

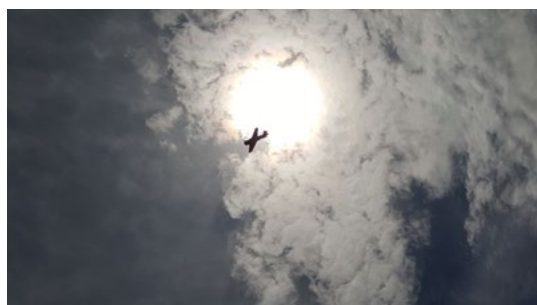


CONTACT

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2019 ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO POINT COOK



A Harvard (AT-6) aircraft - courtesy of the RAAF Museum provided a wonderful flying display above the audience



AFA Victoria's beautiful poppy wall, created by the 5000 Poppies team, was again a highlight of the Commemoration.

The Air Force Association's Annual Pilgrimage to Point Cook for Remembrance Day took a different turn this year, with the Air Force generously inviting us to attend a combined Commemorative Service on Monday 11 November.

Our Annual Pilgrimage to Point Cook (traditionally held on the Sunday closest to 11 November) would be subject to slightly different arrangements this year as the old Officers' Mess at Point Cook was scheduled to undergo renovations and was not available for our reception and no other suitable venues at Point Cook were available.

However, the Air Force planned to conduct a Commemorative Service at Point Cook on Monday 11 November (Remembrance Day) and generously invited members of AFA Victoria to attend for a combined service. We readily agreed to this invitation as it not only provided us with the opportunity to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts but also to meet with currently serving Air Force members and share with them the aims of our Association.

We were proud to provide our "Poppy Wall" created by the 5000 Poppies team for last year's Armistice Centenary Commemoration, as a backdrop behind the Australian Flying Corps Memorial which added to the colour and significance of the occasion.

President of AFA (Vic), Max McGregor, acted as Master of Ceremony for the service – a task which required some flexibility in the timing of events so that one-minute silence was kept at 1100 hours.

Chaplain Joe Ward led the opening and closing prayers and the scripture reading and other prayers were offered by WOFF Trudi Cox, SGT Kerri-Anne Hankin, Petty Officer Sam McConville and WOFF Rex Trow.

Continued on page 2



GPCAPT Russell Box, delivered the main address and also laid a wreath on behalf of the Officers and Airmen of RAAF Point Cook and RAAF Williams Laverton.

WGCDR Darryl Topp (AFA Vic Board Member) read the poem "In Flanders Fields" (written by Canadian soldier and physician LTCOL John McCrae in May 1915) and the Ode was recited by FLGOFF Deanna Ellick.

The main address was presented by GPCAPT Russell Box, who also laid a wreath on behalf of the Officers and Airmen of RAAF Point Cook and RAAF Williams Laverton. Other wreaths were laid by LTCOL Pingham Chua (Defence School of Languages), WGCDR John Ward (Defence Training Centre), Mr Chris Hudnott (AFA Victoria), Mr Laurie Bell (National Servicemen Association) and GPCAPT Robert Coopes MBE (History and Heritage Branch).

In keeping with the joint Air Force and AFA Victoria sentiment of the Commemoration, Air Force generously arranged for serving members and visitors to travel to RAAF Williams Laverton for lunch in the Airmens' Mess at the conclusion of the formal ceremony - a fitting conclusion to a memorable event.



WGCDR Darryl Topp (AFA Victoria Board Member) read the poem "In Flanders Fields".



Mr Chris Hudnott lays a wreath on behalf of AFA Victoria.



AFA Victoria President, Max McGregor, was Master of Ceremony for the Commemoration Service.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Approaching the end of 2019, we can be proud of what the AFA Victoria has accomplished. AFA Victoria has been strong supporters of the AFA National initiative to harmonise the workings of the various state Divisions. A Joint Boards Steering Group (JBSG) has been formed and held its first meeting over the 28th - 29th of November. Board member John Clarkson is

our representative on the JBSG, and we look forward to the recommendations that will be forwarded to the Board of AFA National for agreement and implementation. There is no doubt that change will come when the recommendations of the JBSG are implemented, but I stress that any change implemented will be for the long-term benefit of

the AFA and its members. I doubt that there will be any significant change for Victorian members, but all proposed changes will be circulated for discussion. These are early days, and it is impossible to tell just what changes will be recommended for the JBSG have no constraints imposed upon them by AFA National.

We were lucky enough to have two exceptional presentations during the year. Sharon Bown impressed all who attended her presentation in the old Officers Mess at Point Cook, supported by the Air Force Band - one of the last times the Mess was used. When we return to Point Cook it will be to a refurbished Mess. Our Christmas function provided another occasion for an excellent presentation by SQNLDR Glen Coy, CSC, Operations Manager of the Air Force Museum regarding the challenges of providing these older aircraft for fly pasts and displays.

Our annual pilgrimage to Point Cook for the Remembrance Day Commemoration was

certainly different this year, but it was still a most successful and moving Commemoration. With the old Officers Mess being out of action due to refurbishment and no other venue being available at Point Cook, meant that a new format had to be implemented. Our sincere thanks go to the Air Force for proposing a "joint" Air Force/AFA Victoria Commemoration service. The weather was near perfect which made the day even more successful. There were numerous changes to the original concept, but everything worked. Transport to Laverton for lunch provided the opportunity to converse with serving members. I must admit to having my eyes opened at the extent

of courses provided by the School of Languages.

The Board of AFA Victoria applied for a Veterans Grant through the Victorian Government for the replacement of the existing carpet at 24 Camberwell Road. We were awarded a grant of \$10,000.00, and while short of what we applied for it does cover the majority of the cost. The carpet will be replaced in the first weekend in February 2020, so events next year will take place on the new flooring. AFA Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government to the needs of Veterans through these Grants.

We ended the formal proceedings for 2019 with a most successful

Christmas function at Camberwell Rd. The Air Force Band provided the Wind Quintet who not only provided delightful music but were also wonderful ambassadors for the Air Force.

