

President's Message

Air Force is about to enter its 96th year with a proud history of defending our national interests. Central to its enduring contribution to national security is our airmen and airwomen who have played a significant role in supporting airpower. From the fledgling Australian Flying Corps that operated a century ago to the end of World War II when the RAAF was the second largest air force in the world, and now as the best little air force they developed the force of which we should be most proud.

Our Association recognises these contributions, many being the ultimate, so it is fitting and purposeful that we monitor and foster the welfare of our members especially those who have served in harm's way. We must remain true to our cause and continue to identify ways to support each other as a family unit. This is a responsibility of the Division Headquarters and also the Branches.

I was very proud to represent you and lay a wreath on your behalf at the recent 12th Anniversary of the Ex-Prisoners of War Commemoration held at Ballarat, and deeply moved when the names of the squadrons whose members became POWs, including the famous 460 Squadron, were announced. We were well represented with members from Ballarat and other Branches.

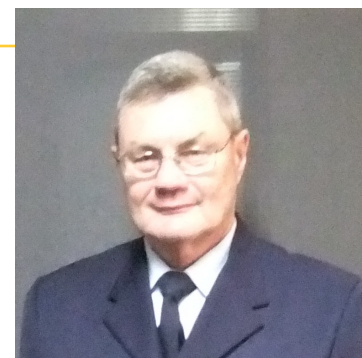
You should have received an invitation to Air Force's 95th Birthday Celebration to be held at Point Cook base on March 31st. The Board wants this celebration to be an annual signature event for the Division and a tremendous opportunity to promote the Association and foster mateship. We look forward to seeing you there.

Air Force will also celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2021. You should have received an invitation to submit your ideas for the celebration, which we will consolidate into an Association response. However, you also have until March 20th to enter the website at <http://www.airforce.gov.au> to submit individual proposals by completing the survey.

I am delighted to announce the Board's approval to create a new branch with effect March 17th, 2016. The Engineer Branch will initially comprise members of the RAAF Engineer Officers' Association (REOA) who choose also to become members of the Air Force Association. I thank Kingsley Porter, President of the REOA and Board member Richard Orr who is also a member of the REOA for helping facilitate the creation of the branch.

Keep safe and stay well

Carl Schiller



Volume 71, Issue 1

Autumn 2016

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SPECIAL NOTICE!

For members who wish to watch the Anzac Day march on the big screen, RAAFA will be open on ANZAC day from 11am with light refreshments being provided. If you are going to be attending RAAFA in Hawthorn, on ANZAC day, please advise Barbara on 98134600 for catering purposes.

Around the Branches

BALLARAT

Hello everybody,

As of the Annual General meeting of the Ballarat Branch we have had a changing of the guard (so to speak).

The executive that has served the Branch so faithfully for the past many years decided it was time to hang up the boots and get some younger members involved.

Historically the 'old guard' were:- Tom Roberts OAM; President for a decade.

Stan White; Secretary for over 30 years. And, Max Beaumont; Treasurer for over 30 years.

These members held the Branch together and built the membership to the present level of over 90.

We wish them well in their 'retirement' and hope to continue the solidarity they have built with their leadership and encouragement. An effort not to be envied.

The 'new guard' are:- Keith Lanyon; President elect.

Leigh Harvey; Vice President elect.

Tom Jobling; Secretary and Bulletin editor elect.

Peter Anderson; Treasurer elect.

Penny Roberts; our never ending Welfare Officer.

Keith Pitman; Manager, Guest Speaker schedule and Events.

The new executive are settling in and the Branch Members are very supportive of them.

It has been a long time since the Branch had an (almost) complete change in leadership so some administrative changes are bound to happen. Not too many and not too fast!

Please note our new address:- PO Box 153R; REDAN; VIC. 3350

Email contact is:- tom.jobling.16459@bigpond.com.

I hope to have further input to "Contact" as time goes on.

Regards,

Tom Jobling (Sec. Ballarat).

attached to 415 Squadron, Melbourne High School, South Yarra.

Neville Dickens, an ex ATC cadet in Service during the 1969 to 1973 period and his wife

Vicki.

Our Branch's Christmas Luncheon was held on Saturday the 12th of December, 2015 at the Box Hill R.S.L. as usual and was very well attended. Our guests on the day were RAAFA State President, GPCAPT Carl Schilling OAM CSM and his wife Christine. Thank you to all members who supported the function again this year and from comments received since, everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves.

