



AIR MAIL

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

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

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> WHAT'S
INSIDE



Efforts acknowledged

Max Doust received a Certificate of Appreciation for his long-term and low profile assistance at Cambrai Village where he has lived for more than 13 years.

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Men's Shed

Former farmer Graham Boyles is one of the regulars at Meadow Spring's men's workshop, which also acts as a social hub where blokes get together for a cuppa and chat.

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An incredible life

By **Brendan O'Leary**

THE incredible life of the Hon Kevin Fredrick O'Leary QC, the father of RAAFA's Chief Strategy Officer, Brendan O'Leary, is what could best be described as an extraordinary tale – but one which is at the same time, quintessentially Australian.

Kevin's story in fact begins with his great-great grandfather Christopher O'Leary – whose arrival in Australia was less than illustrious, having been transported as a convict in 1828 for pickpocketing. He was never to see his family in Ireland again and went on to marry and have 12 children.

Within just three generations Christopher's descendant would serve in the Royal Australian Air Force during WWII and go on to become a prominent figure in Australian legal society. You could say this irony represents a full circle of events in the family's history.

Kevin was born on 19 February, 1920, in Sydney, less than 18 months after the end of the Great War.

Brendan says his father came from very humble but loving beginnings. "He always recalled vividly the impact of the Great Depression, not only on his family, but on the whole of the western world."

After completing high school, Kevin entered Sydney University in 1940 to study law, until, as for so many other young Australians at that time, WWII interrupted.

As the world became embroiled in WWII, Kevin joined the Australian Imperial Forces in 1940 and the RAAF in 1942.

Kevin served in Canada as a Bomb Aimer instructor until the war ended. He was stationed near Banff in the Rocky Mountains and held a deep love for the beauty of Canada for the remainder of his life. He detailed the story of his RAAF life in his memoir, *Through Time to Times Anon: A Personal Journey*.

After the war, Kevin returned to university and eventually graduated with Honours in Law in 1948 and was admitted to practice the following year. So began an incredible



Brendan O'Leary with his father's medals and memorabilia

trajectory in Kevin's life, pursuing his passion for the law through an illustrious and accomplished career as one of the eminent legal figures of his era.

Although his positions are too numerous to name, he commenced practising as a solicitor in Sydney. He was called to the Bar in 1957 and was a Barrister at Wentworth Chambers, where he was housed in adjoining offices to John Kerr, Gough Whitlam, Lionel Bowen, and John Howard, who was at that point an Articled Clerk. Oh to be a fly on the wall of those offices!

During this period he was introduced to the love of his life, Patricia Mercedes Burt, whom he married on 15 April, 1950. They went on to have eight children: Catherine, Brendan, Elizabeth, Cecily (deceased 1999), Anne, Clare, John and Jane; as well as 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

In addition to many other prestigious positions, Kevin rose to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. He retired from his legal career in 1987.

Kevin possessed a brilliant mind – evidenced by the fact he spoke and had an intimate knowledge of several classic languages (Classic Greek and Latin); was an accomplished pianist; was both a

voracious reader and prodigious writer of poetry and literature; and an ardent student of philosophy. He was also deeply and abidingly religious.

Kevin spent his retirement years exploring the O'Leary family history and enjoying time with his eight children and ever growing number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In 2001, he was awarded a Centenary Medal for services to the legal profession.

"Dad was a beautiful and grand old man who was our rock and guiding light throughout our lives. He was the best man I have ever known. He was the epitome of integrity, dignity, strength, truth, kindness, gratitude, love and graciousness," Brendan says.

"There is a beautiful Aboriginal quote that my daughter-in-law, Tara, sent to me on Dad's passing: 'We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to grow, to learn, to love and then to return home'."

Kevin O'Leary passed away on 3 August, 2015, surrounded by his family.

Orion Terraces wins Master Builders' award

RAAFA's Orion Terraces retirement living project has taken home a prestigious Master Builders Excellence in Construction Award.

The builder of Orion Terraces, BGC Construction, recently took home the Best Seniors/Aged Care Multi-Unit Development category of the awards for the state-of-the-art development.

Orion Terraces offers 43 ultramodern independent living units within RAAFA's Air Force Memorial Estate in Bull Creek, along with a range of associated services including community function rooms, administration offices, hair dressing salon, doctor's surgery, a village shop and under-croft parking.

Since officially opening in August 2014, Orion Terraces has been at full capacity with a wait-list.

CEO, John Murray said the organisation is delighted the exceptional work of the BGC Construction team on Orion Terraces has been recognised by Master Builders.

"BGC has been working with RAAFA since its first construction on the Bull Creek site in 1969. The long term relationship with RAAFA is a direct reflection of the capacity of BGC to assist us in getting the best possible outcomes for the provision of services to the veterans' and seniors' community of WA," he said.

John said the overwhelming response of the community towards Orion Terraces represents a shift in the options available for people looking towards the next stage of their lives during retirement.

"Many retirees and down-sizers are embracing the trend towards an apartment-living lifestyle which can offer the security of a retirement village community, while still being close to excellent amenities within the local area. Increasingly aged care providers in Perth are responding to that demand, while moving away from other traditional retirement living options," he said.