Finally, Ted Bushell presented another painting by Norman Clifford depicting Point Cook in 1914. We thank Ted very much for these two magnificent paintings depicting our Air Force heritage.

The Board of Management of AFA Victoria wish all our members and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2020.

Max McGregor

President AFA-Vic

“CLOSE THE BRACELETS!” –

BY NICK LERAY-MEYER AM, FORMER PRESIDENT, RAAF VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION (VIC)

After all Australian combat forces were withdrawn from South Vietnam in 1972, four Army and two RAAF personnel remained behind; officially listed as “Missing in Action” (MIA).

This is the story of how, in 2009, FLGOFF Mike Herbert (Pilot) and PLTOFF Bob Carver (Navigator) of Canberra bomber Magpie 91, were finally brought home and the last two bracelets were closed.

I believe it is fair to say that most Vietnam Veterans and the families of the MIAs thought our missing comrades would never be found and returned home.

While the task seemed so daunting and almost hopeless, we hadn't counted on the enthusiasm and dedication of LTCOL Jim Burke AM MG and his team of “Operation Aussie Home” (OAH). As recounted in an address by Bob Elworthy, Victorian State President of the Vietnam Veterans Association, Jim's team, initially without any major support, certainly not from the Government of the time, painstakingly but steadfastly pushed ahead in their quest to find our six colleagues. Later, the team was supplemented by Government funded specialists and support personnel.

In April 2007, with the assistance of the Vietnam Government and local villagers (in some instances former enemies) the OAH team had its first success when the remains of LCPL Richard Parker and PVT Peter Gillson, former members of 1RAR, were located on the battlefield where they had lost their lives on 8th November 1965.

Brought home in June 2007 they were each accorded a ceremonial “Welcome Home” and burial with military honours they so richly deserved. Unknown to most, on the arrival of the aircraft bearing their caskets; the first pair of Bracelets at the Museum were closed.



FLGOFF Mike Herbert's Bracelet

On a chilly morning on 31 August 2009, Gary Parker, the President of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island, in a voice full of emotion, explained to a gathering of some 150 the symbolism of the two beautifully carved bracelets, each nestling in a small open silk-lined box, centrally placed between four other identical, but closed, boxes. The boxes, one for each of the six Australians MIA, were intended to be both a visible yet spiritual symbol that even though the six were missing, they were not forgotten.

Unlike the US practice, where a near relative of the MIA agreed to wear the bracelet until either the MIA was

Continued on page 4

accounted for or death intervened, the National Vietnam Veterans Museum elected to retain all six bracelets at what is for many Vietnam Veterans, their spiritual home.

By the end of 2008, only the crew of Canberra bomber Magpie 91, FLGOFF Mike Herbert (Pilot) and PLTOFF Bob Carver (Navigator), remained unaccounted for. Only two bracelets remained open!

My mobile phone signalled an incoming SMS. Opening it I saw it was from RAAF Base Richmond with the words that I and some 150 other RAAF and Army Veterans, guests and friends, gathered at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, were waiting for:

"Nick, the boys are home! Close the Bracelets!" - Dave Gardner (Director RAAF Museum).

Gary Parker gave the command.

WGCDR Warren Madsen, from the RAAF Museum and SQNLDR Graham Henry (Retd), the Victorian State President of No 2 Squadron RAAF Association, stepped forward in unison and gently closed the last two bracelet boxes.

Thanks to the initial efforts of Jim Bourke (and all of those who later supported his endeavour) and despite almost overwhelming odds, the mortal remains of Mike Herbert and Bob Carver were finally home.

Following the recital of "The Ode", Padre Laurie Dawson, himself a Vietnam Veteran, noted, in an eloquent and most appropriate address below.

Later, Mike and Bob were deservedly accorded funerals with full military honours within the care of their extended families.

WE DID REMEMBER THEM AND

WILL NOT FORGET THEM

On behalf of the RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association (Vic), we salute LTCOL Jim Bourke AM MG, as instigator and leader of "Operation Aussies Home", and all those who have worked so hard and with such dedication and diligence to bring all our colleagues home.

We also extend to Gary Parker and his team at

the National Vietnam Veterans Museum our sincere appreciation for the manner in which they conducted the final "Closing of The Bracelets" ceremony. You did us all proud!!!!

Nick LeRay-Meyer AM

Former President RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association (Vic) - and Mike Herbert's No. 1 AFTS initial Vampire flying instructor.

"...The immediate sharp grief that we may have felt on the loss of our Missing in Action personnel is long gone, to be replaced with a sad acceptance of reality. They, like us, have long since been consigned to the historical records by the population at large.

But, to their credit, many have kept alive their memory through the maintenance of these memorial bracelets.
Today, closure is achieved on another aspect of our Vietnam experience.

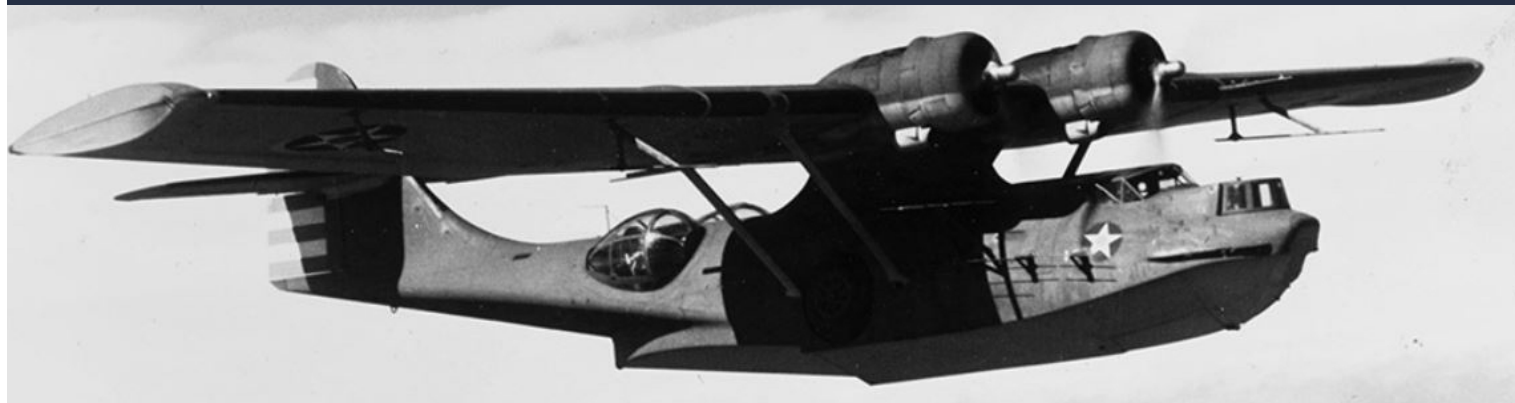
The bracelets are all closed. The mission is successfully concluded. There is something special about coming home to Australia. We owe our deceased nothing less than their own special homecoming..."



