



# AIR MAIL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

*"Fostering the Spirit of Friendship and Perpetuating the Honour and Ideals of Her Majesty's Air Forces"*

August / September 2015  
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> WHAT'S  
INSIDE



## Service recognised

Merriwa resident Tony Moloney received a Certificate for Service for the many honorary roles he enthusiastically fulfils on the Estate.

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## Free falling

Amity Village resident, Gaye King had a Mothers Day to remember when she went skydiving with her daughter and grand-daughter.

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# Bomber Command Commemoration



*Bomber Command veterans LtoR Alex Kerr, AM, Doug Arrowsmith, DFC, OAM, John Lyall and Jack Colpus*

THE annual Bomber Command Commemoration Ceremony was held at AFME on Sunday, 24 May.

The ceremony included the laying of crosses by invited guests, Bomber Command veterans or their families and an address by veteran John Lyall. Alex Kerr followed with a briefing from his recent commemorative mission to France and the UK to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day.

Morning tea was provided in the Club and guests had the opportunity to visit the Aviation Heritage Museum to see among other things, the huge Lancaster Bomber and various WWII displays. The iconic WWII Merlin engine was also run for all to hear.

Bomber Command veteran, John Lyall provided an informative address which included insights into the past difficulties faced by the crews.

"More than 100,000 young men flew in aircraft of Bomber Command during WWII. Over half of them were killed. This stark fact denotes much more than the

tragedy of a casualty rate greater than that of any other arm of the British Forces. It is proof of the extraordinary determination and endurance of these men, in the face of the grinding repetition of exposure to danger which needed a special kind of courage.

"Their motivation was a mixture of patriotism, a desire to fly and a sense of adventure. The chance to fly was exciting, for at that time few young men had any sort of experience of flight, even airline travel was the prerequisite of the rich. For the mass there was a great romantic aura surrounding flying, much fostered by popular fiction and films, and the enormous publicity given to the exploits of the heroes of WWI and peacetime record makers.

"As one might expect, the casualty rate was not uniform. The outcome for any particular crew was affected by a variety of factors, which included the danger of the tasks imposed, the type of aircraft they flew and their individual degrees of efficiency and experience. But good luck always played a vital role, as every survivor knew.

"The factor of human error was large. Many crews suffered from chronic fatigue, particularly when favourable weather and moon conditions allowed an increase in the frequency of attacks. The bombers were slow by modern standards with few cruising faster than 200mph. Including tactical diversions, a deep penetration sortie could take over 8 hours. The aircraft were cold, noisy and unpressurised, with high altitude flying requiring oxygen masks to be worn for long periods.

"Many aircraft survived flak or fighter hits, and there are plenty of heroic stories of how devoted crews nursed their crippled aircraft home despite severe damage. Wounded men suffered terribly and the cold and lack of oxygen contributed extra dangers to their lives. Little could be done for them in the hours it took to reach base.

"In all this retrospective argument we should never forget the thanks that we owe to that remarkable band of young men from every part of the Commonwealth who faced every danger, disregarded the likelihood of death, believed that what they were doing was right and necessary, and did it."

## RAAFA's veterans take part in photography project

RAAFA residents have been taking part in an Australia-wide project this year which is aiming to document photographs of WWII veterans.

The AIPP Reflections project aims to photograph veterans of WWII in order to create a significant archive for the nation honouring our veterans, and to provide a cognisant comparison to the wartime images of the young serving men and women.

McNamara Lodge Occupational Therapist Mary Romo has been helping coordinate veterans from the Lodge to take part in the project.

"When I heard about the project from one of our volunteers, I thought this was a great opportunity for our veterans to get involved. We ended up with about 40 veterans from the Lodge and the Estate taking part," Mary said.

"Everyone who takes part receives a copy of their professional photo. We organised a little morning tea and memorabilia display while the photographing was taking place and encouraged everyone to dress nicely and wear their medals. It was a lovely morning and all of our residents were very excited to take part in the project."

AFME also took part in the project with State Vice President Bill Anderson helping coordinate. There were over 40 veterans from Gordon Lodge, the Estate and WAAAF Branch taking part.

AIPP will present the first album of photos to the RSL and Australian War Memorial in October.



*Beryl Horrocks is taking part*

# On the tarmac



State President, David Peet

By David Peet

## Annual General Meeting

ONCE again I remind our Members that we have two positions becoming vacant on the Division Council, one being State Secretary and a Division Councillor and ask you to consider nominating for these positions.

I know we have many Members with experience that would be extremely beneficial on Division Council.

Nomination forms are available from the State Secretary on 9311 4444 and nominations close 7 August 2015.

## Division Council

At the June Divisional Council meeting we welcomed our new Appointed Councillor, Geraldine Carlton to the board for a term of two years. Her experience and expertise in all levels of management of large corporations will be extremely beneficial to RAAFA.

Geraldine has over 17 years experience as an Executive Leader across multiple acute health sector environments. She is currently the Executive Director of a large metropolitan health group with more than 1100 employees.

## Internal painting of units

The recent decision by Division Council to discontinue the internal painting of units was made on advice from all the information available to Division Council and from the various models of the current leases.

However since this has been announced there has been a myriad of information leaflets and papers providing other information on the painting of the units which did not form part of the leases or was not available at the time for Division Council prior to the decision being made.

This decision is now under review and will be discussed with the appropriate Estate Committees. An early decision is being sought to this matter.

## RAAFA National meeting Canberra

I attended the National meeting in Canberra with our CEO, John Murray in June. The main points of interest were the following.

RAAFA National is actively working with other ESO's and maintaining an alliance with defence service organisations to effectively respond to relevant Government policies on our behalf.

They have also established a working group to market RAAFA membership, including targeting the younger generation and current serving RAAF personnel.

An updated RAAFA logo has been approved by the Chief of Air Force which we have rolled out with this edition of Air Mail. You will notice that the main changes are the crown with the inclusion of the golden wattle, Australia's floral emblem. We will be implementing the change to the rest of our stationery in due course.

Wings Magazine will now be available to RAAFA Members electronically via the RAAFA National website [www.raafa.org.au](http://www.raafa.org.au). A charge of \$18 still applies for those who

wish to receive a paper copy of the magazine.

The National AGM will be held in Hobart to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain celebration on 17-20 September.

## Visits

May and June have been exceptionally busy months with official visits, ceremonies, meetings and general council business. RAAFA has been represented at the following events:

- Volunteer event at Meadow Springs Estate, 14 May.
- Bomber Command Commemoration Ceremony, AFME, 24 May.
- North American Veterans Ceremony, Kings Park, 25 May.
- Indigenous Ceremony, Kings Park, 27 May.
- 239 Pilot Graduation at RAAF Base Pearce, 5 June.
- RAAFA National Meeting, Canberra, 10 June.
- Swetman Aviation Education Fellowship presentation, 26 June.

The old logo



The new logo



## McIntosh Memorial Scholarship

We incorrectly reported in our last edition that the scholarship recipient, Cameron Becker had attended Trinity College. Cameron attended Aquinas College and was an outstanding student. We apologise for the error.

## Membership benefits

### RAAF Holiday Facilities

RAAFA Members are eligible to use the RAAF holiday facilities located on the Gold Coast (Ambassador Apartments) and Merimbula NSW (Tuscany Apartments). Whilst peak holiday periods are well subscribed by the primary users, being serving Defence Force members, the periods outside holiday periods are lightly utilised and are available for members of the Association.

The Ambassador Apartments are situated on Chevron Island in the heart of Surfers Paradise on Queensland's Gold Coast. Within walking distance of the city centre and beaches, the two and three bedroom apartments cater for families, couples and single holiday makers.

The Tuscany Apartments are situated at Merimbula on the NSW Sapphire Coast. Located on "The Fishpen" this 4 star complex comprising two and three bedroom apartments is within easy walking distance to the safe water of the inlet and beach, and a comfortable walk to the main shopping centre.

So do yourself a favour when planning your next holiday, check out the RWRC website [www.raafholidays.com.au](http://www.raafholidays.com.au) for further information, prices and online bookings.

## McIntosh Scholarship available

The McIntosh Scholarship is available to descendants of persons who enlisted in Western Australia for service in any branch of the RAAF. These could be your children, grandchildren or even great grandchildren!

To be eligible they must be undertaking a first course of tertiary education. They may be in any year of that course, and must reside in Western Australia.

The award for the 2015 academic year will be \$3,000 and is usually used by students to help with the costs of equipment, books, or activities associated with their studies.

Application forms and further information on the Scholarship are available from the Executive Assistant, Julie Stearne.