Although the following was reported on in our own most recent Branch Newsletter, it is worth giving credit where credit is due by mentioning it again here.

The AAFC Graduation Parade was held at Laverton on the 16th of January, 2016 and it was a credit to all of the Cadets on parade. Their dress, general bearing and drill was of the highest standard and they and the Officers and Staff of 4 Wing are to be congratulated.

It was also a pleasure to see the attendance, by invitation, of several RAAFA members who were past Officers Commanding the Victorian Squadron ATC and AirTC and their participation in the presentations of a number of the Awards. It was nice also to catch up with quite a few of our Branch's AAFC members and spend some time chatting after the morning's events.

Regards to all,

Laurie Bell. (President)

ATC/AAFC

Hello and a Happy New Year to all as we head into 2016 which promises to be another busy year.

We begin this report by extending a warm welcome to the following new members who have decided to support the RAAF Association by joining the ranks of the ATC/AAFC Branch and we hope that they enjoy continuing the fellowship of the Association and of our Branch now and into the future.

SQNLDR (AAFC) John Schurink, the new Executive Officer of No.4 Wing who joined us for our Branch's first Friday lunch in February at the Box Hill R.S.L.

PLTOFF (AAFC) Sarah Gulam of 407 Squadron, Broadmeadows and

SQNLDR (AAFC) Joshua Slocombe of 4 Wing H.Q. Staff. Joshua is also

CATALINA BRANCH

RAAFA Catalina Branch held our annual Christmas luncheon at ANZAC House, Collins Street Melbourne on Thursday 26 November 2015. President Mr Ken Scott welcomed our Patron and Shrine of Remembrance Governor Group Captain Annette Holian and 20 members, family and friends, to a memorable afternoon of conversation and an excellent menu arranged by the Anzac House Management.

As part of the background entertainment for the luncheon, we thank Treasurer Jennifer Newton for making available a selection of historical video tapes, converted to disk, from her father's collection.



Members of RAAFA Catalina Branch attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital (Austin Health) on Wednesday 11 November 2015. In excess of 650 veterans, families and friends were in attendance, including children from Ivanhoe Primary

School and the Austin Hospital Creche. Nursing students and Chaplains represented various hospitals around Victoria. Plaques were unveiled and approximately 45 wreaths were laid. A single plane made 3 passes at 11:15 am following its flyover at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Gallipoli Mosaics were unveiled and these were made possible through Jenny Macklin MP and Federal Government funding for the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli.

Mr Alan Arvidson laid a wreath upon the Catalina Flying Boat Memorial Plaque, "First and Furthest", commemorating members of the Royal Australian Air Force who served in the Second World War in Catalina Flying Boat Squadrons and Air Sea Rescue Flights. Images are courtesy of Jennifer Newton.



Diary Dates for 2016:

Monday 25 April - ANZAC Day March, Flinders Street opposite Forum Theatre.

'Stepping Off' 11:35 am.

Friday 3 June - Catalina Branch AGM at RAAFA Camberwell from 10:30 am.

Followed by a Branch Get Together.

Sunday 21 August - Shrine of Remembrance Wreath Laying and Pilgrimage Service at 2:00 pm.

Friday 11 November – Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital (Austin Health) Wreath Laying, time 11:00 am.

November – Catalina Branch Christmas Lunch - TBA.

Ron Kirk ; Catalina Branch Secretary

Eligibility for the award of the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Vietnam War veterans may need to be aware a review of the eligibility criteria for the award of the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal was held last year. The Government accepted the Review Tribunal's recommendation that because the then Government of the Republic of Vietnam no longer exists, there is no avenue available to seek amendment to the eligibility criteria for the medal and the Australian Government has no legal authority to amend the criteria.

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal was issued by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam for service in the prescribed area of operations in Vietnam during the period commencing on 31 July 1962 and ending on 28 March 1973 for Australian personnel.

The Australian government maintained the basic qualifying criteria specified by the Republic of Vietnam for allied troops. To be eligible for the medal a person must have completed a minimum period of 181 days, either continuous or aggregated, unless:

killed on active service (KIA);

wounded in action i.e. classified as a Battle Casualty and evacuated as a result of those wounds; or

captured and later released or escaped.