On the tarmac



State President, David Peet

By David Peet

RAAFA AGM

BY THE time you read this you will have received your voting packages for the RAAFA AGM Division Council elections. It is important that you take the time to review the candidates and have your say on who is on your Division Council. Return your vote before Friday, 23 October.

The AGM is on Saturday, 31 October. Come along and hear the reports of what your Association has achieved over the last 12 months, meet the Division Council and

enjoy some morning tea. We look forward to seeing you there.

Division Council

The August Divisional Council meeting was rescheduled to 9 September, so we have not been able to progress our deliberations on the internal painting review prior to printing this edition. Rest assured this has not been forgotten, and as soon as a decision has been made you will be informed.

RAAFA National AGM, Hobart

I attended the National AGM in Hobart on your behalf from 17 to 22 September. The meeting also included the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain celebrations.

Visits and Meetings

27 July, Korean War commemoration wreath laying at Kings Park.

29 July, Ubon Group dinner at Bull Creek.

10 August, AGM Merriwa Residents Branch.

15 August, Victory in the Pacific commemoration at Kings Park.

15 August, Australian Air Force Cadets Branch AGM Lunch.

16 August, Vietnam Veterans Day wreath laying at Kings Park.

20 August, AGM Cambrai Village Residents Branch.

4 September, RAAF Pearce 240 Course Pilot Graduation.

McIntosh Scholarship available

A reminder that the McIntosh Memorial Scholarship is open for application until 23 October 2015.

This is one of our two scholarships to assist the younger generation with their education. Application forms are available from the Executive Assistant, Julie Stearne on 9311 4449 or on our website. See page four for more details.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is rapidly approaching and it is timely for Branches and Villages to start making preparations for your events.

Membership and Branches

With the march of time it is sad to say that we are starting to see the demise of some of our Branches due to lack of patronage. We would like to take this opportunity to

remind our Members of the benefits of joining a Branch. You may not be aware, but the main function of our Branches is to create an opportunity for fellowship by organising functions, social events and get together for their Members.

We do have some specific Branches related to areas of military service, which you are welcome to join if you fit the specific criteria but not all Branches have restrictive joining criteria.

We also have purely social Branches that are available for all RAAFA Members to join. These include the Mandurah Branch and the City of Perth Branch. Details of some social activities are listed in the "Notes from Branches and Groups" section and you will often see articles about the fun events they hold.

We also have Residents Branches, which at this stage are only available for estate residents to join, but we are looking into also making these available to all RAAFA Members.

Come and join a Branch and gain the benefit of comradeship, continue the RAAFA tradition and participate in some of the many events near you.

Your Division Councillor, John Purchase



JOHN was elected to Division Council in October 2014. He has been a resident of RAAFA Merriwa Estate for six years and for five of those has edited and produced the monthly estate newsletter, "Merriwa Messenger". He is a member of the Mudlarks and Treasurer of the Estate's Computer Club.

Born in London, John served two years National Service 1953-54 with the RAF. Most of that time was spent at RAF Ismailia on the Suez Canal as the administration clerk of the Tented Camp on the far perimeter of the airfield.

Back in London and missing the sunshine, John served as a police inspector with the Kenya Police on a short term contract during the Mau Mau times. Still missing the sunshine, he emigrated to Australia in 1959 working mainly in the finance field in banking and retail, but the major part of his working life was spent in Local Government. He ended up as Treasurer at the City of Geraldton for over 20 years. John is a CPA and holds Diplomas in Local Government in both the administration and finance fields with the qualifications to act as a CEO and Treasurer in municipal councils. John was

at the forefront of bringing computers into WA's local government in the early 1970s and later was part of the State Committee bringing WA Councils into line with Australian Accounting Standards.

Not entirely desk bound and married with two small children, John took some time off in the 1960s to see some of Australia by caravan, working in the Queensland cane fields, the Northern Territory Public Works Department, the South Australian fishing and pastoral industries and Holden's WA plant, assembling cars.

John was a member of Rostrum for many years with an interest in chairmanship and public debate. Another interest was the "not for profit" area and the Associations Incorporation Act. In his spare time he became an amateur builder and built three homes for himself and family.

John is hoping to gain a greater insight into the running and funding of RAAFA (WA Division) and being of service where he can.

Contributions to: Air Mail, AFME, Bull Creek Drive, BULL CREEK WA 6149

Telephone: (08) 9311 4449

Fax: (08) 9311 4455

Email: jstearne@raafawa.org.au

Enquiries: Julie Stearne

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Email: enquiries@raafawa.org.au

Web: www.raafawa.org.au

For Submission deadlines please see page 11

Merriwa a social destination

By Joyce Johnson

CLUB facilities at RAAFA Estate Merriwa are open to all RAAFA members and there is a plethora of organised events where you can get great value for money as well as a little fun.

Looking for a quick and inexpensive weekday lunch? Then we have just what you are looking for with a great menu and great service. The bar is open for lunches Tuesday to Saturday. How about an afternoon tea? Come to our Saturday afternoon tea where you can get a tea/coffee and cake. If mornings are your thing, we offer a wonderful morning tea every Thursday from 10.00am with tea/coffee and a selection of savoury and sweet delights to satisfy any gourmet.