"HOME AT LAST!"

an article which describes Mike and Bob's Repatriation and Funeral Ceremonies – can be found on the Vietnam Veterans page of the Air Force Association's website: <https://afavic.org.au/content/756/branch-vietnam-veterans>

“THE LUCK OF THE DRAW” (PART 2) – A STORY FROM THE CATALINA ARCHIVES



San Diego Consolidated Catalina PBV-5A, circa 1943

In our Spring edition we featured Part 1 of a story from Philip Cook, taken from one of the detailed logbooks his father, Allan George Cooke, a 1st Engineer on Catalinas in 20 Squadron, kept during his WWII service as member of a Catalina flying boat crew. Part 2 continues this story.

“During October 1944 we were transported to Nadzab (New Guinea) thence by C54 “Skymaster” via Guadalcanal, Canton Island, Kanirohe to San Francisco. On arrival at San Francisco we were cleared by the authorities and transported to the “Palace Hotel”. We were quick to realize that on RAAF pay we could not stay there. Fortunately, a crewmate and I through a personal introduction to a delightful lady, we were able to obtain board and lodging at a nominal rate (usually this lady only took in a few Naval officers). Note she was the widow of the late Captain Tom Kearney, Commander of the original battleship “Oklahoma”.

We still needed sufficient “everyday” money and were both able to find employment with the Turko Persian rug & cleaning Co., Van Ness Ave. San Francisco. All our crewmembers worked at a variety of jobs during this period. When advised we were to travel to San Diego to pick up our aircraft, we did not know at the time that a manufacturing problem would cause a two-month delay. This we did not resent owing to “above average” American hospitality. When finally called we travelled by rail to Los



US C54 Skymaster, circa 1943 - Converted Douglas DC4.

Angeles and spent a few interesting days in Hollywood. We were personally entertained by Rudy Vallee (not a nudist camp as Dad would say! – P.Cook), Sir C. Aubrey Smith (actor and ex English cricketer). Also, many others in passing which all make for memories.

However, the great day came and we travelled South to pick up our new aircraft. After a successful test flight, and at approximately 4pm on 15th December 1944, we took off from San Diego and headed West, soon to fly into darkness for 16 hours. Somewhere and sometime in the night it was disclosed that “ostensibly” we were lost! Our navigator hadn’t fully comprehended the new navigation equipment and its application. The need to climb “upstairs” for a “star shot” entailed more revs and boost, and consequently more fuel usage. We were fortunate in that the higher altitude provided a clear sky and we were enabled once again to get our bearings. By this time additional fuel usage entailed that we seek an alternative to Kanirohe (Hawaiian Islands), so we set course for Hilo Bay (nearer).

Come the dawn and the sight of scarlet bougainvillea’s (now I know why he always loved bougainvillea’s, and he died right next to one of the same colour – PCook) cascading down the cliff face at Hilo Bay restored my depressed feelings – by now we had been in the air for 24 hours. After landing, my job as Flight Engineer was to check on fuel remaining, as I knew one tank was empty and the other just flashing blue at tank bottom – yes, 90 octane was dyed blue.

Fuelled again we then returned safely to Australia via Palmyra Island and Fiji. Ironically as it was now Christmas Eve, guess what? My crewmate and I were placed on standby flying duties whilst the pilots went home for Christmas dinner!

Signed A.G. COOKE

(All events stated in my true story can be verified by reference to my logbook)

Editor’s Note: You can also find Part 1 of this story from AG Cooke’s log book on the Catalina Branch page of our website: <http://raafavic.org.au/content/757/branch-catalina>.

CALL FOR A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VETERAN SUICIDE – AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION POSITION

Carl Schiller, National President of the Air Force Association explains the association's position on the most recent call for a Royal Commission into veteran suicide.

Suicide is a tragedy that especially impacts hard on the ADF family when it is a serving or former serving ADF member. Suicide accounts for more 3000 Australian deaths each year of which about 30 are veterans. Suicide is a national issue, not just a veteran community concern.

The Air Force Association is a member of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT) that comprises Australia's leading ex-service organisations. In mid-2019 and more recently, its members unanimously expressed its opposition to a call for a Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide on the basis there have already been several studies and inquiries on the matter.

The most significant of these, the Senate Inquiry into Suicide by Veterans and Ex-service Personnel (2017), made 24 recommendations in its report titled, 'The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans' (August 15th, 2017). ESORT has urged the ADF and Department of Veterans' Affairs to implement all the Senate Inquiry's recommendations and those of other findings on veteran suicides.

A Royal Commission is extremely costly. ESORT concluded that funds would be better assigned to prevention and early intervention strategies and processes to improve the wellbeing

of those at risk rather than expending funds on determining the already known causes.

A Royal Commission is also human resource intensive and would likely delay reforms as Department of Veterans' Affairs and other departments, such as Defence, spend considerable time responding to the inquiry. Moreover, many of the good aspects of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans, if endorsed by Government, would be delayed among other positive initiatives.