**RAAFA (WA Division) Inc.**  
Air Force Memorial Estate  
Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek  
P: 9311 4449 E: [jstearne@raafawa.org.au](mailto:jstearne@raafawa.org.au)

**Applications close on Friday, 23 October 2015.**

### Recent recipients have included:

- 2015 Cameron Becker. Cameron is entering the second year of his double degree in Arts and Commerce, aiming to enter law as a post-graduate at UWA.
- 2014 Matthew Biddiscombe. Matthew follows in his brother's footsteps as a recipient of the Scholarship. He is studying veterinary science at Murdoch University.
- 2013 Lachlan Crossley. Lachlan's grandparents Bill and Brenda Broun resided on Cambrai Village. Lachlan was undertaking a Bachelor of Science at UWA and hopes eventually to be employed in an environmental capacity, possibly mining.
- 2012 Kate Haynes. Kate was undertaking a Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Murdoch University. Her proud grandparents Bev and Ian Haynes live on AFME, Bull Creek.
- 2011 Ashlee Dent. Ashlee was undertaking a Bachelor of Education (Primary) at the University of Notre Dame. Ashlee's great-grandfather, Flight Lieutenant Charles Frederick Dent was in the RAAF during WWII, having enlisted in Perth in 1940. Ashlee never knew her great-grandfather but heard many tales from her great-grandmother, and deemed it an honour to both relatives to be granted the scholarship.
- 2010 Andreas Biddiscombe. Andreas' grandfather, the late Ernest Biddiscombe was a Flying Officer in WWII and served in Bomber Command with 467 Squadron. Andreas undertook a Bachelor of Science at UWA.

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship is once again open for application.

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**Enquiries:** Julie Stearne

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**For Submission deadlines please see page 11**

# CEO's perspective



By John Murray

## Veterans Support Charitable Purpose

I HAVE had a sense of déjà vu occurring over the last two months as we pursue the focus on what RAAFA's role is as an ex-service organisation supporting veterans.

The formation of RAAFA in May 1929 was facilitated by 30 men coming together for an inaugural meeting of ex-members of the Royal Flying Corps and the Australian Flying Corps. There was no distinction made between them and both were considered equally eligible for membership.

As Frank Purser alludes to in his book "Per Ardua", many Australians who originally enlisted in the Australian Infantry Forces and served in France had transferred to the Royal Fly Corps while the Royal Australian Flying Corps were still serving in Palestine.

The comradeship and the purpose of RAAFA in supporting those veterans

in reassimilating back into society by providing a place for them to continue to pursue their comradeship and support each other was the focus. This became even more focused for the veterans of WWII.

As one of our 4,600 members you are aware that, RAAFA has evolved into a major organisation.

RAAFA has an annual turnover of \$45M, 450 staff, 1,450 homes housing 2,000 people, four aged care facilities, four licensed clubs, an aviation museum and community based services.

Understandably when an organisation grows into a large business it is at risk of losing its sense of what its original purpose was.

In the last Air Mail I indicated that Division Council, as part of its strategic planning, along with discussions with the executive management team, is clear in their focus on pursuing the original purpose of RAAFA; being an ex-service organisation representing the interests of ex-service personnel.

An element of our activities that has well served veterans is the provision of services to the elderly in our community. We are now more conscious of the needs of the latest group of veterans who have served Australia.

Over the last two months David Peet and I have met with a number of groups who are embryonic in their drive to provide services

to ex-service personnel and veterans.

In much the same way as RAAFA did in 1929, there is now the forming of associations to provide support for veterans who have come out of engagements in Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Unlike RAAFA, these organisations do have a direct connection with these veterans and are making a difference in the lives of those who are suffering post traumatic disorders and need support in reassimilating back into Australian society.

The most recent meeting of the Division Council discussed the opportunity that RAAFA may have to form a sub-committee of the Division Council to pursue its charitable purpose and potentially look at how we can utilise the resources that RAAFA has to support some of these groups to achieve their goals.

We have yet to determine the structure of these charitable pursuits, however, it is very clear from our conversations with Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Services, Department of Veterans Affairs and indeed my recent attendance at the National RAAFA Council meeting, that RAAFA has to investigate and find ways to pursue and support those who are now in our communities from these engagements.

This wonderful organisation was formed by veterans with very little resources and it is now in a position where the organisation formed by veterans, for veterans, can do more to support our most current veterans and their needs. It appears that the most ideal connection is through these small groups who are forming to engage with those that are in need in a similar way.

They, like RAAFA, have been formed by veterans for veterans addressing the needs of contemporary serving and ex-service personnel.

I am looking forward to working with the Division Council to explore ways that RAAFA can represent its support for these veterans, either through their groups or other channels.

We will continue to pursue the good governance and management of this large organisation and ensure that we improve the quality and support for our existing clients, customers, and members.

We also need to look at what the future needs of our communities are from those who have served more recently.

RAAFA is a member of the Alliance of Defence Services Organisations which includes organisations like the Defence Welfare Association, the RAR Association, SAS Association, Naval Association and Vietnam Veterans to name a few. They have been very successful in getting our combined message across to the Federal and State Governments about the ongoing needs for not only older veterans, but the needs of our more recent veterans.

RAAFA along with these other associations continue to lobby for the welfare of all ex-service personnel. It also provides us with an opportunity to understand the broader needs of the more recently returned veterans.

I hope that this finds you in good spirit and that you are looking forward to the beautiful spring that will no doubt present itself over the next couple of months.



## RAAF Association (WA Division) Inc.

### 2015 Annual General Meeting

By Ron Onions

9.30am, Saturday, 31 October 2015  
Langley Hall, AFA Club, Bull Creek  
Registration commences at 8.30am

#### Division Council Nominations

Nominations for office shall be in writing and signed by the Candidate and the Members proposing and seconding. The Candidate must be a RAAFA Member entitled to vote, Nominations must be on the official form available from the State Secretary and must be accompanied by the nominee's brief Curriculum Vitae not exceeding 300 words and a current photograph.

The nominee must carry out Due Diligence with the State President and Chief Executive Officer before the Nomination will be accepted.

Division Council nominations must be received no later than 2.00pm, Friday, 7 August 2015 by the State Secretary, Air Force Memorial House, Bull Creek.

Vacancies on Division Council will be:

- State Secretary – two year term
- One Division Councillor – two year term

#### Voting Procedure

Voting papers for the Division Council Election will be sent to all eligible members under separate mail out.

#### Returning Officer

The Division Council has appointed the Returning Officer to supervise the ballot for the vacant Division Council positions and for the counting and custody of vote papers.

## Seeking Division Council nominations

By Ron Onions

I PUT pen to paper to remind you that RAAFA are now calling for nominations for our Divisional Council.

We require one State Secretary and one Divisional Councillor.

Have you thought of seeking position on the Board (Division Council), but thought it was only for people living in Bull Creek? Well let me enlighten you, our State President, David Peet, comes from Merriwa Estate and I have been a resident of Cambrai Village for the past 13 years.

With modern communications and the ability to use your home PC we now have access to the computer network in Head Office, so much of our work is done at home. It sure saves a lot of travel, but we are

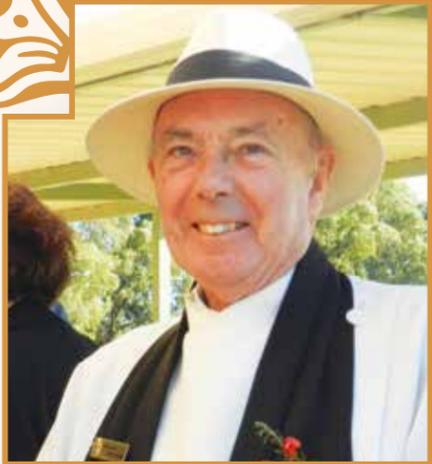


still in the Head Office at least once a week, sometimes more often.

RAAFA has several Division Council Committees and I am the Chair for the Compliance, and the Planning and Development Committees. So on being elected to the Board you will be actively involved in one or more of these Committees with great satisfaction for yourself and benefit to RAAFA.

Please get your nominations to me, State Secretary, prior to 7 August 2015. Nomination forms are available from Head Office on 9311 4444.

## The Padre's Piece



By Padre David

I HAVE just claimed the 85 year rule. No, I have not reached the age of 85 yet, that's a couple of years away. The 85 year rule is a rule that the service organisation Rotary International has for its older members. If

the combined total of one's age and years in Rotary is over 85 then application can be made to be excused from regular attendance at Rotary's meetings and activities.

I joined Rotary in 1968 and apart from the two years 1975 – 77 when the pressure of the particular work I was doing for the Church became too heavy and I dropped out, I have been a member for over 45 years. I have been a member in five different Rotary Clubs in three different States as the Church has moved me through various appointments. It has been a wonderful experience to have been involved in so much community service over the years but I am going to give myself a break.

By the time this August edition of Air Mail is distributed most of the Association's Branches will have held their Annual

General Meetings and elected their Officers and Committees for 2015/16, and here at Meadow Springs there will have been a few changes. President Judy McCarthy will continue to lead the Meadow Springs Residents Branch but the other officers will be new and as well, there will be some new faces on the Committee. For the 15 years that I have lived on the Meadow Springs Estate I have either been President, Vice-President or Secretary of the Branch but I am giving myself a break.

I guess I am going through a not uncommon experience, giving up something that has claimed one's total involvement in the past. It's like retiring from fulltime employment, or even like moving into a new environment such as a retirement village.

As I now look at my diary for the second six months of this year there are certainly a lot more blank pages and as I look at them I have some mixed feelings. One part of me is yearning to fill them up; even feeling guilty that they are not full. But there is also a part of me asking, what are the sort of things that should be filling those pages at this point in my life.