Friday night bistros are our fun night where you can surprise your taste buds. You will enjoy fun company, great food, raffles, chocolate wheel and horse races. What more

could you ask for? Bookings for Friday nights are ESSENTIAL and must be made by 2.00pm Thursday to the bar on 9400 3640.

We also do a special devonshire tea every six weeks and the next one is on 13 October. Again bookings ESSENTIAL at the bar.

Want a fun night out? Come to our Bingo sessions held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Next dates are 14 and 28 October and 11 and 25 November. Eyes down at 7.30pm with great prizes and a raffle.

For something completely different try our movie nights, where we come together in a friendly atmosphere to share old movies. Next shows are 6 October and 3 November. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided, or you can bring along your dinner, snacks or buy some popcorn. Main feature starts at 6.00pm for further details contact Joyce on 9400 3492.

Acting CEO's perspective



Acting CEO, Brendan O'Leary

By Brendan O'Leary

IT'S been a busy few months for our Association as we're in the midst of several key initiatives that will impact and improve the way we operate, while also improving the way we care for our members.

Veterans Support Charitable Purpose

CEO, John Murray, who was on Annual Leave when this edition was prepared, previously provided information regarding RAAFA's Veterans Support Charitable Purpose. I'll leave it for John to bring you

up to date with progress on this front, however, I can say unreservedly that it is a very important and central part of RAAFA. It will be given significant focus by Division Council and the Executive Management to ensure that this key project is fully developed.

Communications and Engagement Protocol

Over the past months we have been working on developing a generic Communications and Engagement Protocol, with assistance from consultants, Creating Communities.

The aim of the project is to assist us in streamlining and improving our communications and engagement with all of our stakeholders; Members, residents, families, staff, and the wider community including local government, contractors and external agencies.

As we are now reaching the final stages of consolidating this process, our Executive Management Team will soon be undertaking a 'roadshow' to all of our Estates, whereby utilising the Protocol to convey our

message initially to our residents and their families. We will, at the same time, have the opportunity to discuss any concerns people might have. A summary of those key points will be reported in future editions.

Strategic Plan

The Division Council together with the Executive Management Team have developed a Strategic Plan, which is underpinned and aligned to RAAFA's vision, mission and core values.

RAAFA's Vision: To be a respected, financially secure, adaptable organisation growing on a broad base of caring and support services.

RAAFA's Mission: To provide camaraderie and supportive care whilst maintaining traditions and heritage for all members of the Division, members and former members of the Australian Defence Force and general community through the provision of facilities and welfare services within Western Australia.

RAAFA's Core Values: Honesty, Integrity, Respect, Openness in dealings, Compassion,

Recognition, Inclusiveness, Benevolence, Healing and Supportive.

As a result of establishing a Strategic Plan for our business, 16 key objectives were identified across four key themes. In my substantive role as Chief Strategy Officer, I will be working with the executive and senior management to ensure the timely execution of the Strategic Plan in order to achieve these key objectives and to realise our Strategic Plan's outcomes.

There are a number of long-term projects also in the developmental and modelling stages at the moment, including progressing towards the accreditation of our retirement villages. This is a significant project in itself, which we expect to work towards over the coming couple of years.

We're also progressing the improvement of our information, communications and operating systems, with several key software programs being implemented presently, including a new HR/Payroll and Roster system called CHRIS21 and iCareHealth.

Annual General Meeting Agenda Programme

The 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Australian Flying Corps & Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA Division) Inc. will be held in the Air Force Association Club, Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek. At 9.30am on Saturday, 31 October 2015

Note: Prior to the AGM, at 9.25am a wreath will be laid in memory of fallen comrades

Chairman

The Chairman will be the State President, Mr David Peet.

Programme

- 8.30am Enrolment commences (please enrol early)
- 9.25am Wreath laying
- 9.30am AGM commences
- 11.00am Morning tea
- 11.30am AGM recommences (if required)

Agenda

1. Declare the 2015 AGM open
2. Fallen Comrades
3. Table the Notice of Meeting
4. Affirmation of Loyalty
5. Confirmation of Minutes
The State Executive confirmed the minutes of the 20th AGM held on 25 October 2014.
6. State President's Report
Mr David Peet, the State President, will deliver his report.
7. Chief Executive Officer's Report
Mr John Murray, the CEO, will deliver his report.

8. Financial Report and Statement

Mr Rob Parker, the Chief Financial Officer, will present the annual financial report.

Note: Any members desiring a copy of the accounts prior to the AGM may obtain a copy from the Division's Head Office during normal office hours upon presentation of a current Division membership card.

Due to the complexity of accounts, if members have any questions it would be appreciated if they could contact the Chief Financial Officer prior to the close of business on Friday, 23 October 2015 so that their questions may be researched adequately prior to the AGM.

9. Correspondence

A letter has been received from Buckingham Palace acknowledging the Affirmation of Loyalty made at the last AGM.

10. Motion

There are no motions to be considered.

11. Declaration of the ballot for vacant Division Council positions

13. Close of AGM

by order of the Division Council,
David Peet, State President

Hidden talents

STATE Vice President, Bill Anderson presented a Certificate of Service at the Erskine Grove Residents Branch AGM in August to a resident with many hidden talents.

