

President's Report

This is a year we commemorate a myriad of centenary military milestones, among them the forming of No 1, 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons (AFC) that were later morphed into No 1, 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons RAAF all of which are operational today. We will celebrate their formation in November this year at the Australian Flying Corps Memorial Point Cook. The Board expects the commemoration to a milestone and signature event for the Victorian Division. The event has the support of Commander Air Force Training Group and CO 21SQN. Details will be forwarded to all members when more information is available, but please keep November 13th marked in your diary. It promises to be a grand occasion.

I am also pleased to announce a new Branch will be formed in October when we will bring our RAF veteran comrades into the fold. The RAF Association (Melbourne Branch) and AFA (Victorian Branch) have always had a close relationship so it seems natural that we 'tie the knot'. I have asked Darryl Topp, our new Board Member, to revive the Geelong Branch. We have managed to retrieve the Branch's memorabilia that can be displayed at its meetings. I am certain we have many Air Force veterans (serving and retired) living in the Geelong District who would like to enjoy the fellowship of others who have shared similar experiences. Gippsland Branch is also being targeted for revival.

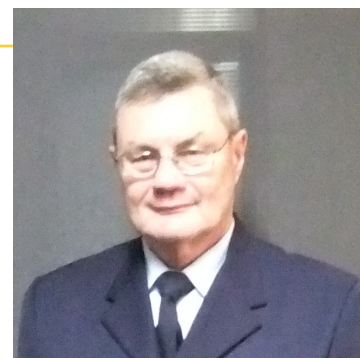
The Division has long been represented on the Board of the Sir Weary Dunlop Medical Research Foundation. Recently we were made aware of a possible alternative treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that is being researched at the University of Melbourne. The Board has expressed a strong desire to support the research, which if the outcome expected eventuates, will benefit not only Service personnel but others in the community who experience stress in their employment such as police, firefighters, ambulance, SES, etc. Professor Richard Kanaan who is heading the research project will brief the Air Force Association National Council at its June meeting. More details to follow.

I was very pleased to enjoy the company of community-minded individuals who attended the Bomber Command Commemorative Service at the Shrine of Remembrance. No matter how often the history of the Command's valour in battle is told I remain in awe at the dedication and sacrifice. I am sure you will agree we are extremely fortunate to enjoy the wonderful legacy they have left us. I had the honour of being seated next to our Patron, Wing Commander Peter Isaacson, AM DFC AFC DFM who was one such fellow who braved the enemy skies.

Stay well my friends,

Carl Schiller

President



Volume 71, Issue 2

Winter 2016

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Editor T.A Pilli

Around the Branches

Bendigo Branch

Vale Sadly Bendigo Branch lost Ron Sheehan a long time member on 2nd October, 2015 also Mrs Roma Harvey in November, 2015.

The December, 2016 meeting was a great Christmas function which everyone who attended enjoyed thoroughly.

The February meeting was our AGM, which saw some new faces, President - Roy Gaffee, Vice President- Ray Gray, Junior Vice President-Richard Henson, Secretary/Treasurer-Glenis Gordon, Roy has passed the swindle over to Richard.

There was a great turnout of RAAFA Bendigo members at the Darwin Defenders Commemorative service on 19th February, 2016.

At our March meeting, John Lynch, a Malaya/Borneo aviator, was our guest speaker.

On 31st March 11 members travelled by bus to Point Cook for a cocktail party to celebrate the 95th birthday of RAAF. This was a most enjoyable evening with delicious food. I must say that I can't remember ever seeing so many uniformed personnel, very impressive.

At our April meeting, State President, Carl Schiller attended and spoke on his hopes for the future of RAAFA. Carl also made my day by announcing that we would receive extra welfare money. At the conclusion of the meeting Bendigo branch celebrated the 95th birthday of RAAF with a luncheon.

Here's hoping that everyone is keeping well,

Glenis Gordon
Secretary

ATC/AAFC Branch,

Greetings one and all.