Through its investigations, this type of inquiry would likely cause grief to those who are attempting to reconcile the passing of their loved one. Unfortunately, a Royal Commission cannot take away their grief.

The Air Force Association appreciates there are differing views on the need for a Royal Commission.

The Association and its ESORT partners' opposition to this high-level inquiry should not be construed as a lack of concern for our veterans. We advocate efforts and funds would be better spent on developing reforms and effective support programs that should be implemented now.



Carl Schiller, OAM, CSM
National President

RECOGNISING VETERANS AND THEIR SERVICE: THE AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' COVENANT

The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant was announced by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on 27 October 2018. This legislation, providing better recognition of the unique nature of military service and further acknowledging the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families, has now passed Parliament.

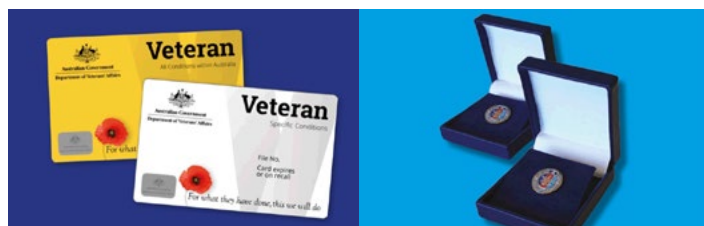
The Covenant includes an Oath, which the Australian people will be encouraged to take at community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day. The Veteran Card, a new Australian Veteran Lapel Pin and a Reservist Lapel Pin underpin the Covenant.

Veterans who currently have a DVA Health Card will automatically receive a new look Veteran Card as part of the card replacement program which is scheduled to occur next year. This is for the card replacement only, it does not include the Oath or the Lapel Pin.

To obtain the full package (Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath), a Veteran must apply via DVA's online application MyService (dva.gov.au/myservice). MyService can be accessed on any device that can access the internet (personal computer, iPad, tablet or mobile phone).

For those without internet access, or have problems with applying using MyService (and there is a "glitch" in the process), please call DVA on 1800 838 372 and DVA will assist in your application.

You can also find out more about the Australian Veterans' Covenant here: recognition.dva.gov.au.



The Veteran Card and Lapel Pin

DEDICATED MEMORIAL RECOGNISING MALAYAN EMERGENCY & INDONESIAN CONFRONTATION VETERANS.



Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.
National Patron: Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO, CSC (Retd)

The Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation has been established to raise funds

to facilitate the construction and installation of a permanent memorial in the grounds of The Australian War Memorial in Canberra to recognise the men and women who served in the Malayan Emergency & Indonesian Confrontation.

The FESR War Memorial Foundation is raising funds to progress the project to have a dedicated Memorial in the sculpture gardens at the AWM in Canberra.

The Memorial will acknowledge the service and sacrifice of those who served in the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) - the Malayan Emergency and the Indonesian Confrontation.



To date, all approvals are in place, and funding is now needed to progress the design phase and the actual build.

You can find more information on the FESR website at <http://fesrmemorial.org.au/index.html> as well many images and old movie footage of the two conflicts.

Contact: Les Bailey

President, Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR) War Memorial Foundation Inc.

lephilis@lvv.com.au

AMIENS MEMORIAL BRIDGE – A 1ST FIELD SQUADRON GROUP PROJECT



We need you in Amiens on 8 August 2020- particularly members and veterans of the Royal Australian Engineers – to be a part of the dedication of a new memorial to our Sapper heroes of World War 1.

The memorial is a Bailey Bridge dedicated to every Australian Engineer unit that served in the Great War.

On 8 August 1918, the first day of the Battle of Amiens, the Australian Engineers were awarded, in one day, the highest number of high-level decorations for bravery on the battlefield that the Corps has ever received – DSO, DCMs, MCs and MMs.

In addition, on 8 August 1918, three Australian Engineer soldiers captured the enormous German, “Amiens Railway Gun”, the

barrel of which stands in place of pride at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

1st Field Squadron Group Inc. intends to perpetuate the memory of all our WWI Sappers with a memorial in the place where the battle commenced on the anniversary date: Amiens, 8 August 2020, which the Commander of the German General Staff, General Ludendorff, declared as the “Black Day of the German Army.”

Amiens is a start point for WWI battlefield tours. It is about 20 Kilometres from the official Australian WWI memorial at Villers-Bretonneux with its magnificent Sir John Monash visitors centre.

The trip runs from 7-15 August 2020 and a fully detailed Western Front Battlefield Tour August 2020 itinerary has already been prepared. 1st Field Squadron Group has asked Boronia Travel to be our travel agent.

Boronia Travel handled the tour and accommodation for the 100th Anniversary of the Waterloo Dinner in Turkey in 2015, so they are well placed in respect of the ethos of the heritage of the Royal Australian Engineers. They can arrange all tour bookings, travel, transfers and accommodation and have access to a range of Military Historians who will guide you through the Battlefields of The Western Front as well as Dunkirk and The Normandy D Day Beaches.

If you would like to join us, or would like further details on the trip and the Amiens Memorial Bridge Project, please contact: Lt Col John Pritchard (Retd) at: sappercentral@gmail.com.

Boronia Travel

Tel: 1800 035 350

www.battlefieldtourspecialists.com.au

2020 BURSARY AWARDS APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

Friday, 24th January 2020

The RAAFA (Vic) Foundation together with the RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association (Vic) are proud to announce to two new bursary awards to go with the current annual bursaries.

The Royal Australia Air Force Association (Victoria) Foundation in conjunction with the Royal Australian Air Force Vietnam Veterans Association (Vic) has established an annual Bursary for eligible dependants.

The Bursary, administered by the RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association, represents another facet of the assistance both Associations are delivering to former and serving RAAF members and their families.