Basil Wilton joined RAAFA and moved onto Erskine Grove in February 2005.

Basil has kept a very low profile since moving into the Village and it was only since his hidden talents were discovered that Erskine Grove residents came to appreciate and get to know him better. He is a very talented man and a quiet achiever.

Basil has gradually opened up and has shown his extraordinary skills as an electrician, woodworker, metalworker, blacksmith, plumber or almost any trade



that you can think of. So if you want something done - see if Basil can help - and he usually can.

Basil has served on the Erskine Grove Residents Branch from 2012 to 2014 and could always be called upon for very learned advice and was continuously available to give a hand.

The Erskine Grove Residents Branch had no hesitation in recommending Basil Wilton for a Certificate of Service.

DIVISION COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The following positions become vacant this year:

- State Secretary
- One Division Councillor

Voting Procedure

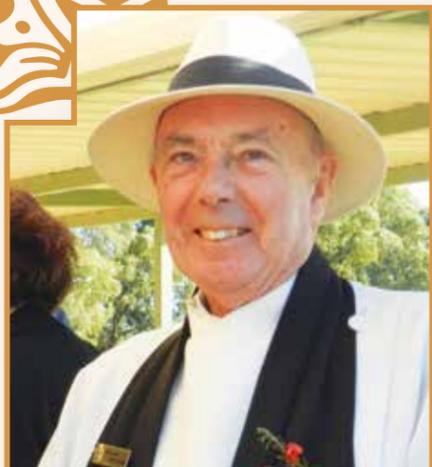
Ballot papers for Division Council election have been sent to eligible members in the Voting Pack under separate mail. It is important that you follow the instructions on the ballot paper and mark your preferred candidates in the available boxes.

There is no voting at the AGM for Division Council positions and all voting is by secret ballot using the ballot papers provided.

Please remember to sign the back of the Returning Officer envelope and post your vote in via Australia Post using the reply paid envelope provided.

The McIntosh Memorial Scholarship is once again open for application.

The Padre's Piece



By Padre David

THESE days you can't walk through a shopping centre without being accosted every few yards by someone wanting to sell you something or get you involved with their cause. In some cases it is openly commercial. They want to sell you the latest curtaining, blinds or roller shutters for home security. They may be demonstrating the latest kitchen appliance in front of a table full of fruit and vegetables ready to be sliced up; or you may be given a 25% off leaflet or a sample of the latest hand cream or facial lotion. Some may be representing organisations such as Greenpeace, World Vision, the Cancer Council, Breast Cancer Research, or maybe Rocky Bay and want you to buy a ticket in their latest car raffle.

On Friday 6 November I'll be joining them!

For a number of years now I have organised a group of volunteers to sell poppies for Remembrance Day at the Meadow Springs Shopping Centre. The Centre very kindly sets up a table right outside Coles Supermarket and shoppers have to walk by our stall with its posters and table, full of red poppies. However we really don't have to have a sales pitch. People are so generous and we get lots of opportunities to chat about our Defence Forces, the service they have rendered Australia and the world and their mental, physical and social needs as ex-service men and women. When we sell the poppies at the shopping centre there is no fixed charge – simply a donation which goes towards the RSL's Welfare Funds.

The red poppy of remembrance has been used since 1921 to commemorate our war dead. Its inspiration was the poem "In Flanders Fields" the opening lines of which refer to the many poppies that were the first flowers to grow in the churned up earth of soldiers' graves in Flanders in WWI. The poem was first published in December 1915 having been written earlier in the year in May by Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae.

The idea of wearing a red poppy was first taken up by an American volunteer with the YWCA, Moina Michael who went on to

introduce it to some of her international colleagues. First the National American Legion adopted it as their official symbol of remembrance and a couple of years later the Royal British Legion. Military veterans groups in parts of the former British Empire followed – Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In recent years there have been a number of controversies about wearing the red poppy for remembrance. In November 2011 FIFA refused permission for the English soccer team to wear poppies on their shirts in the match against Spain, The British Prime Minister, David Cameron and Prince William attacked the decision and a compromise was agreed.

David Cameron also refused the request of Chinese officials to remove his poppy when in Beijing on Remembrance Day 2010. They considered it offensive and associated it with the Anglo-Chinese Opium Wars of the 19th Century.

The poppy is merely an outward symbol – but it's what it symbolises within the human heart and personality that is so important. Respect not for war and battle prowess, but for self-sacrifice for the future good of others; a willingness "to give and not to count the cost" as the great prayer of the founder of the Jesuits - Ignatius of Loyola - in the 16th Century puts it.

On 11 November I invite you to proudly wear your red poppy and at 11.00am pause for a moment to remember those who made that great sacrifice.

Shalom

McIntosh Scholarship Available

The 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 2016 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:

**Julie Stearne, Executive Assistant
RAAFA (WA Division) Inc.
Air Force Memorial Estate
Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek
P: 9311 4449
E: 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 was studying veterinary science at Murdoch University.
- 2013 Lachlan Crossley. Lachlan's grandparents Bill and Brenda Broun reside on Cambrai Village. Lachlan was undertaking a Bachelor of Science at UWA.
- 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.