What about all those programmes that Angeline our Welfare Officer is suggesting for seniors health and fitness? What about exploring the Residents library? What about going down to the meditation group held at our Church? What about seeing if any of our family members or friends would like to come down to Mandurah and spend a few days with us, there's lots we could introduce them to and do together. What about Eileen and I going down to our favourite place in Halls Head and watching the sun set over the Indian Ocean? Maybe it's got to get a bit warmer before we do that!!

Way back in 2012 Brian Draper, a regular contributor to "Thought for the Day" in BBC Radio 4 wrote a little book, "Less is More - Spirituality for Busy Lives". I commend it to you. In it he quotes Steve Job, Apple's founder who died in 2011. He was addressing a graduation ceremony at Stanford University. He said: "Your time is limited. Don't waste it living someone else's life".

Shalom



LtoR Anne Smith, Pat Kempton, Lynn Sprigg

## WRAAF Branch rewarded

AT THE WRAAF Branch meeting in June, State President David Peet presented two Certificates of Service and a Certificate of Appreciation to very deserving Members.

### Pat Kempton - Certificate of Service

Pat joined the RAAF Association in February 1990 as a member of the WRAAF Branch. Since joining Pat has been a willing supporter of any activity that the WRAAF Branch has held.

She became an active member of the Branch Committee during 1993 and 1994. After a short spell, she re-joined the Branch Committee, serving from 1996 to 2009. In 2010, Pat became Branch Vice President and still maintains that position to date.

In 2013, Pat was approached to be the photographer for various WA Division events which include the Annual Dinner and commemoration ceremonies held both at Bull Creek and Kings Park. She continues to carry out this duty very professionally, providing quality photos for inclusion with articles in the Divisions newsletter, "Air Mail" and the Annual Report.

### Lynn Sprigg - Certificate of Service

Lynn joined the RAAF Association in February 1998 as a member with the WRAAF Branch.

Lynn's first formal activity within the Branch was as Treasurer from 1987 to 1988. Lynn became a Branch Committee Member in

1989 and resumed the Treasurer duties again during 1990 and 1991. Lynn returned to being a Committee Member for 1992 and 1993 until her employment took her to working on country mine sites for three years.

On her return to Perth, Lynn resumed the position of Treasurer in 1996 and still holds the position today.

Lynn worked tirelessly at the Division fundraising fetes held at Bull Creek from 1986 until the fetes ceased. She has also served on three WRAAF National Reunion Committees and has always been a willing supporter of WRAAF functions.

The WRAAF Branch had no hesitation in nominating these three ladies for certificates of service.

### Anne Smith - Certificate of Appreciation

Anne joined the RAAF Association in February 1988 as a member of the WRAAF Branch that had been formed in 1985.

Anne took on the role of Branch Secretary and also served as a Branch Committee Member during 1988. After a short break, Anne again participated as a Committee Member in 1991 and then re-joined the Committee for 2012 and 2013.

Anne has been a very helpful member of the Branch and has been instrumental in transporting many Branch members who would otherwise be unable to attend Branch meetings and social occasions.

## Swetman Scholarship

THE Swetman Aviation Education Fellowship was presented by the trustees on Friday, 26 June at the Greenwood College assembly.

There were four nominations received this year for the scholarship from Greenwood College, Melville, Morley and Kent Street Senior High Schools.

All four nominees were of a very high standard and whilst the selection panel had a difficult time deciding, Tessa Zollner stood out across all areas and was unanimously voted as the recipient for 2015.

Tessa is currently a year 12 student at Greenwood College studying aviation. Tessa has displayed a confidence in her ability and an ambitious determination above her years. Migrating from the Netherlands four years ago, Tessa has not only mastered English as a second language, her teacher Michael Hill, Head of Aviation at Greenwood College, described Tessa as surpassing her peers.

Tessa plans to enter the Air Force through the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), studying for a Bachelor of Aviation Technology. When asked what this award means to her, Tessa said it would improve her chances of successfully entering ADFA.

Tessa's passion for aviation developed at a young age, living near an airport in the Netherlands and having family connections to the defence forces. Her father was a tank driver and an uncle was in the Dutch Air Force. She was an Air Force Cadet before entering upper school and said if she was unable to fulfil the requirements to be an air force pilot she would seek a career as a commercial pilot or another military role.

Tessa describes herself as a worthy ambassador of the Swetman award as she desires to be a role model for other women in aviation and to be the first female pilot in her family in the Defence Force. She is a



David Peet with Tessa Zollner

committed goal setter and is proving to be well on her way to achieving it.

### The Scholarship

The Swetman Aviation Education Fellowship Fund was established in 1994 by Flight Lieutenant Ronald Charles Swetman DFC, DFM, RAFVR (Retd) to foster aviation education and interest among youth in Western Australia.

### Flight Lieutenant Ron Swetman, DFC, DFM

As part of Bomber Command in 1942, 97 Squadron RAF operated Avro Lancasters in a low level daylight attack on the MAN diesel engine works at Augsburg, and in the 1000 bomber raids on Cologne, Essen and Bremen. In April 1943 the Squadron joined Bomber Command's Pathfinder Force as a "marker" squadron leading bomber groups to targets.

Ron Swetman served in 97 Squadron between September 1942 and December 1943 as a flight engineer. He completed 61 operations, the highest number in 97 Squadron during WWII. He was commissioned, promoted to Flight Lieutenant and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Distinguished Flying Medal.

After the war he maintained a passionate interest in aviation and generously encouraged young people with similar interests. In retirement he resided on RAAF's Air Force Memorial Estate at Bull Creek where he died in 2001.

# 70th Anniversary of VE Day

By Alex Kerr

TO COMMEMORATE the sacrifices of Australian servicemen, servicewomen and civilians in WWII, the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) mounted a mission to take part in the anniversary of VE Day to be observed in Paris and London. Seven veterans, aged 90 to 97 who fought in Europe and their accompanying entourage attended, Alex Kerr, AM was one of the veterans and shared the following details of his experience.

"We had our first ceremony at the majestic Bayeux Notre Dame Cathedral, accompanied by the Australian Ambassador to France, Stephen Brady, and Veterans' Affairs Minister, Michael Ronaldson. The French Mayor, veteran flag bearers and other civic dignitaries made up a small respectful group in the cathedral. Colour was provided by the flags of the military units that were engaged in fighting the Germans in that particular part of Normandy. We braved the bitter cold as we made our way to lunch at the Lion d Or restaurant where I gave a short speech to discharge a 70 year old debt to thank the French doctor who saved my life on the operating table, as he had for so many French prisoners in the hospital.

"Driving along the Normandy coast, which harbours such horrific memories, we visited the Aromanches 360-degree theatre, and then continued to the cemetery for a commemorative ceremony which was also repeated at the Ranville cemetery. There

were Australian graves at each location. Our commemoration ceremonies consisted of the selection of a special plot of sacred ground, the catafalque party executing its special drill, appropriate verses being read and wreaths laid. When we inspected the graves we placed small wooden crosses bearing messages inscribed by Australian school children.

"In the afternoon we visited the Normandy beaches particularly Sword Beach where British and French forces landed. Looking around from the forlorn remains of Mulberry Harbour half buried in the sea to the lush green peaceful countryside just inland from the beaches, it seemed hard to visualise the same scene 70 years ago with this beauty overwhelmed by the thunder of death and destruction on a scale never before experienced.

"VE Day saw us at the Arc de Triomphe for a service of thanksgiving. French Forces were represented in style accompanied by a large brass band. Ten battle flags added colour to the proceedings as the brass band struck up with The Marseillaise to herald the arrival of the President of France.

"Then onto London and another ceremony at Runnymede Memorial. The irony hit, that at this point one thousand years ago, democracy was born in Britain as King John surrendered to his barons and at this same point we are now paying homage to those airmen who died while fighting to ensure the rebirth of democracy in Europe.

"The focal point of the whole mission was the Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Prior to the entrance of the Queen, the Dean of Westminster received the Prime Minister, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Duke of Kent, the Earl of Wessex, the Duke of York, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. The service was solemn, powerful and impressive. The Abbey was packed with dignitaries in their various colourful robes of office which was a stark contrast to our small group of Australian veterans in wheel chairs.

"Following the Service of Thanksgiving, we proceeded down past the cenotaph and Whitehall. For myself this was the most powerful and emotional moment of the mission, as I reflected on the fact that I was representing tens of thousands of fallen Australians. I had never experienced such a large crowd.

"A farewell dinner was hosted at our hotel to which friends and family were invited. David Fraser, my rear gunner who threw me out of our burning plane, was among the important guests. For me the chance to meet up with Dave was sufficient reward for undertaking the trip to Britain. By profound coincidence the night we met at the Cavendish (10 May) was the night we were shot down exactly 74 years previously.

"Our final ceremony was at the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park. The unveiling of the memorial by the Queen



Alex Kerr, AM

in 2012, which many of us had attended, marked the end of a sixty-year controversy about the role of Bomber Command during the war and paid due homage to the 55,500 aircrew who lost their lives in that conflict. After lunch we headed for the airport and home.

"We had plenty of time on the journey home to reflect on what had taken place in that hectic fortnight. First and foremost it was a continuous salute to those of our mates who did not come back. Secondly it continually aroused vivid memories and brought the individual airmen back to life momentarily. Third the massive crowds showed very clearly that people still remember and value the sacrifice our mates made.

