzac Day 2020".

Many of us had earlier in the day responded to the invitation of the Victorian RSL to stand in our driveways with a candle at dawn for a one minute reflection as the Last Post was broadcast and perhaps take a "selfie" of the occasion. Our Branch was also keen to participate in the "telephone tree" initiated by AFA (Vic) President Max McGregor and several members of our committee made calls to Branch members just to touch base and keep the lines of communication open.

The Coronavirus lockdown restrictions are gradually being lifted and we are hoping that our next commemorative event on Vietnam Veterans Day (18 August) at the Shrine

of Remembrance and the post-commemoration gathering for lunch will proceed as normal.

Chris Hudnott  
*President VV Branch*

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VETERANS' BRANCH?

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Over the past year we have been watching our numbers carefully and are pleased to see that we now have 40 paid up members. This having been said we are not doing so well with our monthly meetings and have come to the conclusion that we need to discontinue the formal meeting format and regard our meeting as a friendly get together with those members who are able to get to Stella Maris. For this year we have continued with our rental there since it is such a useful central location which everyone can get to.

As many of you know we have had a number of successful luncheon meetings at RSL clubs and we intend to get this going again when the current

Covid-19 lockdown is over.

Another important event is not far off. We have not yet made a booking for our annual Battle of Britain luncheon, but the Sofitel Hotel has been very understanding and is holding a spot for us, without obligation at present, so that we can try to organise something a bit closer to 15th September.

We missed ANZAC Day this year so were not able to see you all at what is normally a very well supported commemoration. We were encouraged to take selfies at the Dawn Service and I managed to drag Judy out in the early hours to get the evidence

that I was "on parade" for this important event.



RAF President Ted Hayes commemorating Dawn Service at home

*(Ed. note: More images of this year's ANZAC Dawn Service can be found in the middle pages of Contact)*

While there was no opportunity for us to do anything much, I know a number of us maintained a silent vigil for all of our

comrades who took part in the D-Day landings on 6th June.

Please take care everyone and do not let the hand washing and distancing regime slip. We need everyone to stay well.

Ted Hayes  
President

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## VALE

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

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

Mr Robin Wright Vietnam Veterans Branch.....	21/04/2020
Mr Ivan Kerr Ballarat Branch.....	18/03/2020

*Let Us Forget*

# Air Force Association

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