Introducing our new Operations Manager

A BIG welcome to one of our new staff members, Eric Frahamer, who is the Operations Manager – Hotel Services.

Eric comes to RAAFA with an extensive background in fine dining and catering in Australia and overseas.

Eric is a qualified chef and opened his own highly successful restaurant, Saucier Restaurant, in Melbourne about 15 years ago.

He then moved into operations management with corporate, aged care and education catering organisations Spotless, ISS and Blue Sky Catering before moving to Perth about five years ago for a role with Aurum Catering.

It was during his time with Aurum that Eric developed a specialist focus on aged care catering, as he was responsible for 14 aged care sites around WA.

Having joined the RAAFA team about two months ago, Eric's role will see him responsible for RAAFA's hotel services. This currently involves our food catering and liaising with Managers in relation to food in the Clubs and Aged Care Facilities.

Eric says his first priority is getting to

know RAAFA's staff and residents as he settles in to his new role.

"What I'd like to do is get a clear understanding of our business, so initially I'll be meeting with all the Estate Managers and with residents to understand their needs, requirements and feedback. Through that I'll be looking at our menus, ordering processes, getting to understand more about our business and clientele," he explains.

"And then it's a matter of building on what we already have, to continue providing value for money and outstanding service to RAAFA residents, Members and guests."

He's looking forward to building a strong rapport with RAAFA's team of kitchen and hotel staff.

"One thing I get out of my work is being able to pass on initiatives, trade secrets and efficiencies that I've learned through my career in fine dining and in catering to help staff improve the way things are done –



whether that's the way we present food on plates, understanding the cost factors and ways to motivate and inspire our staff," he said.

Outside of work, Eric is kept busy by his seven-month-old baby boy Judd – and yes, Eric is a Carlton supporter, so was more than happy to agree with his partner Chantel (who's a West Coast Eagles supporter) when she suggested the name!

Eric says he also enjoys keeping fit, being an umpire in the WA Amateur Football League. He enjoys riding his two horses, Buzz and Lightning, when he gets a chance. He also loves cooking fine dining a la carte meals for family and friends.



LtOR Mike Hampson and Charles Page review some of the archives

Australian Air Force Cadets 75th Anniversary

By Charles Page

IN 2016, the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) will celebrate their 75th Anniversary since founding in 1941 as the Air Training Corps. There will be several functions to mark the occasion, and the AAFC Branch of RAAFA will make an important contribution.

The Branch has formed a Historical Subcommittee of Secretary, Mike Hampson and Branch Historian, Charles Page to search the archives and compile records of former 7 Wing (WA) Cadets.

Most of the names have now been collected, and work has begun on an Honour Roll of those killed in service. So far the names of 13 cadets have been identified, with nine lost in WWII, two in the Korean War, one in 1956, and one in 1966.

National Archives, Australian War

Memorial, Commonwealth War Graves, and several other archives have been accessed, enabling the full biographies of these cadets to be compiled. Research is ongoing and other conflicts including Vietnam will be researched, as well as POWs, National Service, peacetime casualties and honours and awards.

All this information, together with members' biographies, memorabilia, photographs and other historical data will be included in a customised DVD or USB and made available for sale. Website access is also being considered.

The data will also be lodged with the National Archives, State Records Office, Aviation Heritage Museum, AAFC HQ and 7 Wing HQ.

This is an exciting project that will ensure our heritage will be retained and the brave deeds of former cadets recognised.

Boost to Amity garden

By Irene Smith

THANKS to our resourceful gardener, Karl Kirby, the beautiful gardens at RAAFA Amity Village Albany have received a facelift and boost from a grand load of local mulch.

Karl, pictured on top of mulch world, is systematically spreading the ground cover throughout all the gardens in the Village.

All the beautiful rose bushes have been pruned back, and if we continue to have the rain and sunshine. Amity is destined for even more beautiful gardens yet again this Spring.



Karl on top of the mulch world!

Aviation Museum Branch

Mini Mart

18 October 2015

The Aviation Museum Branch of the RAAF Association will be running a Mini Mart on

Sunday, 18 October 2015, from 9.00am to 12noon outside the Museum.

Stalls include books, glassware, crockery and other bric-a-brac as well as a sausage sizzle cake stall, and devonshire tea and coffee.

This Mini Mart is one of two held each year to enable the Branch to be able to support the Museum in many ways.

We will also welcome volunteers to help with sales and in any other way, like setting up and dismantling at the conclusion.

If you have a question please contact any member of the committee or the Museum Manager on 9311 4470.

Efforts acknowledged

AT THE August Cambrai Village Residents' Branch meeting, three residents were acknowledged for the help and assistance they provide for their fellow residents.

Marcia Messer, who unfortunately missed the official presentation as she was enjoying her holiday, received a Certificate of Service. Marcia joined RAAFA and moved onto Cambrai Village in April 2001 and since then has been an integral part of the Village, volunteering her services in many different ways.

Marcia has been an active member of the Cambrai Village Residents Branch from 2002 to 2010 and held the positions of Treasurer, Vice President and President.

Marcia was an active member and President of the Social Committee from its inception until it disbanded in October 2011, when she joined the Club Volunteers until 2015. These volunteers assist the Club staff in organising functions for the residents.