This year we are proud to announce two additional Awards:



**The John 'Snow' Coughlan
CGM Encouragement Award**



**The Lee and Ellen Scully
Encouragement Award**

These two separate Awards, named in honour of our highly esteemed past members, will provide an amount of \$500 to applicants deemed most worthy of such assistance.

ELIGIBILITY

The child adopted child or grandchild of a person with operational service, or three or more years continuous fulltime service, as a member of the Royal Australian Air Force.

The stepchild or foster child is eligible, if they have resided with or been financially supported by the veteran stepparent or foster parent, for five of the last ten years.

Under the age of 25 when applying unless exceptional circumstances, related to the veteran's service, exist.

Enrolled in (or planning to enrol in) any recognised educational or training course.

Any activity or representation associated with any recognised educational or training course.

NOTE:

1. Applicants may apply separately or be nominated by any Branch member of the Air Force Association or RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association.
2. When completing the Application Form, please ensure you advise the educational or training course you are undertaking (or planning to undertake).
3. Previous scholarship winners are entitled to reapply.

ASSESSMENT

The RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association Bursary Sub-Committee will assess applications/ nominations on merit.

All applicants for the Bursary will be considered for either the John 'Snow' Coughlan CGM Encouragement Award, or the Lee and Ellen Scully Encouragement Award, so there is no need to apply separately.

ADMINISTRATION

Applications to be forwarded to the Secretary, RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association by the 4th Friday in January of each year.

The Secretary RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association will advise the successful applicant/applicants and the bursary amount during the second week of February each year.

The Secretary RAAF Vietnam Veterans Association will invite the successful applicant/applicants to attend the Annual General Meeting for presentation of the Bursary Certificate.

The Treasurer shall contact the successful applicant/applicants to arrange how invoices associated with the Bursary will be paid.

The Application Form can be accessed through the AFA Victoria website:

<https://afavic.org.au/content/756/branch-vietnam-veterans>

Please address your Application to
Mrs Gill Coughlan, Secretary RAAFVVA, via: -

Email: gilly4346@gmail.com or,

Australia Post: Unit 10, 42 Coral Drive, Hampton Park Vic 3197.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

Friday, 24th January 2020

KOREAN WAR MIA WORKING GROUP

The Unrecovered War Casualties-Army (UWC-A) section in Army HQ was established to identify and recover the remains of Australian servicemen Missing in Action (MIA). It is the lead agency in the investigation and recovery activities.

A Working Group has been setup to identify and recover the Korean War MIAs. The Working Group consists of UWC-A principals, forensics specialists, RAAF Heritage and History Branch members, relatives of the MIAs and representatives of the RAR Association and the Air Force Association. The functions of the UWC-A are to:

1. Liaise with American and South Korean authorities to determine whether any remains they currently hold are those of Australian servicemen.
2. Use diplomatic and defence networks to encourage other nations to assist in getting North Korea to cooperate with the international community regarding recovery of remains from their country. For example, China, which has good relations with both North Korea and Australia, may be able to facilitate improved cooperation.

UWC-A works with the United States' Defense Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA) and the South Korean Ministry of National Defence Agency for Missing in Action Recovery and Identification (MAKRI). All organisations have a strong interest in accounting for their servicemen who remain unaccounted for in Korea.

You can view the activities of the UWC-A at www.army.gov.au/our-work/unrecovered-war-casualties/the-korean-war-project.



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 or calling us on 03 98134600

GOOD MEMORIES AND A GENEROUS GIFT

AFA Victoria members came together on Wednesday 4th December for our annual Christmas function at AFA Victoria headquarters where talk turned to historic RAAF aircraft and a surprise gift from a generous benefactor.

In keeping with previous years, AFA Victoria's final function of the year was an enjoyable mix of camaraderie, good food and memories shared.

The Air Force Band Wind Quintet provided a delightful selection of music throughout the function and were warmly acknowledged by guests.

SQN LDR Glen Coy, Operations Manager of the Air Force Museum, entertained and enlightened everyone with a wonderful presentation on the Air Force Museum and a range of historical aircraft housed there. Among many other activities, the Museum plays an important role in many commemorative events through the use of its historic aircraft for flyovers.

The Museum has expanded in leaps and bounds, with hopes for even more space with the planned refurbishment of Point Cook.

You can see more photos from our Christmas function in the middle section of Contact.



SQNLDR Glen Coy CSC, Operations Manager of the Air Force Museum.

AFA VICTORIA HONOURED WITH A SECOND NORMAN CLIFFORD PAINTING

You may recall at last year's Christmas function, AIR CDRE Ted Bushell (retd) generously presented a Norman Clifford painting of Point Cook from his personal collection to AFA Victoria President Max McGregor.

This year, AFA Victoria was again honoured to be presented with a second Norman Clifford painting from AIR CDRE Bushell, depicting Point Cook in 1914 from Ted Bushell.

Said Max McGregor on receiving the second painting, "On behalf of AFA Victoria, I thank Ted very much for these two magnificent paintings, which are magnificent representations of our Air Force heritage."



AIR CDRE Ted Bushell (RETD) presents AFA Victoria President Max McGregor with the second Norman Clifford painting of Point Cook.



The second painting depicting Point Cook in 1914.

2019 AFA VICTORIA CHRISTMAS PARTY



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR MEMBERS



GENERAL INFORMATION

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/ STATE CONFERENCE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & MOTIONS

Members are advised that the 2020 AGM followed by the State Conference will be held on 28th May 2020, at AFA Victoria Head Office, Suite 3, 24-36 Camberwell Road, Hawthorn East.

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 AFA Victoria Head Office no later than 1st February 2020 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 – Mr Maxwell McGregor
 - State Treasurer – Mr Peter Colliver
 - Board Members – Nominations for these positions are invited. Current Board members whose tenure will expire are, WGCDR Daryl Topp, Mr John Sedunary, Mr John Clarkson, Mr Chris Hudnott.
- Nomination forms may be obtained from the Branch Secretaries or the Office Manager, AFA Divisional office.