Medical evacuation from the area of operations for any reasons other than wounds received in action does not constitute an exemption from meeting the minimum qualifying period. Further advice can be obtained by visiting <http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Foreign/Republic-Vietnam->

Hello,

ADVATORIAL

In early 1942 the Japanese set their sights on capturing Papua and New Guinea.

A series of defensive battles at Milne Bay and along the Kokoda Track, as well as the naval victories in the Coral Sea and at Midway Island put the Japanese on the back foot.

Then followed a series of Allied offensive operations that drove the Japanese back and provided the springboard for General Douglas MacArthur's successful advance into the Netherlands East Indies and the Philippines.

This one day conference examines this critical period of Australia's military history. This conference will include fresh analysis and insights from a highly informed and relevant range of historians and veterans.

Dr Adrian Thelfall, author of *Jungle Warriors: From Tobruk to Kokoda and beyond, how the Australian Army became the world's most deadly jungle fighting force* is the keynote speaker.

Dr Peter Dean, editor of the acclaimed Cambridge University Press campaign series Australia 1942, 1943 and 1944-45, will analyse the campaign in the context of the wider war in the Pacific.

Ian Pfennigwerth will examine the naval aspects of the campaign, Dr Mark Johnson the air force contribution and Neil Sharkey on the Kokoda Track Battles.

Bill Halliwell will critically examine General Thomas Blamey's performance as the Commander-in-Chief working to General Douglas MacArthur.

And most significantly, a panel of veterans from these battles will relate their experiences and perspectives.

The conference, convened by Military History and Heritage Victoria Inc., will be held at the Pompey Elliot Memorial Hall at the Camberwell RSL on Saturday 16 April 2016.

Entry fee \$50 for MHHV members and concession, \$75 for General Admission.

The price includes morning and afternoon tea and light lunch.

Register here http://www.mhhv.org.au/?page_id=673&event_id=1019

Please feel free to pass this invitation to any other people you think might be interested in attending.

Regards, Marcus Fielding President



Kokoda and Beyond: Papua and New Guinea 1942-1945

One-Day Conference Saturday 16 April 2016
Pompey Elliott Memorial Hall, 403 Camberwell Road, Melbourne

Keynote Speaker – Dr Adrian Thelfall
author of *Jungle Warriors*

Register at www.mhhv.org.au



FROM THE FOLK SERVING OVERSEAS

RAAFA VIC CARE PACKAGE PROGRAMME

Over recent years we at the Air Force Association have dispatched Care Packages to RAAF members serving in the conflict zones. The following is a mix of written responses received by the office from a number of obviously appreciative members.



Royal Australian Air Force

Task Group 630

AFPO 12 ATG-T, Australian Defence Force, Sydney NSW 2890

Group Captain Carl Schiller, OAM CSM
President
Air Force Association (Victorian Division)
PO Box 1038 Hawthorn BC
VIC 3122
Australia

Dear GPCAPT Schiller,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Air Force Association (Victorian Division) ('the Association') offering the assistance of the Association to deployed members' families, and for all the lovely care parcels provided to Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Task Group 630 over the Christmas period.

As you are aware, we are in the Middle East Region with the Air Task Group as part of Operation OKRA; the Australian Defence Force's contribution to helping the Iraqi people to destroy Daesh operating in Iraq and Syria.

We wish to thank you and the Association for the kind gesture and time and effort involved in providing the care parcels that were well received here by all. There are about 350 RAAF personnel working here in the Air Task Group. Our time away from home can vary from three to six and half months depending on our job role. Hence to receive the care packages from Australia was comforting knowing that we are being thought of and supported.

Whilst it is hard being away from family and friends, especially at Christmas, we have very good support here and activities planned that allow us to look after each other and keep morale high.

On behalf of the RAAF personnel deployed with the Air Task Group and our families at home, thank you for yours and the Association's continued support.

FLTLT Julie
Op OKRA Air Task Group
Middle East Region



06 January 2016

Dear AF Association

Many thanks for the wonderful care package I received on Christmas Eve.

Thank you for all your efforts that you do to continue to support us all while we are away from our loved ones

Kind regards

Christy Atherton

Dear Sir

Thank you for the care packages we received, they are much appreciated. I am a nurse working here in Afghanistan as part of an Australian team. We are working with many different nations are having a great experience.

We hope that you and your family have a wonderful Christmas and that 2016 will be a fantastic year. Again thank you and we all appreciate the support.