The Social and Activities Committee was formed in 2014 to organise functions and trips for residents and Marcia was the Chairperson until 2015. Under her guidance the Committee organised the 15 Year Anniversary Celebrations for the Village and she was also part of the group that organised

the 10 Year Anniversary Celebrations.

Marcia is an ongoing member of the Fete Committee which is a very important financial event for the Village.

Max Doust was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. Max joined RAAFA and moved into Cambrai Village in January 2002.

Bus drivers are not easy to come by, especially good ones, but thankfully Cambrai Village has found Max who has been driving for the residents since 2001. His driving is not just limited to buses, with Max also driving the golf buggy "Genevieve" for the benefit of less mobile residents.

But Max's talents extend past driving. On most days you will find him in the office sorting mail and parcels, thereby freeing up the staff to concentrate on other duties.

Since 2005 he has assisted in sorting the collected newspapers that are in turn sold to a private company, raising valuable money for the Branch.

Max has always been a low profile worker for the Village but is always there to assist in whatever way he can.

Ernie Manns was unable to attend the presentation, but received a Certificate of



Max Doust

Appreciation. Ernie joined RAAFA in December 2001 and moved into Cambrai Village in April 2002.

Since moving into the Village Ernie has assisted the groundsmen with the maintenance and pruning of the gardens. The first impression on entering the Village is of a peaceful, well-run estate.

Ernie reads the ILU electricity metres on a regular basis and also assists in the collection and sorting of residents newspapers.

Ernie drives the Village bus to and from the Whitfords Shopping Centre and acts as a relief driver for the Lodge when required. Ernie also assists in driving the golf buggy "Genevieve", and as part of this service he sets up the morning coffee table in the Club and delivers meals to residents at lunch time.

Ernie is also a Fire Warden for his designated area in the Village.

WA aged care financial solutions

By Vanessa Priestley

ANDREW Hopkins from WA Aged Care Financial Services visited Cambrai Village on 30 July to discuss the process of moving into residential care as well as home care services.

It was a very interesting morning with approximately 70 residents in attendance along with a few family members, which was lovely to see. Andrew provided lots of great financial advice with the latest information from Centrelink, in a plain English format.

Andrew advised, if you are considering moving into an Aged Care Facility to plan ahead and speak to an expert regarding your finances so that you can maximise your assets to your benefit. If you would like to discuss this further please call Vanessa Priestley on 9304 5280 or 9400 3778 to obtain a brochure outlining Andrew's services and contact details.

Thank you to all that attended on the day. I hope you made some sense of the overwhelming world of how to access Residential Care.

Vale Great Escaper Paul Royle

By Charles Page

AFTER the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III, Paul Royle was one of the lucky ones who lived to tell the tale. While 50 of the 76 men were cut down in the prime of their lives, Paul survived to receive a letter from the Queen on his 100th birthday.

Paul grew up in South Perth: "I used to swim in the Swan River, and we took our dinghy out and collected empty beer bottles. After leaving Hale School, I had a job helping to check airfields and then I enrolled at the mining school in Kalgoorlie."

But Paul had the flying bug, and in 1939 sailed for England to join the RAF. After gaining his 'Wings', he joined 53 Squadron, flying Blenheims. In May 1940, he was sent to France and was shot down by Messerschmitt 109s. He was captured on his first operation.

"There was blood everywhere and dead and dying soldiers," Paul said. "All around, was death and destruction. It was an absolute shambles. I held on to a British Army subaltern but he died in my arms."

Paul spent the rest of the war as a POW and was involved in several escape attempts:

"In the Great Escape, I was number 54 out of tunnel Harry and was paired with Englishman Edgar Humphreys. It was freezing cold with deep snow and after two days, we were caught

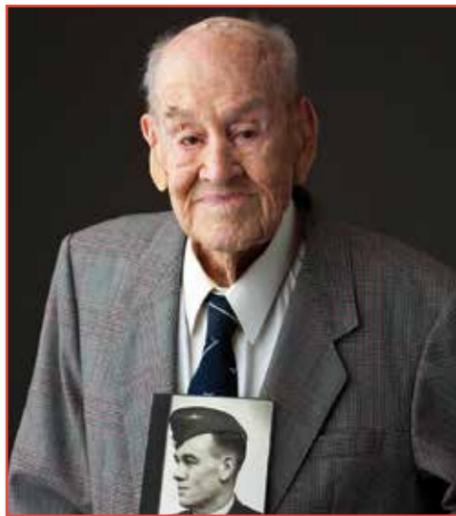


Photo by Garry Sarre Photography

and taken to a local gaol ... dreadful place, old and dirty with three or four to a cell."

A few days later, the killings began and Humphreys was shot by the Gestapo, but Paul was taken back to camp and placed in solitary confinement: "I don't know why I was spared. It didn't make any sense."

Paul was liberated in May 1945: "With the Russians coming, we were marched all over Germany. It was freezing cold and we were shot up by friendly aircraft. Then one day, the British armoured vehicle 'Joan-Ann' drove up and we were freed."

After the war, Paul made a career in mining and engineering projects all over the world.