Motions for 2020 AGM and State Conference:

- All proposed motions must be forwarded by Branch Secretaries to the State Secretary 28 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 31: Purpose of Annual General Meeting

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:

- Receive the Report of the Board;
- Receive the Statement of Accounts;
- Elect the President, Treasurer and members of the Board;
- Transact any other business of which 28 days; notice in writing specifying the motion to be moved has been received at the registered office of the Division.

CONTACT: EDITORIAL DATES

AUTUMN 2020

Contributions by 25 February 2020

Publication: 5 April 2020

WINTER 2020

Contributions by 1 June 2020

Publication: 28 June 2020

SPRING 2020

Contributions by 2 September 2020

Publication: 25 September 2020

SUMMER 2020

Contributions by 29 November 2020

Publication: 19 December 2020

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	Jessie Reed	03 98029073
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	
Williams	(contact AFA Vic)	03 98134600



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AROUND THE BRANCHES

In addition to the President's Reports below, you can also find Newsletters and other information about our Branches on our AFA Victoria website (<http://raafavic.org.au>). Simply go to the Branches dropdown menu on the front page.

ATC/AAFC



Greetings to everyone.

The AAFC Annual Parade and Expo on 13th October was, once again, well organised and congratulations to WGCDR (AAFC) Dee West, O.C. No. 4 Wing and all others involved.

Reviewing Officer of the day was WGCDR (AAFC) Paul Hughes, Officer Commanding No. 3 Wing (N.S.W.)

I had the pleasure of attending the 408 Squadron (Ringwood) Freedom of Entry to the City of Maroondah on the 10th of November. The day was also of great significance as it was the first occasion upon which the Squadron's new colours were on display.

Also present was GRPCAPT (AAFC) Mark Dorwood, Commander of the Australian Air Force Cadets, WGCDR (AAFC) Dee West, O.C. of No.4 Wing, SQNLDR (AAFC) Kylie Walker of 4 Wing, and Councillor Rob Steane, Mayor of Maroondah, to name just a few.

Following the Squadron's Parade, the gathering was welcomed by both FLGOFF (AAFC) Nicole Kelly, C.O. of 408 Squadron and Mayor Rob Steane prior to the squadron marching off to the point of entry, where it was challenged by Police Inspector Gerard De Vries who granted permission of entry and presented the Official Citation. Refreshments in the R.S.L. Hall followed, which rounded up a most enjoyable event. My thanks to FLGOFF (AAFC) Nicole Kelly for the invitation and also the friendly reception from the 408 Staff members and the cadets themselves.

The Remembrance Day Service at the Australian

Flying Corps Memorial, Point Cook was as short and sweet as was expected and capably MC'ed by AFA Victoria State President, Max McGregor.

As the State President of the National Servicemen's Association, Mr Robert McIvor was committed to be at another Service on this day, I had the honour of placing a wreath in his place in remembrance of the RAAF National Servicemen who served during 1951 to 1957.

The day's attendance largely consisted of International service personnel who were transported over from Laverton and following the service, buses were provided to take attendees over to lunch in the Airmen's Mess at Laverton and then back to Point Cook again afterwards.

In closing, our Branch's Christmas Luncheon this year is again at the Box Hill RSL on the 15th of December. On behalf of our

Branch members I extend our very best wishes to all of the Association members and their families for a healthy, happy and safe Christmas and also for the coming New Year.

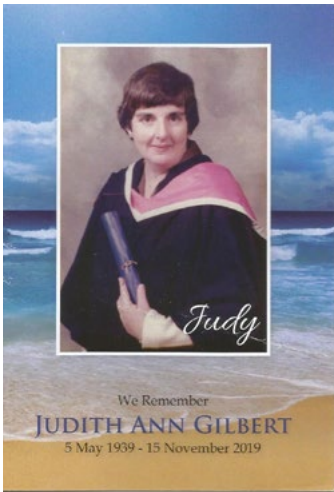
Regards to all,

Laurie Bell
President

You can also find the latest ATC/AAFC Branch newsletter on the AFA Victoria website: <http://afavic.org.au/1454/images/ATCAAFCNewsletter1912.pdf>.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
THE ATC/AAFC BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA WEBSITE



Vale Judy Gilbert, Secretary B24 Liberator Branch

VALE: JUDY GILBERT

It is with much sadness that the B24 Liberator Branch advises the passing of Judith Ann (Judy) Gilbert

on 15 November 2019 at Werribee, Victoria.

Judy is known throughout the aircraft restoration and museum community and many others as the Secretary B24 Liberator Restoration Australia. Judy served as Secretary for fifteen years, commencing in 2004. Judy was heavily involved in the attainment of the B24 Liberator Restoration Museum's accreditation and her knowledge and wide network of contacts will be greatly missed by the B24 Branch and Restoration Museum.

Judy is survived by her husband John, daughter



Judy Gilbert's funeral cortege leaves the B24 Liberator hangar.

Felicity and grand-daughter April.

On behalf of the B24 Branch and Museum members we express our condolences to the family and friends.

Paul Rourke
President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE B24 LIBERATOR BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

BALLARAT

The Ballarat Branch's very productive and busy 2019 will wind up with two December events, firstly with the first of our "Runway's Dance" afternoon tea dances (proudly sponsored by the Air Force Association Ballarat Branch), on 1st December. The "Runway's Dance" has been formed by Branch Secretary Rob Petty and wife Ann. Rob and Ann have put a lot of work into this and are widely promoting our Branch through this initiative.

To round out the year, our final Social Luncheon Meeting, (which acts as our Christmas function), was held on Tuesday 3rd December, at which our very good friends, the Sing

Australia Choir, entertained us with some Christmas songs and carols,

Our most recent Social Luncheon included a wee Irish talk by 99.9 FM Ballarat Community radio personality Noreen Lynch and also some dance demonstrations of modern sequence dances by six couples, including Branch Secretary Rob Petty and his wife Ann and member Tom Nunn and his wife Dorothy.