"This was indeed a most pleasant and memorable experience, one it will be impossible to forget."

## Certificate of Service



David Peet with Tony Moloney

AT THE Merriwa Residents Branch meeting in June, State President David Peet presented Merriwa resident, **Tony Moloney** with a Certificate of Service.

Tony joined the Association in May 2006 and moved onto the Estate in March 2007.

Tony worked closely with the late Noel Grant on the upkeep of the Estate's computers, ensuring that internet connections are working effectively and being on hand to solve residents computer problems.

In addition to his computer maintenance work, Tony has also been the 'sound man'

for the Mudlarks group. He willingly gives his time for rehearsals and concerts, a commitment that usually stretches across a period of up to four months. Tony also organises microphones, music and other sound requirements for Branch events and ceremonies.

Tony is also part of the outdoor pool maintenance team that cleans the pool week about.

In all areas of his work, Tony is both dedicated and friendly and the Merriwa Residents Branch had no hesitation in nominating Tony for an award in appreciation for all the work he carries out for his fellow residents.

## Staff gain recognition in excellence awards



Jacqui Nagy

EXCITING news in the HR team recently with our Human Resources Officer, **Jacqui Nagy** receiving a High Commendation Award in the Trainee Category of the Aged and Community Service WA (ACSWA) Excellence in Care Awards. Jacqui was a finalist in the awards, with judges acknowledging her commitment to studying for her Certificate IV in Human Resource Management while juggling work, study and family life.

Jacqui admits to being a self-education enthusiast who is committed to continuous learning and personal development as part and parcel of her career in aged care. "I was very flattered to be told I was a finalist in these awards," Jacqui said.

"Things change very quickly in the aged care industry and it's really important to keep up with what's happening, which is why I've been focused on further training, in particular undertaking my Certificate IV in Human Resources."

Jacqui began work with RAAFA in 1989, and apart from a two-year break, has worked for the Association ever since.

The ACSWA awards recognise not-for-profit aged care providers and individuals working in aged and community care within the WA community.

CEO John Murray said, "RAAFA strives for excellence in every area in which we operate and we are very pleased that Jacqui was not only named a finalist in these awards but received a High Commendation.

"Jacqui is a highly valued member of a team who has remained committed to further training and development over her 25 year career working with us, and we are very proud of her achievement."

Winners were announced during the ACSWA 2015 Excellence in Care Awards gala presentation, on Friday, June 5 at the Crown Entertainment Complex.



## Hooked on knitting and crochet

FRIENDLY 'yarns' and 'purler' good times have got a group of ladies 'hooked' on creating beautiful woven pieces with AFME Knitting and Crochet Group.

Bonnie Johnson helps organise the group, which she's been part of for a few years now. Although Bonnie is legally blind, she still loves to crochet and takes it "one stitch at a time".

"They all wonder how I do it, but I feel each stitch as I go, and I can see the different colours," she says.

The group meets every Thursday at the Village Hall from 1pm to 3pm. The oldest member of the group is 95 years old and she's showing no signs of slowing down when it comes to her beautiful handiwork.

"There are about 18 of us and with the new members who have joined lately we have a big table full and make a lot of noise when we get together. We always have beautiful afternoon teas as the ladies bring plates to

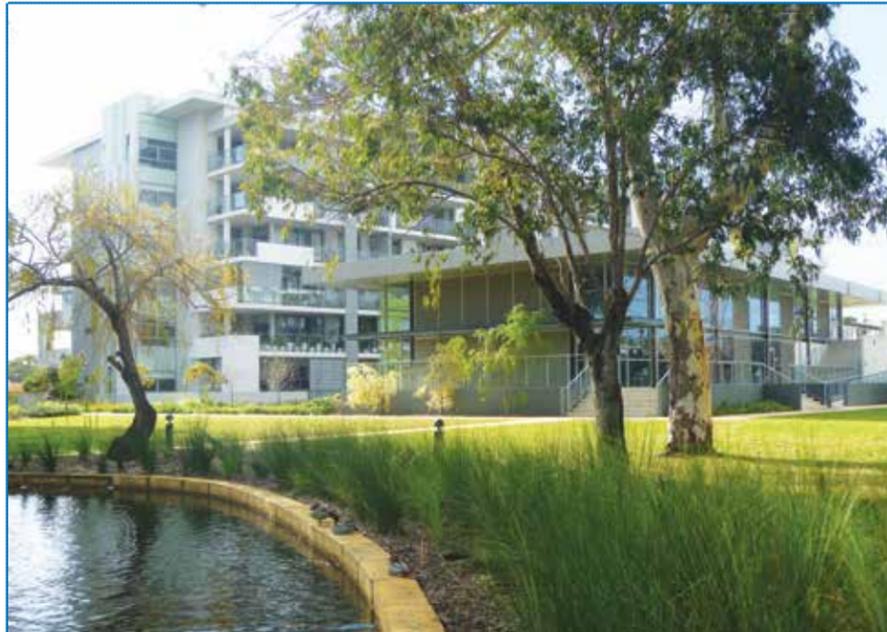
share, so it's a real social outing," Bonnie says.

"It's a lovely crowd and we all come from different backgrounds, but we all get together and everyone gets on with everyone so it's great. We have one lady who joins us from the Lodge, and we also have some ladies from outside of the Estate join in too."

The group often work on creating beautiful knitted and crocheted blankets which are donated to the local Women's Refuge and also to Wheelchairs for Kids.

"All our work is for charity in one way or another," Bonnie says.

"We recently had a lady from the Refuge come along to collect a bundle of lovely pieces we'd made. Sometimes the blankets are so beautiful you almost hate to give them away! But we've been doing it for charity for so long now that it's a habit, and it's always for such a good cause."



## AFME community thriving

AIR Force Memorial Estate in Bull Creek is RAAFA's largest estate. It is home to more than 430 residents in independent living, 60 in Gordon Lodge, and home to both our Head Office and the Aviation Heritage Museum.

AFME Retirement Living Co-ordinator, Maureen Winton said the Estate offers the best of both worlds to residents – being close to amenities, yet offering a quiet sanctuary, complete with a tranquil lake and gum trees which attract local wildlife, in the midst of Bull Creek.

"In terms of the facilities we have and the amenities close by, AFME is without a doubt a standout option for people moving into retirement living," Maureen said.

"On the Estate we have the indoor heated swimming pool, gym, library, bowling greens, shop, spacious function rooms,

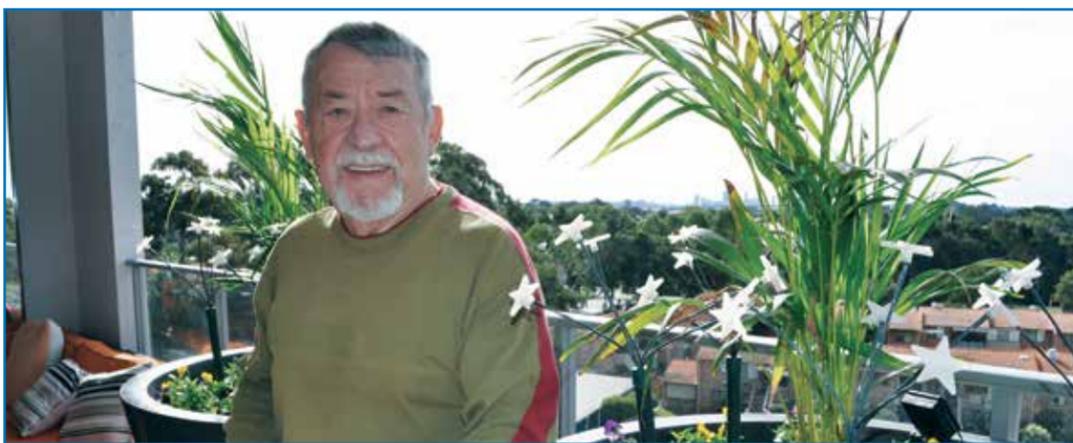
exercise and welfare programs which are well-received within our community. As well as that we have the AFA Club, and the Aviation Heritage Museum on-site.

"It's a friendly, secure environment and we're close to freeway access, bus routes, train station and all of those things, which means it's really easy to access the excellent amenities nearby.

"We have a fantastic group of residents living on the Estate, and there really is something for everyone in terms of the different clubs and groups on site, which offer friendship and camaraderie."

In the wider community outside of AFME, Maureen said the proximity of the Fiona Stanley Hospital, St John of God Murdoch Hospital, Garden City and other shopping centres was a plus for residents.

# Retirement a breeze at Bull Creek



Ted McEvoy

THE grass is definitely greener at AFME in Bull Creek for Mirage Terraces resident Ted McEvoy, who has lived on the Estate for more than three years since the new apartment development was completed.

Ted, who's 72 years old, was living on a half-acre block in Roleystone when he downsized to a brand new apartment at Mirage Terraces.

"I'd planned on moving out when I turned 70, but when the opportunity came up I made the big jump and moved in a couple years earlier than I'd planned," he says.

