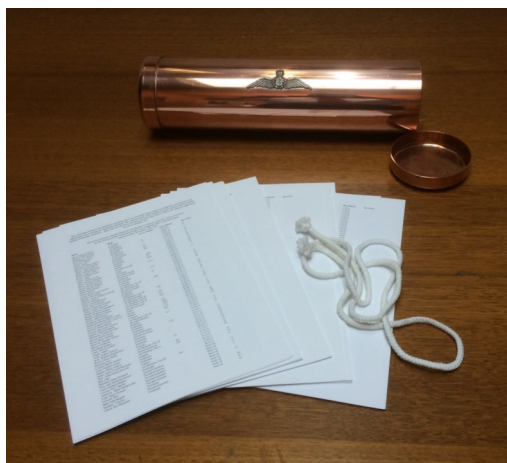


President's Report

The Division's AFC Centenary WW1 Commemoration held at Point Cook on November 13th, 2016 was indeed a milestone event for the Association and Air Force. The event received wide acclaim from serving and former serving members and others who attended.



The Time Capsule and Roll of Honour, of all members in all operational services that made the ultimate sacrifice.

A highlight of the ceremony was the insertion of a capsule containing a scroll with the names of 11,401 AFC and RAAF personnel who lost their life on operational service, which was performed by Air Commodore Geoffrey Harland, CSC Commander Air Force Training Group on behalf of Chief of Air Force. The scroll includes those who perished in the Sea King accident. The capsule accompanies the capsule inserted by the then Governor-General Lord Gowrie at the Memorial's dedication in 1938.

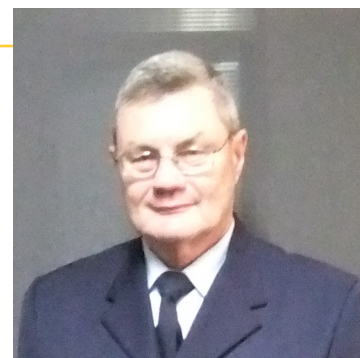
I am very proud of the AFC Organising Committee members who provided a great deal of their time and effort to make this a very successful and memorable occasion. I am also grateful to Wing Commander Nigel

Leurs, Commanding Officer No 21 Squadron and Wing Commander (AAFC) Shaun Young, Officer Commanding 4 Wing AAFC for their support and assistance.

I am pleased to announce two new branches will be established with effect January 1st, 2017; RAF Branch and the 2SQN Branch will be jointly welcomed into the Association at a date in February. This is a great opportunity to extend our comradeship and support for veterans and those who share similar values and interests. Although the addition of these two branches will likely swell the membership by some 90 members, increasing the membership is not just about 'numbers' but about showing others the benefits of being an Association member and extending our friendship and support. I am calling on all branches to take the initiative to expand their membership as I am certain there are many folk who would welcome the chance to become part of a fellowship organisation like the AFA.

The Victorian Division's Care Parcel Program has continually struck a chord with our deployed personnel. This year around 300 care parcels valued at \$6,000 were assembled and dispatched to our Air Force colleagues situated overseas. The parcels

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Summer 2016

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Editor T.A. Pilli

OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE!

RAAFA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 22nd DECEMBER 2016 TO 16TH JANUARY 2017.



Around the Branches

Bendigo Branch

In my last report I stated that we were excited to be going to Ballarat for their Battle for Britain commemoration. We had a great day, weather not bad, rain holding off till nearly the end of service at Sebastapol Cenotaph. As usual the day was well organised, considering the problems encountered prior. Can't say this for our Picnic in the Park with Ballarat which had to be cancelled due to excessive rainfalls. So Ballarat has one over us. On a personal note, I was surrounded by water and would have needed a boat to attend.

On the 1st Thursday in April the Bendigo Branch celebrated the 95th birthday of the RAAF with a luncheon held after our meeting at which State President, Carl Schiller spoke about his aspirations for RAAFA. Ours did not compare to the celebrations at Point Cook on 31st March where the Air Force girls & guys attended in uniform.

We have had some good speakers recently with Natalie Martin from Australian Hearing, Andrew Southall son of WWII pilot who flew with Coastal Command and was also an author of many books including one about 'Bluey' Truscott, famous Australian fighter pilot.

We have continued with members RAAF stories, Roy Gaffee, Peter Simmons & John Roberts who spoke about his RAF national service. Several of our members have been attending the Air Force Band concerts held at Melbourne Town Hall. Wonderful music, so proud of them, best I've ever heard. Well worth the trip just to see the inside of Melbourne Town Hall.

We are really looking forward to Sunday, 13th November for the AFC Centenary WWI commemorations.

On behalf of the President & members of Bendigo Branch I wish to express our sincere thanks to the Chairman & Board of RAAF Association (Victorian Branch) for their support during 2016 and also to the lovely

Barbara who carries out her duties with such competence and cheerfulness, a big THANK YOU.