On behalf of all Ballarat Branch members, I wish members of all Branches of AFA Vic a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Noel Hutchins
President



Twirling up a storm at the "Runway's Dance" afternoon tea



99.9 FM Ballarat Community radio personality Noreen Lynch entertains her audience

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BALLARAT BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA WEBSITE

Is this really the end of 2019? Where has the year gone to? Well, it is said that time goes quicker as you grow older...then there ain't much hope for me then!

On 4th September, 2019 a number of our members travelled by train to Melbourne to attend the Battle for Australia Commemoration Service which was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on a delightful day. Two of our members joined with other ESO to lay flowers at the WWII cenotaph.

This service is a memorable one and together with approximately 1200 students, from right across Victoria, ranging in age from pre-school to senior secondary. These children were so well behaved with not a murmur throughout the service. Some adults could take a leaf out of their book.

At the conclusion of the service we enjoyed a light luncheon & cuppa before heading back to catch the train home. We think we had a long tiring day, just think of those students from Swan Hill who left home at 0600 hrs not getting home until 2000 hrs. They sure were a tired lot next day at school, but they can't wait for next year to do it all over again.

On 10th October, 20 members of our branch travelled to Puckapunyal Army Barracks to look over their museum & tank display. What a wonderful exhibition the army guys have put together. When we were finished, our resident chef was cooking lunch of sausages and rissoles which were consumed with delicious cold salads, followed by sweets, fruit & cheeses.

At our November meeting, Occupational Therapist, Lyn

Cooper spoke to us on the subject of how her services would benefit those present. Good talk.

On the 11th November, 2019, some of our members travelled to Point Cook to take part in the Air Force Remembrance Service. They were most impressed especially by the transportation to and from Laverton Base for a yummy lunch. At the conclusion they were taken back to their cars so they could return home.

President, Ray Gray, together with a number of other members, attended the Bendigo District RSL Remembrance Service, which was held on the forecourt of the Soldiers' Memorial Institute and where Ray laid a wreath on our behalf.

Five Bendigo Branch members attended the Christmas function at AFA

Victoria HQ. It was great to catch up with everyone. On the 5th December, Bendigo Branch members had their Christmas function, so after this we will all be over the celebrating for another year.

I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to Barb Stallard who once again excelled through adversity. She is such a wonderful lady - nothing is a problem for her.

The members of Bendigo Branch wish everyone a joyous festive season & safe, healthy 2020.

Glenis Gordon
Secretary

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
THE BENDIGO BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA WEBSITE

ENGINEER

END OF YEAR LUNCHEON

The EOY Luncheon was held on Wednesday 6th November once again at the Batman on Collins venue with an enthusiastic turnout of Engineer Branch Members, Guests and Wives. Unfortunately, the earlier proposal to have an expert speaker address the luncheon on the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) was unable to be fulfilled, and so John Clarkson's "Plan B" was invoked (Engineers always have a Plan B, and C, und so weiter).



Our Master of Ceremony John Clarkson introduced Plan B to the gathering – a Trivia Quiz, based on Air Force history, including

questions about Air Force engineering. All tables competed with a combination of enthusiastic knowledge, puzzled lack of knowledge, and pure guesswork, and for no material prize – just the pride and glory in winning. The questions were grouped in four rounds - "From the 1974 Stud List", "Aircraft", "Vietnam", and "Units".

John's Trivia Quiz was thoroughly entertaining, and congratulations are in

order for a fine example of "Imagining".

DECEMBER RMIT ALUMNI MEETING:

Once again, the RMIT Alumni with Engineering Branch Members met for a fine lunch, prepared and served by the Hospitality Students at the William Angliss Restaurant (550 Little Lonsdale St) on Monday 2nd December. This is a regular event and brings Engineering Branch members back into contact

with RMIT staff, present and past, and reinforces the connections forged by many of our Members back in their RMIT academic days.

NEXT MEETING:

The Committee's next meeting will be Monday 3rd February at the Mail Exchange Hotel (Bourke St near Spencer St) at 12 noon, and visitors are most welcome. If wanting to come along, just advise Noel Hadfield on 9511 7775, for catering purposes. Our committee meetings are very light-hearted affairs, with much reminiscing (and occasional lamentations), and importantly, the lunch menu and quality are excellent.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
THE ENGINEERS BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA WEBSITE

JUNE 2020 LUNCHEON

As indicated in previous editions of Contact, the Committee is still planning that a Senior Scientist Guest Speaker from the CSIRO will talk about "The Square Kilometre Array" (the SKA) at our next luncheon in June 2020. The SKA is a hugely significant radio-astronomy project proposed for Western Australia. For further reading, just Google

"The Square Kilometre Array".

You can also find our latest Newsletter – including all the trivia questions (+ answers!) on our Branch webpage:

http://afavic.org.au/1454/images/EngineerBranchNewsletter_Summer2019.pdf.

The Engineer Branch Point of Contact is:

Noel Hadfield
Wing Commander (ret'd)
email
nhadfield@optusnet.com.au
Telephone: (03) 9511 7775

We wish you all Ongoing Good Health and Happiness, and a Joyful Time with Family and Friends in the Festive Season

Carl Dillon
On behalf of David Graham and the Committee

SOME "HAPPY SNAPS" OF THE EOY LUNCHEON



Above (L to R): Christine Hogendijk, Carol Gould, Beverly Dillon



Above (L to R): John Adams, Noel Schmidt, Michael Kolowale, Brian Fuller

The complete Rogue's Gallery can be found in our newsletter on the AFA Victoria website:
http://afavic.org.au/1454/images/EngineerBranchNewsletter_Summer2019.pdf

VIETNAM VETERANS

As 2019 draws to a close, Branch Committee members look forward to a well-earned break and to refreshing themselves to

take on the cycle of Branch activities for the New Year.

AGM

Our AGM is scheduled

for 16 February 2020 at the AFA Headquarters, 24 Camberwell Road East Hawthorn. The AGM will be preceded

by the presentation of educational bursaries and encouragement awards at 1400 and afternoon tea before we commence AGM

proceedings.