"It took me a little while to get used to being here, but not looking after a big block of land anymore is a huge benefit

and I really enjoy it here. The facilities are fantastic, the transport is excellent and I very rarely use my car anymore.

"I'm interested in movies and live theatre, so it's easy for me to just get the train into the city. I take my grandson to the football, so we just hop on the train into Subiaco."

Ted served in the Royal Australian Air Force for 20 years, during which time he served in Vietnam, and says "it just made sense" to move to RAAFA.

"There are a few Vietnam vets here and we've got to know each other," he said.

"It's a young demographic and we have the occasional meet and greets where we all

bring a plate and a glass of wine. I've talked to a lot of my mates about them moving here too.

"I used to work in IT before I retired, so word's got out about that and I've become a de facto computer support person for everyone, which I don't mind because it's a good way to meet people. I have also volunteered to drive the RAAFA bus which transports the residents to various functions, shopping trips etc."

Ted travels a couple times each year to Vietnam where he volunteers as an English teacher, and said he likes being able to "lock up and leave".

"Another advantage is I do a lot of travel

now so I just walk out the front door and forget about it. There's no gardens to worry about, everything is safe, it's brilliant," he said.

And Ted has also encountered some unexpected benefits since moving into the Estate. "One thing I didn't plan for or expect was how much reduction there is on insurance policies," he said.

"The building insurance is part of the levy each of the residents pays so I'm not paying that up front; car insurance dropped dramatically because I'm parking in a secure complex; and home and contents insurance is a lot cheaper because of being in a secure apartment block, so these were all benefits I hadn't even considered and it's fantastic."

# “Whichcraft?” group weaving crafty magic

THE “Whichcraft?” Group at AFME meet every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm at the Village Hall to weave their special magic of the crafty variety.

Welfare Officer Carena Slattery, who coordinated the formation of the Group last year, suggested the quirky name for the Group. At the first gathering the group’s leaders, Beverley Hewett, Maxine Chambers and Vivienne Rowney wore witches’ hats in keeping with the proposed name.

There are approximately 24 ladies who attend on a regular basis and three volunteer leaders offering ideas and assistance, ensuring there is always someone on hand if one is on holidays or unable to attend for any reason.

Some ladies choose to bring their own crafts to work on, but activity kits are available, which the ladies love. Every member is encouraged to be creative and bring forward ideas to share. Some people like to do embroidery, which Beverley can assist with due to her vast experience as a tutor and mentor at the Embroiderers’ Guild. Maxine provides a wide selection of creative ideas for others to participate in and Vivienne assists with ideas of simple crafts which have also been popular.

“Sometimes, as you get older your eyes or fingers don’t work as well as they used to, but when you’ve loved crafting throughout your life there are ways to keep enjoying that passion, even if it means going a little slower,” Beverley said.

“So the theme is to craft something if you want to, but if not, just come along for a cuppa and a chat. The important thing is to be motivated and join in the friendship, rather than sitting at home alone.”

Currently, the Group is making a beautiful “memory quilt” which will be hung somewhere in the new residential aged care facility in Bull Creek. Members of the Group are making appliquéd blocks to help trigger different memories for the residents in the Lodge. One block has a flower garden, another a farm with a windmill and trees and



LtoR Ivy King, Vivienne Rowney, Angela Huggins, Beverley Hewett, Maxine Chambers, Meryl Wilson

yet another block has a washing line with an Eagles’ and a Dockers’ football sock.

Beverley has arranged for a guest speaker from the Embroiderers’ Guild to come and enthrall the ladies with ideas they may care to create.

The Whichcraft? Group welcomes residents from across the AFME to join them. For more information contact Bev (9312 0536), Maxine (9312 0538) or Vivienne (9312 0520).

## Meditation group helps re-energise residents



LtoR Olwyn Walker, Angela Huggins, Ivy King and Pat Morcom.

THE benefits of meditation are clear to a group of AFME residents who take time out from their hectic modern life as part of a meditation group which meets on the Estate each week.

Resident Ivy King leads the group through 45 minutes of peaceful meditation at the Village Hall on Monday afternoons.

Ivy, who has practised meditation for many years, encouraged other residents to consider coming along to the group.

“We meet at 2pm on Mondays and chat for a while and then we get into it. We listen to peaceful music, and I talk the group through breathing and meditation exercises,” Ivy explained.

“It’s not a religious group at all. You leave your problems and the outside world at the

door. It’s a time to relax and focus your meditation towards whatever you wish. It’s wonderful.

“There’s no need for people to sign up to the group or feel a sense of pressure to commit each week, everyone just comes along when they’re able to.”

One resident who attends the group each week said she always leaves the group feeling renewed.

“When meditating as a group I find that you absorb peaceful energy, and you leave feeling really relaxed, calm and collected,” she said.

The Meditation Group collects a \$2 donation from the participants each week, which is donated to the local Women’s Refuge regularly.



## Learmonth Airport Windows Unveiled

By Charles Page

ON 24 April 2015, the Charles Learmonth Memorial Windows were unveiled at Learmonth RAAF and Civil Airport, near Exmouth, WA.

The airport was named after Wing Commander Charles Learmonth DFC and Bar, who took part in the search for HMAS Sydney, the air war in New Guinea, and the Battle of the Bismarck Sea. After his return from New Guinea, Learmonth was appointed Commanding Officer of 14 Squadron, Pearce, but on 6 January 1944 he was killed when his Beaufort crashed into the sea near Rottneest Island, when the elevator trim tab jammed. In his last moments, Learmonth radioed the cause of the problem, and this helped solve what had been up until then, unsolvable Beaufort crashes.

Surprisingly, in 2008, some local businessmen suggested changing the airport

name from Learmonth to Ningaloo. However, this was not approved by the Shire of Exmouth and now to its great credit, the Shire has installed the memorial windows in the airport terminal. The project was coordinated by airport manager Jenny Kox, and the windows were designed by Jesse Brampton, using illustrations from the book Wings of Destiny and artwork by Lionel Thompson.

The unveiling ceremony was hosted by Shire President Turk Shales, who stated, “The people of Exmouth pride themselves on showcasing what is the very important history of the town”. The windows were unveiled by Wings of Destiny author Charles Page and Flight Sergeant Shane Cheney (OIC RAAF Learmonth).

For a further tribute, a large model of the Boston aircraft flown by Charles Learmonth in New Guinea, will be constructed by the local Men’s Shed, and suspended from the airport ceiling.



LtoR Desmond Thorton, Pam and Bob Bell, and Ian Pepper

## Amenities room now open

By Sheryl Munday

RESIDENTS eagerly gathered for the official opening of the long awaited Residents Amenities Room on the Meadow Springs Estate. The room has been named the Edwards/Newton Amenities Room and the ribbon was cut by Judy McCarthy, Branch President and Sheryl Munday, Estate Manager.

Judy said, "I am personally delighted having worked for the past 14 years to get an Amenities Room. This has finally been achieved thanks to Sheryl and Management at Bull Creek. Having achieved this aim I hope the residents will enjoy utilising this facility."

The room is already proving a success. Along with private functions there are many activities which take place during the week.

The inaugural Meadow Springs Residents Branch morning tea was held in June. The monthly morning tea provides new

residents with the perfect opportunity to meet our delightful community and includes a different guest speaker who shares their story.

Resident Tom Needle was the first to break the ice, providing everyone with a brief outline of his interesting life. This was followed by a light quiz emceed by Lyn Boston. The door prize was won by Margaret Giles.

A similar event will be held in July with a mystery guest speaker drawn from our own residents.

Regular activities include art, embroidery, the computer group, bridge and yoga has just commenced on a Saturday morning at 9.30am. A refurbishment project is also underway with recovered chairs adding a splash of colour to the room and painting is planned to commence soon.



## Tribute to Gallipoli

By Colin Woods

A BEAUTIFUL Tribute to Gallipoli concert was held on Sunday afternoon, 14 June in the AFME Chapel with an audience of some 60 people enjoying the music of 18 members of the Applecross - Mt Pleasant C.W.A. Choir under the direction of Deirdre Russell.

Soloists: Kate Russell – soprano, Robert Suann – baritone and Surjo Mazhar – treble, from Year 7 Perth Modern School, along with drummer Caelan Wee – from Year 10 Rossmoyne Senior High School, trumpeter Jack Pettersson, Year 11, and accompanist Pat Connaughton rounded out the list of performers.

The music was chosen from songs of the era

and brought back memories while stirring the vocal cords of members of the audience.

A group of hard working and much appreciated volunteers and MER Branch Committee members put a great finish to the afternoon by serving a delightful afternoon tea in the adjacent Village Hall.

The backdrop featured hand sewn "Flanders Poppies" on a camouflage net backing. This feature was created for WASO, who very kindly loaned it for this concert. Many thanks to John Caskey for setting it up and taking it down to return to WASO.

If you would like this concert presented on your Estate on a Sunday afternoon, contact the Secretary of the MER Branch at Bull Creek on [sec.merbranch@raafawa.net.au](mailto:sec.merbranch@raafawa.net.au).

## National Volunteers Week

By Sheryl Munday

NATIONAL Volunteers Week was the perfect opportunity to formally appreciate the many residents who readily help out in a vast array of areas across RAAFA.