Over Easter, No.4 Wing AAFC conducted "Exercise Green Eagle 16" which was located in a remote section of the range at Puckapunyal. It consisted of 4 days of intensive training tasks such as bushcraft, navigation and survival, the latter of which was reliant on living off field ration packs of which most members would be familiar and no doubt, have fond memories.

On the final day, the 28th of March I had the hitherto unexpected pleasure of being able to attend, represent the Association in place of Vice President John Sedunary who was unfortunately unable to be there, and address the cadets following the presentations to the winning groups.

My thanks to Detachment Commander, WGCDR (AAFC) Ian Harding who met and guided me some 15 kilometres I believe, out to the site in the wilderness and to all of the AAFC Staff and Cadets who made me so welcome.

Our Branch A.G.M. was held at Box Hill R.S.L. on Saturday the 9th of April and resulted in the following persons being elected as Office Bearers:-

President:- Laurie Bell.

Vice President:- Peter Wilson.

Secretary:- Hugh Tank.

Treasurer:- Tony Synhur.

Delegate:- John MacDonald.

ATC/AAFC Branch Liaison Officer:-
- WGCDR (AAFC) Shaun Young.

Appointed Positions:-

Welfare Officer:- Hugh Tank.

Assistant Welfare Officer:- Position unfilled.

Newsletter Editor:- Ian Cohn.

Archives:- Laurie Bell.

Our previous Vice President Murray McBain, had served our Branch in

this position for the past 12 years and had decided not to stand again this year. Peter Wilson volunteered his services and was duly elected by the members at the meeting. Thank you Peter and welcome aboard.

On behalf of the Branch members, I take this opportunity to give a special thank you to Murray for his dedicated service. Not only during the more recent years when he has been of great assistance throughout my Presidency, but also for his preceding years with the Branch in Executive positions.

At our last first Friday of the month get together on the 6th of May, it was a special occasion for us to have Don McLeod, our 100 year young ex WW2 flying instructor on Tiger Moths at No.11 E.F.T.S. Benalla in 1943 (plus his original Log Book) along for lunch. Following Don's time at Benalla he went on to fly Sunderlands up in the North on supplies and equipment transportation. We hope that those of our members present who had not met Don before enjoyed doing so and had as good a time as he says he did. We look forward to the possibility of having him along again in the not too distant future.

Laurie Bell.

Expressions of interest

Expression of interest are being sought for two bus trips

1. Visit Canberra War Memorial , Temora Aviation Museum and other location of historic interest. Over approximately 4 days in mid to late October.

2 Visit the B24 restoration project in Werribee. Time dependent on level of interest.

Please contact Barbra by email on office@raafavic.org.au

CATALINA BRANCH

On a very pleasant and sunny morning, we were pleased to welcome in excess of 30 RAAFA Catalina Branch Veterans, members, family and friends to the ANZAC Day March for 2016 by forming ranks behind the banner or by the cars provided. Twelve students from Wesley College St Kilda Road Campus, accompanied by Mr Rohan Chiu, participated by carrying the banner, forming the first rank of six abreast, and afterwards at our wreath laying ceremony at the Catalina Tree.

Saint Pauls Cathedral was the perfect backdrop for the Catalina Squadrons step off led by our Patron, Group Captain Annette Holian and our President Mr Ken



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

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

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

J. (John) Sedunary : Vice-President;

: State Treasurer

Directors: G Buesnel-May (Glenn); J.F. McCrystal (John); T. A. (Tony) Pilli; D Topp (Darryl)

P. (Peter) Finkelstein: Honorary Solicitor

BRANCH SECRETARIES

21 Squadron Mike Dance (0438764629); **Catalina** Ronald Kirk (98193527); **ATC/AAFC** Hugh Tank (98773424); **Ballarat** Tom Jobling (53331653); **Bendigo** Glenis Gordon (54369293); **Engineer** Kingsley Porter (0411603500); **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** Rick Holmes (93177304); **Sunderland Squadrons** Ricky Hattam (52413431); **Williams** Contact RAAFA



Veteran, Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Mr Goff Fraser 146921, together with Wesley students, Alinka Carmichael (left) and Keilah Shepherd, laid Wreaths in front of the plaques at the Catalina Tree.