BURSARIES

Educational bursaries are funded by the RAAF Association Foundation and Encouragement Awards are supported by donations from Committee members. Information about these awards is covered elsewhere in this edition of Contact but I would like to highlight the new postal address for Gill Coughlan (to whom applications should be sent) and the fact that applications are invited from the children or grandchildren under the age of 25 of a person with operational service, or three or more years continuous fulltime

service, as a member of the Royal Australian Air Force. Closing date for applications is 25 January 2020.

WEBSITE

The RAAFFVA website is currently under some stress and visiting the site indicates that it is unsafe and suspended. The committee has therefore decided to transfer the important data from this site to our Branch section of the AFA (Vic) website. All important contact and newsletter information has already been transferred and we are in the process of moving important historical information such as the repatriation of Mike

Herbert and Bob Carver and the "Closing of the Bracelets" ceremony at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum to this new location.

VETERANS COVENANT

AFA (Vic) President Max McGregor recently emailed all members about the Federal Government initiative in recognising the unique nature of military service and acknowledging the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families by the issue of a Covenant to defence veterans. Branch members have been encouraged to apply for the Covenant package (which includes a copy of the Oath and a

lapel pin. New DVA Health Cards will be issued in 2020 but card holders can use their current card to join the Australian Partners of Defence (APOD) program and become entitled to a range of discounts with the businesses that are part of the program.

Chris Hudnott
President

WANT TO KNOW MORE
ABOUT THE VIETNAM
VETERANS' BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA WEBSITE

SUNDERLAND

Sunderlanders and friends.

There have been a couple of significant Sunderland events since my last Report.

The Coastal Command exhibition at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance and the New South Wales' Branch 50th Sunderland Branch Dinner in October.

I have recently found a "Face Book" Group "Old RAAF Photos". This group recently featured many photos of 10 and 461 Squadron aircraft and airmen. It is worth a "Follow". It is great to see that these photos and connections are shared across a group of enthusiasts with similar interests to the Sunderlanders.

PAST EVENTS

Shrine of Remembrance – RAF coastal Command Exhibition – 16 August 2019

The launch of the Shrine Trustees wonderful Cinderella Service exhibition pertaining to the activities of RAAF crews in RAF Coastal Command during the Second World War held on 16 August was attended by several of our Sunderlanders including some interstateers. Wing Commander Colin Smith, Commanding Officer of 10 Squadron was the guest speaker.

The exhibition includes displays relating to 10 and 461 Sunderland Squadrons and 455 Hampden Torpedo

Bomber Sqn, memorabilia of Ivan Southall 461 Sqn, a bust of Colin Walker 461 Sqn, and information and items of memorabilia related to other Sunderlanders and 455 Squadron members.

This great exhibition that will continue for 12 months. I would recommend that you visit the exhibition especially as "The Cinderella Service" receives minimal publicity for the important role they played in keeping the sea lanes clear for the transportation of the vital supplies required for the war effort.

50th Sunderland NSW Branch Awards Dinner – 19 October 2019

The 50th Sunderland Awards dinner was held at

the Naval Military and Air Force Club, in Adelaide on Saturday 16 October. Some 28 serving members and Sunderlanders were in attendance. The evening was a celebration of the outstanding service given by all award nominees and in particular the winners,

WG CDR Colin Smith, CO 10 Sqn provided a brief overview of the future for 10 Sqn. He along with Peter Dowling, Secretary of the NSW Branch proudly presented the awards to the two winners for 2019, WO Hayden Inwood and FLG OFF Emerald Hamlyn. Congratulations to these worthy winners.

Sunderlander attendees included NSW members, Peter and Sue Dowling,

SUNDERLAND

John and Joy Mackellar, Tim Jensen, Prue Anthony, Ken and Allison Horrell, together with WG CDR Smith and WO Inwood.

The Victorian members attending were Marilyn Marrows-Voullaire and Kel Voullaire and Rick and Min Hattam.

The night was one of fellowship and much conversation and also an opportunity to announce the next tranche of the Sunderland's Award.

Moving forward, there is to be a single annual award to be known as "The Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy" and presented to a 10 Squadron member who displays the characteristics of Courage,

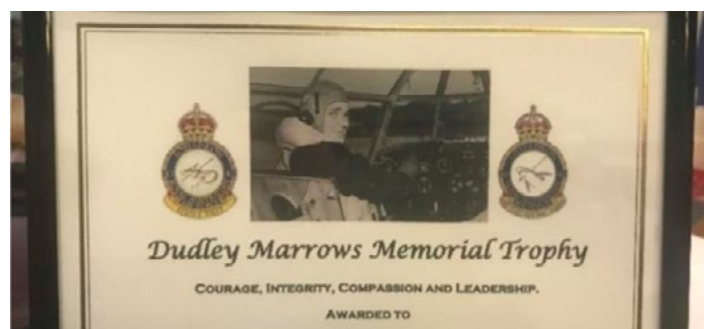
Integrity, Compassion and Leadership.

This is the last Newsletter for 2019. I wish all Sunderlanders a friend's compliments for the upcoming Festive Season, Merry Christmas and Happy and safe New Year.

Rick Hattam
President

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
THE SUNDERLAND BRANCH?

VISIT OUR BRANCH PAGE ON
THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA WEBSITE



The future "Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy" certificate



Victorian Branch President Rick Hattam with the Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy and NSW Sunderland Squadrons Banner.

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.

Mrs Judy Gilbert B24 Liberator Branch..... 15/11/2019

Mrs Kath Prosser WAAAF Branch 04/09/2019

Let Us Forget



OFFICE BEARERS

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION – VICTORIA

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Max McGregor – President
Carl Schiller OAM CSM – Immediate Past President
John Sedunary – Vice President
Daryl Topp – Vice President, Administration
Peter Colliver, OAM – Treasurer; Chairman,
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Chris Hudnott – Director Communications
John Clarkson – Director
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