He returned to Perth in 1980 and enjoyed an active retirement. However, his luck finally ran out when he broke his hip in a fall. He died from complications in Hollywood Hospital on 23 August 2015 at the age of 101.

At the Memorial Service, RAAFA was represented by Branch Historian Charles Page. Paul's son Gordon gave an inspiring eulogy and grandchildren Ben and Amy added their tributes. After the Last Post the Ode was given by RSL State President, Graham Edwards AM.

Vale Jack William Hoare DFC

ON 2 August 2015 we lost one of nature's gentlemen, Jack Hoare at the age of 94.

Jack was born in Shenton Park in 1921 and outlasted his sister and brother. He was brought up in Shenton Park attending Rosalie Primary School and then High School. Jack obtained an apprenticeship qualifying as a carpenter. His trade years were interrupted by the onset of WWII when Jack joined the RAAF, training as a pilot.

Jack was posted to England in 1942 and was seconded into Bomber Command, serving with No. 630 Squadron (RAF) which operated Lancaster heavy bombers out of East Kirkby, Lincolnshire, England. His first flight was a bombing run to Nuremberg and his last flight was on 25 April 1945 over Berchtesgaden. For his outstanding service and courage Jack was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross. Jack's sense of humour is typified by an entry in his "Top Secret" flying log book, viz: "This morning two aircraft were selected for gardening duties. They successfully dropped their veggies on the allotted spot".

Before the war Jack had met Margaret in Rockingham and after constantly keeping in touch they finally married in December 1949. They were happily married for 55 years until Margaret passed away in 2005. Jack is survived by his two daughters Maxine and Lorene, six grandchildren and twelve



great-grandchildren.

After the war Jack continued with his carpentry and became a Master Builder. He formed his own business "Melville Joinery" and moved to Ardross where the family most proudly lived in "the house that Jack built".

Jack got involved with the RAAFA Aviation Heritage Museum in the 1990s as a volunteer and his carpentry skills exist as a legacy with the wall paneling in both hangars, the Jack Hoare gallery which houses the Bomber Command, Pathfinder and Halifax displays and other examples of Jack's craft throughout the Museum.

Jack and Margaret moved onto RAAFA's Air Force Memorial Estate in Bull Creek in 2000.

Jack was a quiet, unassuming, modest man and a good listener. After Margaret's passing Jack found solace with his mates at Table I for lunch at the AFA Club where the woes of the world were daily dissected and resolved.

Jack's family wish to acknowledge the wonderful staff of the AFA Club and the most caring staff of Gordon Lodge for enhancing the last of Jack's years.



Air Commodore G Michael

25 January 1924 – 16 July 2015

After WWII he served with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan with No. 76 Squadron (RAAF). On returning to Australia he instructed at Central Flying School and was posted to No. 11 Squadron as the first Flying Instructor for the newly acquired Neptune Aircraft.

In the mid 1950s Geoff Michael served on exchange with the RAF at Kinloss, Scotland, returning to take up his duties as Flight Commander of No. 11 Squadron. From 1959 to 1963, he held the appointment of Maritime Operations at the Department of Air.

Geoff was given command of No. 10 Squadron at Townsville in 1964. He was posted on exchange duty with the US Navy as Readiness and Training Officer on the staff of Commander Fleet Air Wings Pacific at Moffett Field in California.

Air Commodore Michael held various senior command appointments. His last appointment was that of Officer Commanding RAAF Base, Richmond 1976 to 1979.

Geoff is known for his commitment to RAAFA. After joining in 1977 he was instrumental in forming the Richmond (NSW) Branch in 1978.

He held the position of National President of RAAFA from 1982 to 2005 and was made National President of Honour of the Association in 2005.

He was also the Vice President of the Australian Veterans' and Defence Services' Council (AVADSC) from 1990 to 2010 and Chairman of the World Veterans' Federation Australian Committee since 1987.

Geoff lived a long life and one in which service to his country and fellow servicemen

was of great importance. This is shown in his exemplary military service and the passion he later showed in ensuring the sacrifice of his fellow defence force personnel was acknowledged and supported after WWII.

Air Commodore Michael was awarded the Air Force Cross in 1957, made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1970 and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1978. He was a recipient of the National Centenary Medal in 2003.

An annual award in his honour was instituted in 2012 by RAAFA National Council. The award goes to a RAAFA Member who has rendered exemplary service to the Association and who has enhanced the standing of the Association. In 2014 this award was presented to former WA State President, **Graeme Bland**, who was extremely honoured to be a recipient.



The Amity craft group help the homeless in Albany

Creating a little warmth

By Irene Smith

EVERY Monday afternoon, the Amity Ladies' Craft Group meet to knit, crochet, create and discuss the issues of the world.

When RAAFA Amity Village Albany resident, Pat Biglin heard charity worker, Greg, discuss his work with homeless people (during an interview on the radio) and his need for donations, she invited him to come and talk to the Amity Craft Group.

As a result, the ladies are busy knitting socks, beanies and gloves for Greg to distribute to approximately 80 homeless people in Albany. We all know how cold it can get in Albany!

The ladies also donate to other organisations, including small rugs and leg warmers to the local nursing homes and baby rugs to the maternity section of the Albany Health Campus.

The lovely and practical donations are most appreciated.