Scott. There was also a memorable moment for our Wesley students, with a command of “eyes right” as we paraded past The Cenotaph commemorating those fallen in all services over the 1939 – 1945 period.

Veterans, Members, family & friends after the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Catalina Tree

Ballarat Branch

Ballarat is green again, after along dry summer, and we rejoice in the hope of full reservoirs and good crops on the land.

We have been busy in our branch:

on ANZAC Day our members were present at the City memorial events and at other commemorations in the region

We marked the passing of Gill Sanders (from the disbanded Hamilton branch) and James Veale. We offer consolation to their friends and families

Our Member Margaret Wood ex RN has been invited to ceremonies in Ballarat to honour our connections with HMAS Ballarat.

Our new officers are at work coping with the issues inherent in the changes from the very stable leadership of Tom Roberts as President for 9 of the last 10 years, Stan White as Secretary and Max Beaumont, Treasurer for 30 years. We salute their long and distinguished service

Preparations for our Battle of Britain commemorations on 18 SEP 16 are in hand and we look forward to the company of our RAAFA colleagues. Keep the date open.

We have enjoyed stimulating speakers at our regular meetings. Notably Councillor Samantha Macintosh who apart from belonging to a very air minded family is chair of the Ballarat council committee for Ballarat Airport, this includes the premises of the old RAAF base which hosted the WAGS school. So we have a lot of common interest

Keith Lanyon

President Ballarat Branch

Did you know,

that help is at hand for any veteran or spouse of a veteran who is in need of assistance with bills for gas, electricity or any other expense? If you know a veteran who needs a helping hand, please make sure that they get in contact with our Office Manager, Barb, on 03 9813 4600. Welfare funds are available. All discussions will be treated as confidential.

Fred Cowell Trophy **presentation**



The Fred Cowell Trophy for 2016 was presented at the state Annual General Meeting by Carl Schiller, State President, to 21 Squadron Branch President. Mike Dance, in the presence of Frances Lester, the daughter of Fred Cowell.



WANTED – 2SQN VETERANS

The 2SQN Association (Victoria) is undergoing a revival. I know there are many former 2SQN members living in Victoria, some in the Air Force Association (Victorian Branch). 2SQN is in its 100th year presenting a great opportunity to bring together those who shared a common experience of have served in this historic, battle-honoured squadron. The Association is well supported by the Squadron's current executive who have attended its AGM during the last few years. A former 2SQN serving airman, I am proud to have had the opportunity to be part of Air Force history. Interested veterans should contact me at callcarl@bigpond.com.

Carl Schiller, OAM CSM

President

No 2 Squadron Association Victoria

ATC~AIRTC~AAFC 75th

On Sunday 28 February 2016, Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove officially launched the 75th Anniversary commemorations of the Australian Air Force Cadets in a ceremony at Government House, Canberra in the presence of Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies, Director General Cadets, Air Commodore Terry Delahunty, and AAFC Commander, Group Captain (AAFC) Greg Williamson; AAFC Headquarters staff, all Wing Officers Commanding and Squadron Commanding Officers.



CDR-AAFC Governor-General, Lady Cosgrove

The date was the 75th anniversary of Federal Cabinet's decision to form the Air Training Corps.

Cadets from 315 and 334 Squadrons (ACT) mounted a Colour Party, which paraded the AAFC National Banner in the presence of the Governor-General, Lady Cosgrove and the 200 AAFC members and guests.



All guests received a copy of the book, *75 Years Aloft*, a new history of the Air Training Corps and Australian Air Force Cadets, by PLTOFF(AIRTC) Mathew Glozier. The Governor-General and CAF graciously signed books for cadets and staff, alike.

Among the guests were Division members David Crickmore and Peter Colliver, both of whom had commanded the Victorian Squadron of the Air Training Corps.



