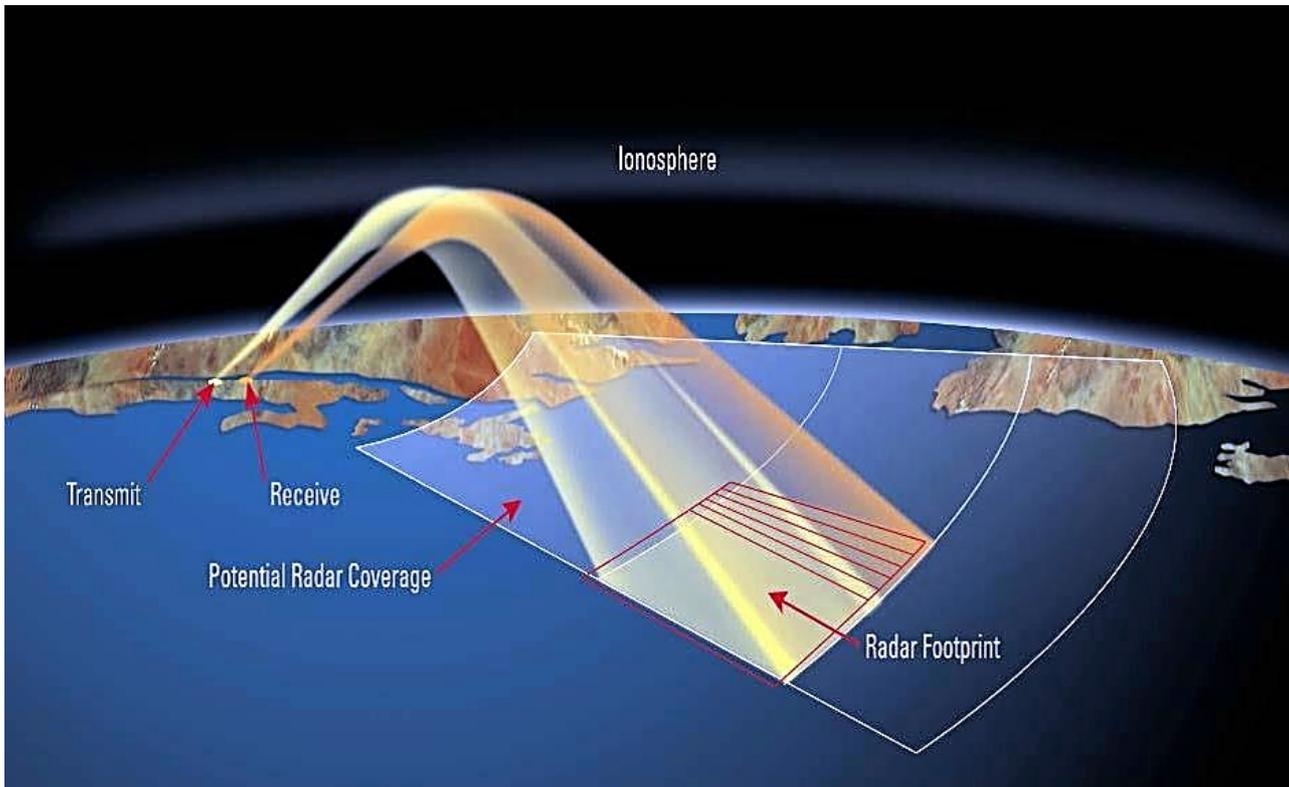


Engineer Branch Report - December 2018

End-of-Year Luncheon: Possibly the best Luncheon enjoyed in recent memory was held on Thursday 8th of November. The venue again was the excellent Batman's Hill on Collins Hotel (cnr Collins and Spencer). The Guest Speaker Laurie Burgess from British Aerospace Engineering (BAE) held the gathering of 46 enthralled. BAE has been contracted to upgrade the existing Phase 5 Jindalee high-frequency (HF) over-the horizon Operational Radar Network (JORN) to Phase 6 under Project JP 2025, valued at \$1.2 billion for completion in 10 years' time. The Phase 6 upgrade will, as reported publicly, improve the JORN sensitivity by a factor of 10, resulting in significant improvements for target acquisition capability and range (unclassified at 3,000 km). What Laurie was able to reveal gave the audience a quite riveting insight into the cutting edge of receiver hardware and software developments as well as the operational enhancements. Also of interest to the "Over the Horizon" fraternity, Laurie briefly overviewed HF Surface Wave Radar, which provides close-in (littoral) coverage, which JORN cannot. "Jindalee" is an indigenous word for a place the eye cannot see, or somewhere where the eye cannot see, like over the horizon – very apt.