As this is the last Contact for 2016, that's so scary, I take this opportunity to wish everyone the compliments of the season and a healthy, safe and happy 2017.

Glenis Gordon Secretary

ATC/AAFC Branch,

Hello again to all members.

A group numbering some 30 or so members gathered together in the Box Hill RSL's Bistro area for our monthly Friday luncheon on the 2nd of September, to recognise and celebrate the 101st Birthday of our Honorary Member, Don McLeod. We congratulate Don on this achievement, offer our very best wishes and hope that he is able to join us for lunch again in the near future.

We also welcome several new members into the Branch: Sladen Hope, a friend of our newsletter Editor Ian Cohn. Also Matthew Cane and Stuart Marshall, C.O. of 418 SQN. AAFC. We hope they enjoy being part of the Association's "family".

Vice President Peter Wilson and I visited 406 SQN. AAFC, Frankston on the evening of the 19th of October to present this year's winner of the Stan Tayler for Most Outstanding Cadet of the Year, CWOFF Travis Rozario with the Branch's personal Award Shield. Our thanks to the Squadron's C.O. Shane Power, the Staff and Cadets for making us so welcome.

On the 22nd of October a small group of members travelled up to Benalla Golf Club for lunch to join member Doug Williams' family and a number of other friends in a small celebration for his 80th birthday. Needless to say.....a good time was had by all and congratulations Doug.

We have been advised officially by

our Branch's AAFC Liaison Officer, WGCdr (AAFC) Shaun Young, Officer Commanding 4 Wing AAFC that the 2017 Annual Parade will be held during May when hopefully, the weather will tend to be more settled.

Last Sunday afternoon, the 6th of November, a small group of 7 RAAFA members, which included President Carl Schiller and his wife Christine, attended the one hour free concert of the Air Force Band at the Melbourne Town Hall. Prior notification in response to an invitation distributed by RAAFA ensured that our members were provided with front row seating and following the concert were warmly greeted by conductor SQNLDR Mathew Shelley, Director of Music – Air Force and other members of the band.

The Branch's Christmas Luncheon this year will be held again at the Box Hill RSL in the Upton Room on Sunday the 18th of December and we look forward to another great attendance such as we had last year.

In closing, on behalf of our Branch I wish you all and your families a Merry and Safe Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

VALE: On a sadder note, on the 12th of September our Branch lost one of its long time members with the passing of Colin Holt. Whilst most of our Branch members would not have known Colin, he was a member devoted to the Welfare work he did on a voluntary basis for the Box Hill RSL where, we're sure Colin's services will be sorely missed.

Laurie Bell.



CATALINA BRANCH

In the previous edition of the Air Force Association Victoria Contact Newsletter (Volume 71 Issue 3) it was stated that Mr Keith Farrell was the only surviving Catalina Veteran in Tasmania. Unfortunately this was not correct. Mr Charles Saville is also a surviving Catalina Veteran residing in Tasmania. We now know that there are at least two surviving Catalina Veterans in Tasmania. We apologise for this error.

Our annual Branch get together was held in the Air Force Association Victoria function room, East Hawthorn, on Friday 7 October.



The Executive welcomed Veterans and members to a casual morning tea, with interesting conversation and background entertainment. Historical videos, presented the history of Rathmines as a training base from 1938 through to 1961, together with a British Catalina on show through Northern Ireland and Scotland before returning to its home at Duxford Aviation Museum.

Secretary, Mr Ron Kirk spoke of his long awaited opportunity to take flight in a Catalina when he and his wife Allana attend an air show in New Zealand early next year. Veteran, Mr Stan Guilfoyle provided an inspiring anecdote regarding his perilous escape from the Japanese as part of a Catalina crew in the islands off New Guinea during WW2.

With the number of acceptances over twenty, we are looking forward to our Christmas Luncheon arranged for Thursday 24



RAAF ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN DIVISION

PATRON

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

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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

Darrell Robinson: Executive Board Secretary

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

D Topp (Darryl) Vice-President

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

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

: State Treasurer

Directors: G Buesnel-May (Glenn); J.F. McCrystal (John); T. A. (Tony) Pilli; P. (Peter) Finkelstein: Honorary Solicitor

BRANCH SECRETARIES

Catalina Ronald Kirk (98193527); **ATC/AAFC** Hugh Tank (98773424); **Ballarat** Tom Jobling (53331653); **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); **Vietnam Veterans** Gill Coughlan gilly4346@gmail.com (**Sunderland Squadrons** Ricky Hattam (52413431); **Williams** Contact RAAFA (98134600),

November 2016 at ANZAC House.

Please flag in your diaries the 75th Anniversary of No 1 Flying Boat Repair Depot from 17 to 19 March 2017.