Governor-General's address

To mark this mile stone

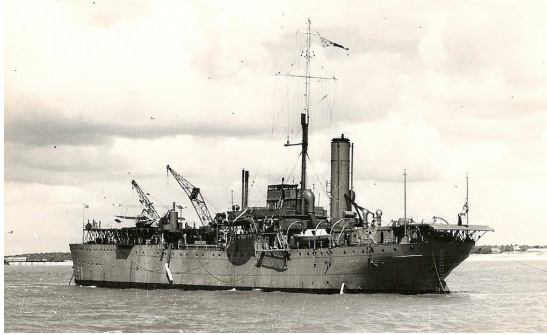
This pin recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps/Australian Air Force Cadets is an initiation of the Air Cadets Alumni and is

presented as a gift through the generosity of the Australian Flying Corps & Royal Australian Air Force Association to the staff and age retiring cadets.



Gallipoli Air Operations.

HMS *Ark Royal*, the world's first purpose built aircraft carrier and the only one to have been fitted with a sail arrived on station (the island of Tenedos) on 17 February 1915. She carried five float-planes and between two and four landplanes.



A sliding hatch provided access between the hangar and flight deck.

Landplanes could launch from the forward deck, but had to ditch or seek a land base on return. She supported the ANZAC landing on 25 April.

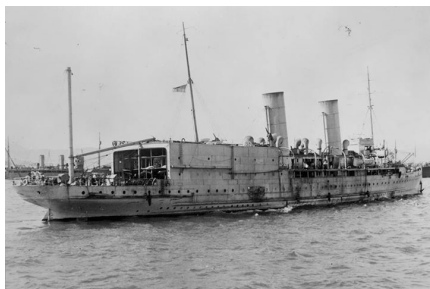
Her original complement was one short Type 166 Folder seaplane, two Wight Improved Navyplane Type A.1, pusher seaplanes, three Sopwith Type 807 seaplanes and two to four Sopwith Tabloid land planes.

After U-21 sank HMS *Triumph* (25 May) and HMS *Majestic* (27 May), *Ark Royal* was withdrawn to Imbros Harbour, but her aircraft continued to support the campaign.

No.3 Squadron Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) arrived at Tenedos, March 1915. It was re-named number 3 Wing on 21 June.

HMS *Manica*, a balloon ship arrived on station (the island of Lemnos) on 9 April 1915. Her tethered balloon was employed in observing enemy troop movements and directing naval gunfire.

HMS *Ben-my-Chree* (Manx for "woman of my heart"), a packet steamer converted to a seaplane carrier, arrived



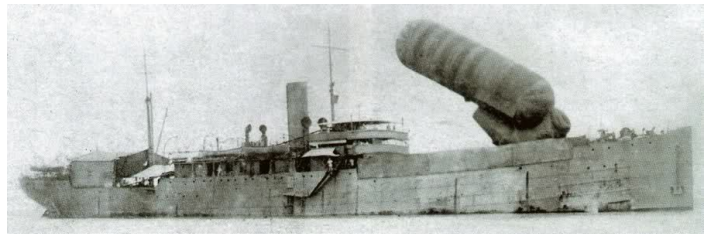
at the island of Lesbos on 10 June 1915. She carried two Short Type 184 torpedo bombers, one of which delivered the first ship-launched aerial torpedo attack

on 12 August against a Turkish ship in the Sea of Marmara. Subsequently, two further successful attacks were also mounted.

HMS *Hector*, another balloon ship, arrived 9 July

Number 2 Wing RNAS arrived at the island of Imbros on 31 Aug 1915. Absorbing No. 3 Wing, the wing was evacuated on 18 January 1916.

SS Class airships arrived in mid-September 1915. The gondola on the Sea Scout airships was typically a B.E.2c fuselage. Of the three SS class airships available only one was put to use. It conducted 46 anti-submarine patrol missions.



HMS *Canning* arrived 2 October to replace *Manica*, which had left in mid-September. The kite balloons of *Manica*, *Hector* and *Canning* conducted a total of 120 naval gunfire support missions, remaining aloft for up to eight hours.