Of historical interest, Britain established the Chain Home (CH) HF Radar system some 80 years ago, and was the world's first early warning radar system. For further reading, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chain_Home is recommended.

Aiming the radars at a particular 'search box'. *Image: RAAF*



Enjoying the November Luncheon



Rick Toholka and Laurie Burgess



Rod Harris



Michael and Helen Kolawale
Glen and Carol Gould



Noel Hadfield and Steve Sheedy



Richard Orr



George and Ray Vicino



Ron Gretton and Peter Cupitt



Don Mazlin



Ron Ledingham



Kingsley McRae



John Clarkson



Bob Fretwell



David Graham



Cathy Dobbin



Dick Powell

Branch Committee News:

Presidential Changing of The Guard

President Kingsley McRae's two year term has expired, seemingly quite quickly. Kingsley has done a sterling job, with the past two years witnessing many successful occasions and initiatives; yet another "Exceptionally Well Done" on his OER.

David Graham was elected at the last Committee meeting as our Incoming President. David is highly experienced in military aviation engineering, and was a keynote Guest Speaker at our 2017 mid-year luncheon. David's civilian career saw him involved with the highest levels of the Air Force both here and in the USA, including the structural integrity of the F-111 and F/A-18, and finally as the Chief of Air Operations Division DSTO.

Committee Member to Join AFA Board

John Clarkson, whose capabilities are well known (and not only in Engineering circles), will be joining the Board of the Victorian Air Force Association, which has been bereft of Engineers in recent times. The Board will be indeed gaining a powerful presence.

DVA Equipment Grant

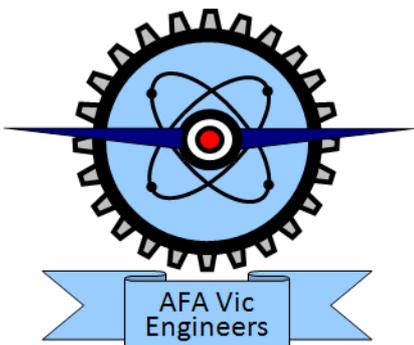
Committeeman Ron Ledingham has successfully applied for an equipment grant (computer and audio-visual gear) from DVA, and this project has now been fully acquitted. This equipment was used to good effect at the end of year Luncheon - well done Ron.

Next Meeting

The Committee's next meeting will be Monday 4th of February at the Mail Exchange Hotel (Bourke St near Spencer St) at 12 noon. The Committee will welcome any visitors, as we always have an enjoyable "working lunch", while plotting and planning the Branch's activities.

RMIT Alumni Luncheon By the time of publishing, the Committee and other Members and Guests will have also enjoyed a "working lunch" at the RMIT Senior and Retired Alumni Luncheon on the 3rd of December in the William Angliss Institute's Restaurant. At these regular quarterly RMIT events, the Engineer Branch and guests easily fill twenty places and we have to get in early with bookings for this "sell-out" event. Closer to the time, there will be advice circulated for the next RMIT Alumni event. The Engineer Branch has a very close affinity with RMIT as most of us are RMIT Graduates, and the reminiscing with the Alumni is always a stimulating time.

Commemoration Plaque: As reported in the Spring "Contact" the Branch initiative to have an Air Force Engineer's Commemoration Plaque placed on the Donors' Wall in the RMIT-restored Capitol Theatre in Swanston Street is still ongoing, and we anticipate a ceremonial unveiling next year. That will be an event to remember and record for posterity.



The Branch Point of Contact is:
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We wish you all ongoing good health and Happiness

Carl Dillon

On behalf of David Graham and the Committee