Kind Regards.

Toni Murry
& the Australian
Medical team in
Afghanistan xx

VALES

*The following members have passed away
since the last publication.*

May they rest in peace.

Lest we forget

Eric Leslie Hart Fighter Sqd 6 3 2016



RAAF ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN DIVISION

PATRON

Wing Commander **P. S. Isaacson** AM DFC AFC DFM

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

GPCAPT. C. F. (Carl) Schiller OAM CSM : State President

R.J (Bob) Brackin : Immediate Past President & Vice-President

P.W. Colliver(Peter) Chairman Welfare Patriotic Fund & National Secretary

W. J. (Bill) Belton AM: Chairman RAAFA Foundation

J. (John) Sedunary : Vice-President;

C. (Carl) Dillon : State Treasurer

Directors: J.F. McCrystal (John); R.A.K (Ron) Ledingham; T. A. (Tony) Pilli;

D.(Di) Hoopert; R. T. (Richard) Orr;

P. (Peter) Finkelstein: Honorary Solicitor

BRANCH SECRETARIES

Catalina Ronald Kirk (98193527); **ATC/AAFC** Hugh Tank (98773424); **Ballarat** Stan White (53392003) **Bendigo** Glenis Gordon (54369293); **Fighter Squadrons** Bill Taylor (98486778); **Geelong** Contact RAAFA (98134600), **Gippsland** Contact RAAFA (98134600); **Melbourne WAAAF** Jessie Reed (98029073); **North Metropolitan** Elayne Whatman (93021048); **RAAF Vietnam & Associated Veterans** Rick Holmes (93177304); **Sunderland Squadrons** Ricky Hattam (52413431); **Williams** Ted Ruddle (97482271)

"RAAFA (Vic) Sponsors the Australian Air Force Cadets"



At our Christmas function in December 2015 GPCAPT Carl Schiller presented a cheque for \$10,000 to WGCDR (AAFC) Shaun Young, Officer Commanding 4 Wing Australian Air Force Cadets to assist in their purchase of a twin cab

ute to be used primarily as a tow vehicle for the Cadets glider fleet located at Point Cook. This will enable the AAFC to transport the glider trailer/s to country Squadrons, which for the first time will bring aviation to country cadets, rather than them having to make the long trip to Melbourne. As you can see from the photo, the RAAFA logo and a dedication to the memory of the late FLTLT Wilfred Knapp (a long time ATC Officer and RAAFA member) is proudly emblazoned on the rear panels of the new AAFC vehicle. WGCDR (AAFC) Young said, "The AAFC is very proud of the strong relationship that has evolved between RAAFA (Vic) and 4 Wing AAFC (Victoria) and the use of this very generous donation is proof of a clear aviation partnership between the two groups."

CONTACT EDITORIAL AND DISTRIBUTION DATES

Winter 2016

Contributions close 30 May 2016

Publication June 17 2016

SPRING 2016

Contributions close 29 August 2016

Publication September 16 2016

SUMMER 2016

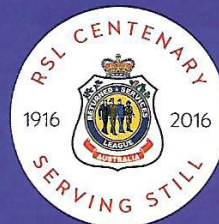
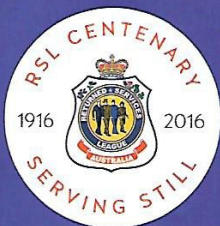
Contributions close 7 November 2016

Publication 25 November 2016

Autumn 2017

Contributions close 28 February 2017

Publication 15 March



2016 ANZAC Day

MELBOURNE DAWN SERVICE AND MARCH

General guidelines

The vast majority of Australians know the significance of ANZAC Day, but it is very important that we explain its significance to those people whose forebears did not serve or who are relatively new residents of Australia. We must interpret the significance of ANZAC Day during the Centenary period, so they can also understand and join in. As we know, it is a day of respect for our war dead and for people who served and died to preserve our way of life. It is also about reflecting on those Australian values and attributes which we hold dear.

100 years ago

1–31 January 1916: ANZAC veterans return to their camps in Egypt where large numbers of new Australian troops are massing. Battalions undergo significant expansion and restructuring.

31 May 1916: Australian battalions leave Egypt for France.

28 June 1916: Australian battalions move into the frontline on the Western Front, although in a quieter sector to gain experience.