Between 11 April and June, 700 aerial photographs were taken. In the refurbished WWI galleries at the Australian War Memorial, more than 150 of those aerial photos have been put together, digitised at high resolution and draped over a three dimensional terrain model of the Gallipoli Peninsula, enabling viewers to zoom down into gullies and ravines, as they were during the campaign.

Between 17 Feb 15 and 9 Jan 16, 2,314 sorties were flown by the RNAS wings:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Reconnaissance | 726 |
| Spotting naval fall of shot | 644 |
| Bombing | 242 |
| Photographic | 146 |
| Anti-aircraft | 118 |
| Anti-submarine | 95 |
| Experimental/other | 228 |
| | 2,199 |
| Transit between airfields | 115 |
| | <u>2,314</u> |

On the bombing missions at total of 1,150 bombs were dropped for an aggregate weight of 59,150lbs.

The last man to be killed in action on Gallipoli was Sydney-borne, 22 y.o., Cecil Horace Brinsmead, Flight Sub-Lieutenant, 3WG, RNAS. Flying a Henri Farman he was shot down, over Cape Helles (Sedd el Bahr), by a German aircraft on 11 January, 1916, two days after the final evacuation. He is buried in Lancashire Landing Cemetery, which overlooks W Beach.



**RAAFA TIES AND SCARFS ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE.
THIS WOULD MAKE A BRILLIANT GIFT
THE TIES ARE AVAILABLE AT \$28.00 +
POSTAGE; STATE PREFERENCE WIDE
OR NARROW
SCARFS AT \$28.00 + POSTAGE**

VALES

The following members have passed away since the last publication.

May they rest in peace.

Lest we forget

VALES

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------|-------------|
| John Grant | Nth Metropolitan | 21/3/16 | Life Member |
| Keith Palmer | Viet Vets | 29/3/16 | |
| John Pittard | Headquarters | 05/05/16 | |
| James Harding | Fighter Sqds | 15/05/16 | |
| Ian Speirs | Sunderlands | 15/05/16 | |

CONTACT EDITORIAL AND DISTRIBUTION DATES

Winter 2015

Contributions close 30 May 2015

Publication June 17 2015

SPRING 2015

Contributions close 29 August 2015

Publication September 16 2015

SUMMER 2015

Contributions close 7 November 2015

Publication 25 November 2015

Autumn 2016

Contributions close 28 February 2016

Publication March 11 2016

RAF Assn. Melb. Branch

Branch Meetings

1st Thursday at 11am

Stella Maris Seafarers Centre

600 Lt Collins St Melb.

VIETNAM VETRANS BRANCH

The highlight for the reporting period was ANZAC Day, Vietnam veterans led the March with RAAFVVA contingent led by Nick Leray-Meyer AM. In step thanks to a great job by WOD Ron Douglas, unfortunately the ABC commentary (which, for the Air Force part was hosted by our own Vice President Chris Hudnott) was inaudible for the only bit that we appeared on camera.

A further review to come as Chris has promised. We had approximately 50 marchers and 48 for lunch. The Snow Coughlan CGM Port raffle was won by, guess who, Chris Hudnott!



Some of the 9 Squadron bods after lunch see if you can name them all? All smiling happy faces! No prizes for the correct answer although we may do another Port raffle for VV Day. VV Day this year is also part of the highlights of the 50th year Long Tan Battle Anniversary so expect a big showing. At this early stage your committee has planned for a simple wreath laying ceremony at our Plaque next to the Remembrance Garden around 10.30 ish. Further info as it comes to hand re timing. Gunfire Breakfast is planned as normal.

Vale Keith Palmer, a staunch member who supported the RAAFVVA/AFA Vietnam Branch wherever he could. Former President Lee Scully's wife Ellen is going through trying times with her cancer treatment, we wish her well. Bob Greenwood has also been a little off colour collapsing at home after ANZAC Day but is now on the mend. A reminder that if you are going through trying times it is only a matter of a phone call.



Rick Holmes Secretary

RAAFVVA/AFA Vietnam Branch