Ron Kirk Catalina Branch Secretary

My Thank-you Speech that Followed Presentation of National President's Commendation at AFA Vic Centre on 11 Sep 16.

May I start by thanking the National President, Brent Espeland and the National Council for seeing fit to present me with this award? However, more important is my thanks to those in Victoria who saw fit to nominate me. Your support over the 11 years I spent as a board member is very much appreciated.

I have left the engine room and moved to the more luxurious surroundings of the passenger car: Most enjoyable.

During my term on the board we did many things to make the Association viable. Continued page 8

Images from the Annual Pilgrimage to Point Cook Australian Flying Corps Centenary WWI





Team preparing the field of Pop's



2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/STATE CONFERENCE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & MOTIONS

Members are advised that the 2016 AGM followed by the State Conference will be held on **19th of May 2016**, venue to be announced .

Nominations for State President, Treasurer and Board Members

- . Nominations for the office of State President, State Treasurer and Board members are to be sent in writing to the RAAFA Office no later than **1st February 2017** and must be signed by the candidate and proposer.
- . The President's and Treasurer's tenures will expire at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for these positions are invited. Current incumbents are:
 State President - GPCAPT Carl Schiller OAM, CSM Retd.
 State Treasurer - Vacant
- . One Board member - Nominations for these positions are invited. Current incumbent whose tenure will expire is:
Maxwell McGregor
- . Nomination forms may be obtained from the Branch Secretaries or the Office Manager, RAAFA Divisional office.

Motions for 2017 AGM and State Conference:

- . All proposed motions must be forwarded by Branch Secretaries to the State Secretary 21 days prior to Conference.
- . Copies of all motions must be forwarded to all Branch Secretaries, 14 days prior to Conference.
- . Financial Reports must be sent to all members 21 days prior to Conference.

Clause 34: Purpose of Annual General Meeting

The business of an ordinary meeting shall be for the purpose of receiving the report of the Board, receiving the state of accounts and transacting any other business which under these presents ought to be transacted at any ordinary meeting. All other business transacted at an ordinary meeting and all business transacted at an extraordinary meeting shall be deemed special.

FORMATION OF AFA VICTORIA N ENGINEERING BRANCH

The RAAF Engineer Officers' Association (REOA) was approached with a request to help initiate and participate in the commencement and ongoing engagement within the AFA Vic of an Engineer Branch that would focus on its activities, goals and associations.

Some background of the REOA is given below to give some perspective on the origins and purpose of the REOA and by inference the reason for the creation of the AFA Vic Engineer Branch.

The REOA is the current successor of an RAAF Radio Officers' Engineering Conference which was held mainly in Melbourne over a two or three-day period and subsequently became known by the colloquial term the "Radio Officers Do".

The Radio Officers annual get together was initiated in the late 1950's by Group Captain Pither (then head of the Tel Eng. department at Headquarters Support Command (HQSC) basically as a social event to meet other Radio Engineers and invited members of industry who were involved in contractual work for the RAAF. The gatherings were held at the Officers' Mess, St Kilda Road then at Frognall and finally at the Coventry Street Mess. RAAF Transport aircraft were arranged to pick up at Amberley, Richmond and Canberra en route to Laverton where Officers bunked down overnight before returning to their bases.

Difficulties arose with officialdom over the arrangements and it was decided to change the format to a 3-day convention where Industry was invited to present Engineering papers on their products and latest developments in Electronic Engineering. This format proved to be a success and enabled officers to travel to Melbourne on official business.

With the breakup of Support Command (SupCom) Engineering facilities and their spread to other parts of the RAAF these arrangements ceased. In 1996/1997 a number of interested former Radio Engineers met with the purpose to reintroduce these gatherings once again on a social basis to meet old mates and enjoy the comradeship created. Our first event had about 70 in attendance, however, numbers dwindled due to age and other factors and it was decided that we should expand our membership to include all engineers and associates.

[Some photos from a typical REOA luncheon, held at the Batman's Hill Hotel in Melbourne, are shown below].



Most of the current REOA members commenced their Air Force career as RAAF Apprentices in either Victoria at RAAF Laverton or in NSW at RAAF Forest Hill at Wagga and then completed an engineering qualification at RMIT whilst based at RAAF Frognall or they completed an engineering qualification at a different educational institution depending on their location and circumstances.

The forming of an AFA Vic Engineer Branch creates the expectation that the engineer social linkages forged within the REOA would beneficially be extended. To this end, the initiative to create an AFA Vic Engineer Branch is seen as a very positive move to enhance the contact opportunities as well as providing support to the AFA.

We look forward to an active participation in the AFA Vic Engineer Branch which was initiated mid 2016 and we *plan to have* active participation by one or two Engineer Branch representatives at AFA Vic Branch Delegate's Meetings.