Not only are they contributing with their skills, they are mixing and meeting many people on their way. Volunteering can also bring confidence to ones self-esteem, in the knowledge that you are playing a vital role in helping others and making their day easier and more enjoyable.

welcomed the volunteers on Meadow Springs Estate and sincerely thanked them for their efforts. As the timing of the event tied in closely with the 100 year ANZAC celebrations, the volunteers received a commemorative ANZAC Penny.

So to absolutely all of our volunteers that continue to give tirelessly – Thank You! RAAFA would not be recognisable without your support.



LtoR Evan Beresford and Bob Frazer

## Christmas comes early



Merriwa residents enjoying Christmas in July

By Joyce Johnson

MERRIWA Estate residents had a little taste of Christmas when the Resident's Committee changed their monthly Friday night bistro into Christmas in July celebrations. With over 170 residents and guests attending it turned into a fun filled evening with entertainment supplied by local band Shindig. Guests were invited to come dressed in red and/or green which made the hall come alive with colour.

Our Club set a wonderful table with lots of coloured tinsel and decorations along with plenty of Christmas treats, which set

the festive theme for the night. The meal consisted of sumptuous Christmas style fare.

The raffle prizes also had a festive feel and there was definitely an abundance of items to be won. One specific item, a large floppy stuffed elephant donated by a resident came under particular attention and has now become our new Club mascot. I can't wait to find out his name.

After a wonderful meal, some dancing and lots of fun, the evening was declared a success by all who attended and anticipation is high for the next.

## Amity puts on Albany's biggest morning tea

AMITY Village Albany held what could well have been Albany's biggest morning tea recently, as part of their Australia's Biggest Morning Tea celebrations, fundraising for the Cancer Council WA.

Amity Village recently underwent a village-wide pest inspection by Great Southern Pest Control, which was made easy thanks to the support and cooperation of all the village's residents. While the inspection was taking



Ben, Brad and Beau from Great Southern Pest Control with residents Shirley Brown and June Smith.

place, Amity hosted their Biggest Morning Tea and naturally, the blokes from Great Southern Pest Control were invited to join in.

About 60 people enjoyed a cup of tea and some sweet treats, while listening to an informative talk from the local Great Southern Cancer Council Education Officer.

Incidentally, one of the Pest Control team won a raffle prize!



Louise Crosby and Sharlie at AFME

## Mongol derby

By Penny John

A RECENT visitor to AFME was Louise Crosby and her horse Sharlie. Louise came to talk to residents about the adventure she was about to undertake in Mongolia and show some of the amazing tricks she and Sharlie can do.

In late August Louise will be taking part in the Mongol Derby which attracts around 30 riders each year, recreating Genghis Khaan's horse relay postal system. The riders change horse every 40km and either stay with

herders each night or camp out under the stars. The horses are unbroken, so not only do they have to contend with the harsh conditions but also the challenges of taming wild horses on the go!

The Derby is no guided tour, or pony trek. There is no marked course, no packed lunches, no shower block, nor stabling. That's the whole point, it's just you, your team of horses and a thousand kilometres of Mongolian wilderness and possibly a GPS. The exact course changes each year and is kept secret until shortly before the launch.

Last year the race was won by West Australian Sam Jones who completed the course in eight days. She was the first Australian and only the second woman to win the event.

Louise's grandmother, Kath Lulham, is a member of the National Seniors group who meet on the Estate and she initiated the interesting and successful visit by Louise and her horse.

We wish Louise all the very best for the event.

## National Legacy Day Friday 4 September



LEGACY is looking for volunteers to assist with its annual street appeal in September.

Each year throughout Australia the first week in September is National Legacy Week. The date marks the founding of Legacy in Melbourne in 1923.

Since then Legacy has become one of Australia's most recognized charities caring for the families of deceased war veterans and, more recently, incapacitated veterans.

The annual street appeal is Legacy's major fund raising drive and Legacy is seeking volunteers.

Can you help by shaking a tin and selling Legacy badges and memorabilia?

The focus will be at shopping centres and train stations. Money collected goes towards supporting 7,000 dependents in Western Australia, with home care, holidays and education of Legacy children.

In this centenary year of the ANZAC landings, Legacy's work has never been in greater demand.

If you can assist on the day or know others who may be able to help, please contact Legatee Geoff Leach of Fremantle Legacy on 9384 1516 or [geoffreypleach@yahoo.com.au](mailto:geoffreypleach@yahoo.com.au)



LtoR Gaye, Holly and Mandi

## A family affair

By Gaye King

AMITY Village resident, Gaye King said, "My Mothers Day gift from the family this year was certainly different, it was a Skydive at Jurien Bay".

"Twelve people took the long journey northwards with us and seven made the jump," she said.

The group went through their ground training and then Gaye, with her daughter Mandi and grand-daughter Holly went off in the first plane together. Gaye said, "Each person was rigged up safely with a "Buddy" and then we were launched into space at 15,000 feet to free dive for 1 minute.

"The view was awesome, which I appreciated more after the parachute had opened. A safe landing on the beach brought to an end the most incredible gift ever."

Gaye's family are very proud of their 76 year old Nanna. Next on the bucket list is a Hot Air Balloon flight!

It just goes to prove that you are never too old.

## RAAF graduation ceremony

PILOT Officer Nicholas Matson of the No 239 RAAF Advanced Pilots' Course was the recipient of the RAAFA trophy for showing the most improvement throughout the course. State President, David Peet presented the trophy at the Graduation Ceremony on Friday, 5 June 2015.

Pilot Officer Nicholas Matson was born and raised in Launceston Tasmania. Nicholas completed high school in 2010 at Launceston Church Grammar School before attending the Australian Defence Force Academy where he completed a Bachelor of Technology (Aviation) in 2013.

Nicholas would like to thank his family

and friends especially his parents for their unwavering support throughout his time on the pilot's course. He has been posted to 79 Squadron to fly the Hawk Aircraft at RAAF Base Pearce.

Reviewing Officer Air Vice-Marshal Leo Davies, AO CSC, congratulated the graduates of No 239 for successfully competing one of the most demanding courses in Australia, saying "The award of your pilots brevet, your wings, is the culmination of an extremely challenging course that has tested your drive, commitment, determination, skill, judgement and not least the resilience of your team spirit and relationships. You should feel

proud to be on parade today."

Air Vice-Marshal Davies went on to say there were a lot of new challenges ahead at a time of considerable change. Over the next decade almost all of our weapon systems will be updated and the Air Force needed to adapt as we acquired these new capabilities. The Air Force continues to prepare for the introduction of the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter, the C-27J Spartan Battlefield Airlifter, the P-8A Poseidon and the EA-18G Growler.



Nicholas Matson, David Peet and AVM Leo Davies

Air Vice-Marshal Davies concluded by wishing the Officers every success as they depart to their specialist flying squadrons and build their careers.

# Notes From Branches and Groups

## AAFC Branch

*Peter White*

### Upcoming events

Saturday, 15 August, Branch AGM and Luncheon at AFME, 12noon for drinks.

Saturday, 17 October, Branch Rifle Shoot at Mundaring Rifle Range. Friends/family are welcome and there will be BYO BBQ at 12noon. Please note shoot is to be confirmed from Mundaring, please contact Peter White 9456 4800.

Friday, 6 to 8 November, caravan trip to Narrogin. There is a caravan park available for those with caravans, or a Motor Lodge adjacent for those who don't. Please RSVP with Lou and Marj on 9306 0343.

Saturday, 12 December, Christmas Luncheon, AFME Wings Restaurant.

## Airfield Construction Squadrons Branch

*Janis Purvinskis*

### Branch lunch

On Thursday, 14 May, we held our Branch lunch at the AFA Club in Meadow Springs which was well attended by 30 members and friends. Welcome to Rex Kaye and Peter Strickland. We are always happy to welcome new members and want to include all who served with the ACS, anywhere, at any time. Don't be shy, come and join us, have fun and reminisce about some good and some rotten, old times.

### Travellers returned

Our people have always been wanderers and we welcome them back. Jim and Jessica Gillespie having traveling around Tasmania, then meeting up with Bob and Anne Henley in South Australia. Ron Lopaten travelled to Pt. Kenny enjoying time with his two sons and then onto Canberra to catch up with some old friends.

### Branch AGM

Don't be bashful, put your hand up to serve on our Branch Committee. It is not an onerous job, we meet four times a year, but we do need somebody to run our branch business.

### Upcoming events

Thursday, 20 August, Branch AGM, AFA Club, Meadow Springs, 10.00am.

## City of Perth

*Allan Stewart*

### Branch AGM

Branch AGM, 20 August at 11.00am. All committee positions will be open for nomination, please consider putting yourself forward.

### Upcoming events

Thursday, 20 August, Branch AGM, Meg Olive Room, 11.00am.

Thursday, 17 September, Social Lunch, Mt Henry Tavern.

Sunday, 4 October, Mokine Memorial Service, bus departs AFA Club Bull Creek, 9.00am. Lunch will be available in the Northam RSL.

## European Area Branch

*Jo Naylor*

We will not be holding a Branch meeting in August.

### Upcoming events

Wednesday, 2 September, Branch AGM, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm. Please make every effort to attend.