1 July 1916: The Battle of the Somme commences, which the Australians will be drawn into later, and the British suffer shocking casualties.

19 July 1916: The Battle of Fromelles; Australia loses 5533 casualties overnight for no gain.

23 July–4 September 1916: The Australians enter the Battle of the Somme at Pozieres. In fighting there, and at

nearby Mouquet Farm, three Australian Divisions suffer losses of more than 23,000 men killed or as casualties.

3–5 August 1916: Australian Light Horse engages in the battle of Romani, the last ground attack by the Turks on the Suez Canal. The attackers are driven off and are pursued by the Light Horse over the next few days.

1–31 December 1916: Australian troops endure an appalling winter, many quartering at Flanders.

23 December 1916: Battle of Magdhaba, where the ANZAC Mounted Division attacks an entrenched Turkish garrison; after which the garrison withdraws.

Annual church service

As ANZAC Day and its associated ceremonies are about remembrance and honour, why not commence these activities by attending the RSL's annual church service? This year, the service will be held at 10.30 am on 17 April at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne. All veterans are encouraged to attend. The service is also a poignant reminder to the general public to honour those who served in the defence of Australia, or its interests, and to those who paid the supreme sacrifice, or otherwise suffered, as a result of their service.

Assembly

March participants should be in their allocated assembly area 30 minutes prior to the expected time for their formation to step-off.

March protocols

The following protocols have again been endorsed by the veteran community and the ANZAC Day Commemorative Committee:

- All marchers should form-up and march six abreast.
- Veterans are to march directly behind their unit banner, accompanied by one carer if needed. That carer should be of an age where they can directly assist the veteran. If a veteran must fall out of the March, he or she should be directed to a marshal for assistance. Unit Associations are to continue moving so as not to disrupt the momentum of the March.
- Descendants are to march behind the veterans and be old enough to march the full distance (approximately one kilometre) without assistance.
- Representation of your veteran forebears is to be restricted to one per veteran and the descendant is to wear the veteran's medals on the right breast (the left breast is reserved for the original recipient of the medals).
- Descendants are to dress in appropriate clothing, as your forebears would have done. Therefore, all marchers should wear neat and tidy clothing, out of respect for the fallen (torn denim, sporting attire and dirty joggers are not considered appropriate).
- Carrying pictures of relatives, and pushing prams and pushers, are not permitted.
- Veterans are requested not to join or leave the March other than at the assembly and dispersal points.

VIETNAM BRANCH



Hi all

Another quarter gone and we are all a year older. AGM has been and gone on the 14th of February with your current committee being reinstated with the addition of Graeme Dodd OAM, former President and Life Member as an Ordinary committee member and Gill Coughlan taking up the position of Assistant Secretary.

Most importantly, Graveside Vigils were conducted simultaneously on Sunday the 21st of February under the

auspices of the Victorian Branch of the VVAA at 1200

hours throughout Victoria. Fallen Vietnam veteran members of Victoria were remembered in a simple ceremony. RAAF members of the Vietnam War were remembered at Fawkner, Springvale, Brighton and Altona. Altona: AC Trevor Petith 2 Sqn, Brighton:

LAC Peter Knight 1 OSU, Fawkner: Cpl David Dubber

9 Sqn and Cpl Bryan Fitzpatrick 2 Sqn, Springvale:

LAC Duncan McNair 9 Sqn. A most moving ceremony

coordinated by the Victorian Branch of the VVAA. All

sites were well attended by RAAFVVA members along

with family and friends of our fallen veterans. Buglers

from all over Victoria attended mainly from school

bands, all reports perfect.



Other news, monthly lunches recommence on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Mail Exchange Hotel (16th March) so watch your email box for members attend, we need more, so for and join us as it is a great chance to will be the same as last year, after commencing at 1200 hours, if you are East. This will be a big year with



updates. Normally we get between 8 - 16 those of you who are still waffling get up catch up with old friends. ANZAC Day March at the Orient East restaurant unable to march go straight to Orient Vietnam veterans to lead the March.

Rick Holmes

Secretary

Vietnam Branch/RAAFVVA



RAAFA TIES AND SCARFS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE.

THIS WOULD MAKE A BRILLIANT GIFT

THE TIES ARE AVAILABLE AT \$28.00 STATE PREFERENCE WIDE OR NARROW

SCARFS AT \$28.00