Since the formation of the REOA, membership of the association has been opened up to engineer officers from categories other than the radio category and presently the membership stands at approximately 200. Two luncheon functions, with a guest speaker, are run twice a year, at mid-year and at end-of-year, to help social interactions. The functions attract an attendance of around 40.

Although the REOA has been Melbourne centric, many members are now resident interstate and membership/attendance is still encouraged noting that some interstate members have arranged locally their own gatherings.

For any further details on the REOA and having the opportunity to join us and/or the AFA please contact either the AFA Vic office on 03 9813 4600 or your local state AFA office and/or:

REOA Point of Contact (POC)

Noel Hadfield
Wing Commander (Ret)
RAAF Engineer Officers' Association
E-mail: nhadfield@optusnet.com.au
Telephone: (03) 9511 7775

Care parcel working party at RAAFA on Friday the 25th of November 2016



From left to right;

John McCrystal, Fran and Jo from the Australian Military Bank, Gill Coughlin, Di Hoopert, Alan White and Bob Brackin missing in action from group image but visible on the action image above Lee Scully.

VALES

The following members have passed away since the last publication.

May they rest in peace.

Let us not forget

VALES

William Costin	Headquarters	31/08/2016
Gordon Lowry	Headquarters	08/08/2016
Robert (Bob) Stone	Motor Transport/ Ex Board Member	17/09/2016
Frank Jordan	Headquarters	05/10/2016
Kenneth Davis	North Metropolitan	13/06/2016
Colin Holt	ATC/AAFC Branch	07/10/2016
Owen Mabbett	Sunderlands Branch	21/08/2016

CONTACT EDITORIAL AND DISTRIBUTION DATES

Autumn 2017

Contributions close 28 February 2017

Publication March 11 2017

Winter 2017

Contributions close 30 May 2017

Publication June 17 2017

SPRING 2017

Contributions close 29 August 2017

Publication September 16 2017

SUMMER 2016

Contributions close 7 November 2016

Publication 25 November 2016

RAF Assn. Melb. Branch

Branch Meetings

1st Thursday at 11am

Stella Maris Seafarers Centre

600 Lt Collins St Melb.



VIETNAM VETERANS BRANCH

The activities continue in respect of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan; some of our members attended the Non-Denominational Church Service in September, the next big event on the Anniversary calendar is the Family Race Day at Seymour.

Your committee and members have been busy with working bees at the NVVM at Phillip Island, restoring our beloved "Huey" to its correct "RAAF Livery" for the Vietnam era, congratulations on a job well done to all who were able to assist.

A number of our committee and members attended the recent service at RAAF Williams Point Cook to mark the Australian Flying Corps Centenary of WW1, it was a wonderful service, the background of the Cenotaph was covered in layers of Poppies mounted on matting, and the lawn at the entrance to the Officers Mess was adorned with poppies, all these poppies had been hand made by Lyn Berry and her hard working group of "5000 Poppies" and set a colourful background for the activities of the fore mentioned centenary and Remembrance Day. A large number of wreaths were laid brightening an overcast damp morning.



Our monthly luncheons continue at the Mail Exchange in Bourke Street on the third Wednesday of the month, much chatter and reminiscing occurs and a good time is had by all. Our last one for the year was held on the 16th November and will resume in February 2017.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Gill Coughlan, Acting Secretary

Cont. from Page 5 It was, and is not, a one man show; it's the result of willing team work by a small band of volunteers. More and younger volunteers are needed.

My main regret in leaving the board is that there is still much to be accomplished. The Association is in fine financial shape. However, matters of high priority are gaining membership and making the Association the pre-eminent association that current and former members of aviation elements of the ADF clamour to join.

I look forward to seeing the Association grow its membership and prosper. To do otherwise is to consign the Air Force Association to the rubbish heap. Don't let that happen. In closing may I make special mention of the willing help of our Office Manager, Barb Stallard? She has always taken on additional tasks without dissent. Barb: thank you for your help over the years. It certainly made my job one hell of a lot easier. Thank You.

Richard Orr.

Cont. from Page 1 are tailored to best meet the needs of female and male members. Although it is a service member's duty to undertake assigned tasks, those that separate them from their loved ones present a significant challenge especially for those at home. The Division received many expressions of gratitude from recipients, testimony to the value of the program. Again, the success of the program is due to the efforts of Bob Brackin and his Care Parcel Team. Well done everyone.

The Division has been provided a stand at Avalon 2017, which is a tremendous opportunity to promote the Association, regionally and nationally. We will need your support to make this event a success. Free entry is a side benefit for those who 'chip in'.

On behalf of the Board of the Victorian Division I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. I'm looking forward to 2017 and catching up with as many of you as I can.

God Bless

Carl Schiller, OAM CSM

President

Victorian Division