## Mandurah Branch

*Ruth Poat*

### Membership

At the General Meeting on 18 June we were very pleased to welcome new members Geoffrey and Audrey Fletcher and Peter and Rosemary Hutchings.

### Social

20 members had a very enjoyable evening at the RAAFA Annual Dinner and look forward to participating again next year. We also enjoyed an afternoon at the Tivoli Theatre. The entertainment provided was welcome on a very wet and stormy day.

### Upcoming events

All bookings to be made to Hugh Brett 9587 5043.

Thursday, 20 August, General Meeting, immediately followed by Branch AGM. All Executive positions will be declared vacant and all Executive Members have nomination forms and are pleased to accept your nomination. Happy Hour follows the meetings and a meal costing \$13.50. Entertainment by Greg Clarke, the lead singer of Purple Haze during dinner.

Thursday, 10 September, Evening Casino Trip. Bus departs 3.30pm, returning approximately 9.00pm. Cost \$15, including dinner.

## Meadow Springs Residents Branch

*David Oxley*

### Branch AGM

The Branch AGM was held 17 July and saw the continuation of some Officers and Committee Members, with the election of several new members. We thank those who have concluded their time on our Committee and welcome those who have offered to serve for the coming year.

### Upcoming events

Sunday, 16 August, an outing to Abingdon Gardens.

Tuesday, 18 August, tea and talk in the Amenities Room, 10.00am.

Tuesday, 18 August, Vietnam Vets Commemoration Day Ceremony, at Rose Garden Memorial, Mandurah RSL, bus booked.

Tuesday, 25 August, Chinese meal outing to Pinjarra, Ken and Angie's.

Tuesday, 15 September, Cameo Loretta Fashion Show with spring fashions.

Friday, 18 September, General Meeting followed by a roast meal, 3.30pm.

Sunday, 4 October, Mokine Memorial Service.

## MER Branch

*Colin Woods*

We have set up the following generic Branch email addresses that will continue as Office Bearers change over time, for your use.

President:

pres.merbranch@raafawa.net.au

Vice President:

vpres.merbranch@raafawa.net.au

Secretary: sec.merbranch@raafawa.net.au

Treasurer: tres.merbranch@raafawa.net.au

Shop Coordinator:

shopcoord.merbranch@raafawa.net.au

### Branch AGM

The Branch AGM is on Monday, 10 August where the current President, Colin Woods will step down for personal reasons. Some Office Bearers and Committee Members will be continuing whilst others will step down. All Branch Members are invited to attend this important meeting.

I take this opportunity to welcome the new President and Committee and I wish them all success in keeping the Branch vibrant and of benefit to residents.

### Upcoming events

Cancelled – ABC Studios visit in East Perth, as ladies who ran this are no longer on staff.

Monday, 10 August, Branch AGM.

Thursday, 24 September, The Pie Run coach trip to the Home Bake Shoppe in Bakers Hill for lunch. Bus departs 9.00am. Contact the Secretary for details, visitors welcome.

Wednesday, 11 November, Remembrance Day Ceremony, AFME, 11.00am.

Tuesday, 15 December, Christmas Lights Cruise on the Mandurah Canals, details to be confirmed.

December, Carols by Candlelight, details to be confirmed.

## Merriwa Branch

*Joyce Johnson*

### Upcoming events

Sunday, 9 August, Roast.

Monday, 10 August, Resident Committee

AGM with election of new Committee.

Monday, 10 August, wine tasting, following AGM.

Wednesday, 12 August, Bingo, 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 26 August, Bingo, 7.30pm.

Sunday, 6 September, Fathers' Day roast, 11.30am.

Wednesday, 9 September, Bingo, 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 23 September, Bingo, 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 14 October; Bingo, 7.30pm

## WAAAF Branch

*June Perry*

### Branch AGM

Our Branch AGM has been brought forward one week to 3 August. This has become necessary because the MER Branch has scheduled their AGM for the same day.

Please note our Meetings commence at 11.00am not 10.30am as printed in the last Air Mail. Lunch at the AFA Club at the conclusion of the meetings.

Read the Village Chatter and watch the notice boards for all details.

### Upcoming events

Monday, 3 August, Branch AGM, followed by lunch at the AFA Club, 11.00am.

Thursday, 27 August, Annual Combined Ex-Service Women's luncheon, AFA Club. Tickets are now available.

Monday, 5 October, Summer Fashion Parade and luncheon, AFA Club.

## WRAAF Branch

*Judy Bland*

### Branch AGM

At the July AGM the following Committee were elected:

President – Judy Bland 9311 4401,

gjb41@bigpond.com

Vice President – Gwyn Braun

Secretary – TBA

Treasurer – Lynn Sprigg

All correspondence to:

WRAAF Branch

RAAF Association

AFME, Bull Creek Drive

BULL CREEK WA 6149

### Awards

Congratulations to Lynn Sprigg and Pat Kempton who were recently awarded Certificates of Service and Anne Smith with received a Certificate of Appreciation. These ladies have worked hard for the Branch and are deserving recipients of these awards.

### Upcoming events

Tuesday, 4 August, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm.

Tuesday, 1 September, General Meeting, Meg Oliver Room, 7.30pm.

## Bull Creek AFA Club

Phone: 9311 4460

### Trading Hours



#### Bar

Monday to Thursday, 11.00am to 6.00pm

Friday, 11.00am to 10.00pm

Saturday, 3.00pm to 6.00pm

#### Specials

Monday and Wednesday, Happy Hour 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Monday to Friday, morning coffee and afternoon tea with selection of muffins and cakes available

Monday, \$10 roast of the day lunch

Monday, Chase the Ace 4.00pm to 5.30pm

Tuesday, \$10 fish and chips lunch

#### Counter lunches

Monday to Friday, from 11.30am to 1.30pm

#### Dinner Dance

Friday, 5.30pm to 10.00pm

#### Events

Sunday, 6 September, Fathers Day 3 course carvery lunch \$30 per person.

Saturday, 3 October, AFL Grand Final, includes pie and chips \$8.50.

Friday, 30 October, English Buffet, 5.30 to 6.30pm \$25 per person.

Tuesday, 3 November, Melbourne Cup Lunch \$30 per person.

Residents requiring transport out of volunteer buggy hours, please contact Simon at the bar and we will organise pickup.

## Cambrai Club

Phone: 9304 5401

### Trading Hours

#### Bar

Tuesday and Wednesday, 4.00pm to 8.00pm

Friday, 12noon to 2.00pm

Friday night opening times may vary, contact Club for details

2nd and 4th Friday, 5.00pm to 8.00pm

#### Specials

Tuesday and Wednesday, Happy Hour 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Wednesday, morning tea 10.00am to 11.00am

Tuesday and Wednesday, dinner 6.00pm to 8.00pm Picardy Restaurant

Friday, Happy Hour 5.00pm to 6.00pm when function on

2nd and 4th Friday, Sundowner or Bistro 5.00pm to 8.00pm

#### Events (Booking essential)

Sunday, 2 August, buffet roast 12.00noon to 2.00pm

Friday, 14 August, entertainment by Glenys Hughes, meal optional 6.00pm to 10.00pm

Saturday, 29 August, quiz night, meal optional, 6.00pm to 9.30pm

Sunday, 6 September, Father's Day luncheon 12.00noon to 2.00pm

Friday, 11 September, Footy Fever Sausage Sizzle, 5.00pm, dress in team colours

Friday, 18 September, Footy Fever Sausage Sizzle, 5.00pm, dress in team colours

Friday, 25 September, Footy Fever Sausage Sizzle, 5.00pm, dress in team colours

## Meadow Springs Club

Phone: 9582 5375

### Trading Hours

#### Bar

Monday, 11.00am to 2.30pm

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 11.00am to 6.00pm

Wednesday, 11.00am to 8.00pm

Saturday and Sunday, contact bar staff

#### Specials

Lunch served 12noon to 2.00pm

Monday, roast lunch

Tuesday, fish and chips lunch

Wednesday, Chase the Ace, bingo and horse racing and evening meal

Thursday, Happy Hour 4.30pm to 5.30pm in S/bar

#### Events

Friday, 14 August, a la carte menu

Sunday, 23 August, roast lunch

Saturday, 5 September, buffet dinner dance, \$25.00 per person

Please contact the Club for bookings. Our friendly staff are looking forward to having you join us at Meadow Springs Club.

Come stay in our motel units for just \$66 per night including continental breakfast, bookings on 9582 5375

## Merriwa Club

Phone: Club 9400 3640

Kitchen 9400 3642

### Trading Hours

#### Bar

Tuesday, 12noon to 2.00pm

Wednesday, 12noon to 2.00pm, 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Thursday, 10.00am to 11.00am, 12noon to 2.00pm, 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Friday, 12noon to 2.00pm, 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Saturday, 12noon to 6.00pm

#### Specials

Tuesday to Saturday, bar lunch, 12noon to 2.00pm

Wednesday and Friday, Happy Hour 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Thursday, morning tea 10.00am to 11.00am

Thursday, games night, Chase the Ace 4.00pm to 6.00pm

Friday, Bistro dinner Main Hall, 5.00pm

Saturday, coffee and cake 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Sunday, roast once a month 11.30am to 2.00pm

#### Events

Tuesday, 4 August, movie night, Main Hall, 6.00pm

Sunday, 9 August, roast, Main Hall, 11.30am to 2.30pm

Monday, 10 August, wine tasting, Main Hall, 11.00am

Sunday, 6 September, Father's Day roast, Main Hall 11.30am to 2.30pm

We wish to advise that the Club will be opened at 8.00am each morning for use by the residents.

## Battle of Britain coin available



By John Park

THE Aviation Heritage Museum often stocks commemorative items for sale in the gift shop and at the moment we have a range of special coins produced by the Perth Mint for sale.

Having almost sold out of our allocation of the 100th Anniversary of Military Flight commemorative coins, we're now pleased to announce that the gift shop is now offering the new Battle of Britain 1oz commemorative silver coins, which have been specially minted.

At only \$99 we don't expect the coins will be in stock for long! Ask at the Museum Gift Shop for a look at this beautiful coin.

## Your Division Councillor

Geraldine Carlton  
MBA; B.App.Sci(Nurs); GradCert  
PSM; GradCert HSM; FAICD



Geraldine Carlton

GERALDINE Carlton was appointed to the Division Council in April 2015.

Originally from Northern Ireland, Geraldine emigrated to Australia in 1989. She specialised in operating theatre nursing prior to building a career in management. She held senior nursing roles in PMH and Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) prior to her current role as Executive Director of the Rockingham Peel Group. This Group incorporates RGH, Murray District Hospital, community and mental health services in the Rockingham/Peel regions.

As the Executive Director Geraldine has overseen a \$125M capital

expansion program which enabled the tripling in size and significant expansion of services at RGH and the development of more appropriate community services in the Mandurah and Murray regions.

Geraldine has been a Board member of the not for profit 'Health Round Table' which is an organisation that establishes networks and information sharing to improve patient care across Australia and New Zealand.

Geraldine has a particular interest in safety and quality of services and has been an Australian College of Health Care Standards surveyor for five years.

## SUBMISSIONS FOR AIR MAIL

Deadlines are:

**28 August for October/November issue**

**6 November for December/January issue**

**8 January for February/March Issue**

All Scribes, please note that articles of interest are always gladly received and accompanying photos need to be of a high resolution. You are most welcome to submit prior to the deadline.

Please send articles electronically to [jstearne@raafawa.org.au](mailto:jstearne@raafawa.org.au) in the first instance or via snail mail to Julie Stearne, AFME, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149.

## RAAFA Welfare Team



### NORTH

Vanessa Priestley  
**9304 5280**  
**/ 9400 3778**  
 Cambrai Village  
 and RAAFA Merriwa  
 Estate



### CENTRAL

Carena Slattery  
**9311 4562**  
 AFME Bull Creek



### SOUTH

Angeline Carleton  
**9582 5369**  
 Erskine Grove  
 and RAAFA Estate  
 Meadow Springs



### SOUTH WEST

Irene Smith  
**9841 8311**  
 RAAFA Amity Village  
 Albany

### The Welfare Service aims to:

- Assist ALL MEMBERS to maintain and improve quality of life
- Encourage and maintain independence
- Provide information and referrals
- Link you to services to assist with individual needs

### Events

#### AFME Bull Creek

All events, \$2.00 donation unless otherwise stated, morning tea included.

Please contact Carena for further information and to RSVP.

#### Every Month

Falls prevention clinic commencing Monday afternoons. Small classes run by professional physiotherapist.

Gems Ladies group meeting: Once a month. Great Speakers.

Gentle Gym classes: Every Wednesday with professional exercise physiologist.

Tai Chi classes: Every Monday.

#### August

**Monday, 3 August, 10.00am, Orion Terraces Function Room.**

Meet David Walters from PC Mobile Helpdesk.

Ask as many questions as you like about your computer and get the answers we have been searching for without feeling silly. Family and friends encouraged to attend.

**Tuesday, 4 August, 10.00am, Village Hall.**

Villa Tours presentation.

Feel like escaping the winter blues? Perhaps a holiday would be a good idea. Villa Tours will showcase the many new trips they have available. All welcome.

**Thursday, 6 August, 10.00am, Orion Terraces Function Room.**

Jose Stracke will be demonstrating Mobile Alert.

This could be just what you're looking for, a simple device you can take with you to alert elected people to your emergency. Let's check this out shall we?

**Thursday, 13 August, 10.00am, Orion Terraces Function Room.**

Cooking with Marilyn - an interactive cooking experience.

Cooking for one? Need inspiration with one pot dinners? Come along and watch Marilyn whip up a sumptuous meal. Taste tests included. Bring your friends along.

**Thursday, 27 August, 10.00am, Orion Terraces Function Room.**

Seniors Recreation Council.

Dawn Yates demonstrates pole walking and more. Get information and inspiration to get up and move.

#### September

**Thursday, 10 September, 10.00am to 12noon, Orion Terraces Function Room.**

Larger than Life! You are welcome to journey through this interactive pathway that will celebrate your past, present and future. This is a walk you will never forget, come take it with me. Arrive anytime to do the walk with Nicolette Smith. Sensitive, caring, touching.

**Tuesday, 15 September, 10.00am, Village Hall.**

Have a howling good time with Dingoes WA.

Welcome back the dingoes with plenty of opportunity to pat the dogs and listen to them sing. All donations raised will go to the dogs. Gift items for sale.

#### October

**Thursday, 8 October, 10.00am, Orion Terraces Function Room.**

Eric McCrum is back! Eric will be presenting one of his many incredible adventures. I've heard it said "What this man doesn't know you could write on a postage stamp!" Australian, the planets, plants, flora and fauna. Topic TBC.

**Thursday, 15 October, 10.00am, Orion Terraces Function Room.**

RAC Roadside Community Presentation.

Safe driving for seniors is more important than ever. Refresh your knowledge and regain your edge for driving.

**Thursday, 29 October, 10.00am, Orion Terraces Function Room.**

Paraplegic Benefit Fund (PBF) will speak to us first hand on a level we seldom get to experience. Accidents can cause spinal damage, we know that, but how can we better protect ourselves? PBF is committed to safety. Join us as we learn how to treat our bodies with care.

#### Erskine Grove

Please contact Angeline for more information or to RSVP.

**1st Friday each month, Little Wings Coffee Catch-up, 10.30am to 12noon.**

This is an informal get together, where residents get to interact with the younger generations. You don't have to stay for the whole session, please feel free to stop by and say hello.

**Monday, 17 August, 10.00am to 11.00am, Community Centre.**

Optometrist on Call, Mobile Eye Care, Eye Health Talk.

If you would like to book a full eye examination, appointment times are available after the talk or see the welfare notice board.

### RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs

Please contact Angeline for more information or to RSVP.

**Wednesday, 5 August, 9.00am to 10.00am, Edwards Room.**

Optometrist on Call, Mobile Eye Care, Eye Health Talk.

If you would like to book a full eye examination, appointment times are available after the talk or see the welfare notice board.

### RAAFA Estate Merriwa

#### August

##### Main Hall

Millennium Aged Care Placement Consultants – contact Vanessa for date/time.

Information session on how Millennium Aged Care Placements can assist you and your family in providing all the ground work for the move to aged care. From ACAT information, financials, through to finding a suitable aged care facility, this is a one stop shop. To register, please place your name on the attendance sheet in the arcade.

##### Every Thursday, Welfare Office

TAX Help – A taxation consultant will be available once again on the Merriwa Estate during August. This is a free service provided by the ATO for simple tax claims. For an appointment contact Merriwa Admin 9400 3400, for more information contact Vanessa.

# Bring it to the table

By Angeline Carleton

THROUGHOUT June thousands of people across Australia hosted an event for family, friends and work colleagues bringing the community together to raise vital funds for Alzheimer's Australia and joining the fight against dementia. Our two RAAFA Estates in Mandurah took part in raising funds.

Erskine Grove hosted a morning tea on 26 June. Thank you to all those who were able to attend, we raised \$68. We were very privileged to have two residents share with

the group what it's like for them to live with dementia.

RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs hosted a fish and chip lunch on 30 June and \$2 from every meal sold was donated to Alzheimer's Australia and a total of \$177 was raised.

We also had visitors from Vivian Bullwinkel Lodge travel down by train to join us for lunch. Word from the ladies was they had a wonderful trip and enjoyed the fish and chips.

Events like these are made possible by team work and the volunteers who give up their

time, a very big thank you to all who made these days possible.

I have started putting together some resources about dementia which are available at both Erskine Grove and Meadow Springs Estate. There are help sheets with information for those living with dementia, the families and carers, and many more. If you would like more information please let me know.

If you or someone you know have early stage dementia or memory loss, Alzheimer's WA have a living with memory loss program commencing in Mandurah in early August.

For more information contact the Living with Memory Loss team on 9388 2800 or [lwmlwa@alzheimers.org.au](mailto:lwmlwa@alzheimers.org.au).

The range of topics discussed include:

- Symptoms and diagnosis
- Adapting to changes
- Treatments and research
- Practical strategies to help your memory
- Relationships with family and friends
- Staying positive
- Planning for the future, legal issues
- Community services