Pinjarra visit

By Eileen Oxley

THIS is our merry band of Meadow Springs residents who enjoyed lunch at a Chinese Restaurant in Pinjarra on Tuesday, 25 August.

Lunch was followed by a quick stop at the pie shop, not that we needed any more to eat and then we went on to the chocolate factory in Mandurah for coffee and cake.

Our wonderful and patient driver was Neil Bonito a new chum. Hopefully we haven't frightened him off from providing such efficient service again.

Burma Railway

RAAFA Amity Village Albany resident, Neil MacPherson OAM gave a most insightful talk to fellow residents in June on "The Burma Railway, Hellships and Coalmines". This also happens to be the name of a book that he has written on the subject.

Neil is the Vice Chairman of the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association. This is an organisation run by volunteers, including surviving ex-prisoners of war (POW) of the Japanese during WWII who worked on the Burma-Thailand railway. The organisation has the following objectives:

"To perpetuate the memory of the privations and sacrifices of Australian and Allied POWs and the selfless dedication of the medical personnel during the construction of the Burma-Thailand Railway by informing current and future generations through all forms of education and particularly with the annual Quiet Lion Tours to the Burma Thai Railway; the River Kwai; the Three Pagoda Pass; ANZAC Day at "Hellfire Pass" and Kanchanaburi War Cemetery".

The Quiet Lion Tours commenced in 1985 and travel to Thailand to pass on the legend of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop, during and after the war, to young people. The aims of subsequent tours was to provide young Australians with a role model who represented virtues of honour, courage, compassion and devotion to duty.

The purpose expanded to pass on the story of the Burma-Thailand Railway and remember the sacrifices of all who slaved on it – those who paid the ultimate price at the time and since – and the survivors.

Children's Christmas Party 2015



Sunday, 6 December
at 12noon

AFA Club, AFME Bull Creek

Cost \$20 per child.

Sausage sizzle 12noon - 1.30pm.

Father Christmas, face painting, crafts, animal farm and balloon fun

Tea and coffee, full bar service (no BYO)

For further information contact Judy Bland 9311 4401

Complete the registration form and return (along with \$20 per child) to RAAFA Head Office by Friday, 27 November 2015.



2015 Children's Christmas Party Registration Form

Parent/Grandparent Name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Child's name: _____

Age: _____

Sex: _____

Child's name: _____

Age: _____

Sex: _____

Child's name: _____

Age: _____

Sex: _____

Note: For children 12 years or under, but young teenagers welcome

Social movie experience

By Joyce Johnson

AFTER much talking and poll taking we finally came upon a formula to provide a social atmosphere to share a movie experience on RAAFA Estate Merriwa.

Tuesday, 4 August was the premiere event with good attendance. Giving residents chances to increase their social networking is a prime goal of the Branch Committee and we believe this movie night provides such an outlet.

The Main Hall was re-arranged with the new lounges spread out to make comfortable seating. We even had people arriving an hour early to secure their spots, bringing dinner with them so they could settle in for an enjoyable evening.

Free tea, coffee, biscuits and water were provided, while cheese platters could be pre-ordered from the bar to enjoy during the movie. You cannot have movies without popcorn, so we also arranged for bowls of popcorn, at 20 cents each.

Our movie was chosen by popular poll and was the classic "My Fair Lady". Not realising the length of the movie we were all pleasantly surprised when intermission was announced. By the end everyone had enjoyed a wonderful evening with friends and spent quality time out of their homes using the facilities of our estate. Our new projection system made the screening in high definition enjoyable.

It was such a success we are repeating the experience soon.

A touch of class

By Joyce Johnson

THE residents of RAAFA Estate Merriwa were treated to a little bit of pampering when we held our inaugural Devonshire Tea on Tuesday 14 July.

Bookings were essential with premier positions on our new lounges snapped up quickly by the 53 residents that attended. Full table service was provided with tiered plates of sweet and savoury delights. There were many delicious morsels to tempt our

taste buds and surely put on a few kilos around the waist.

The afternoon was wonderfully relaxing with pleasant conversation, friendly company and of course great service and food. All attendees were made to feel special with the individual service they received and pampering was indeed the catch phrase for the day.

If you missed our first one be sure to book



early for 13 October when you can take advantage of the experience offered. Get your bookings in early as places are limited.



‘Meadow Springs’ a popular choice for local retirees

RAAFA's Meadow Springs Estate is a popular lifestyle choice for retirees who enjoy the convenience of living near amenities while being close enough to the ocean for the occasional trip to the beach.

The thriving community at Meadow Springs offers 268 independent living units, as well as 19 assisted living independent units. The Estate is also home to RAAFA's 96-bed care facility, McNamara Lodge.

Meadow Springs Estate Manager, Sheryl Munday said the Estate is a fantastic place to be.

“We have everything you could possibly need on our Estate. The amenities are terrific and include outdoor bowling and croquet greens, tennis courts, outdoor swimming pool, indoor heated therapy pool, chapel, workshop, BBQs, Clubhouse, restaurant and a licenced bar. Services include a hairdressing salon, beautician and podiatrist,” she said.

With our on-site kitchen, hot cooked meal services are ready and waiting for residents, providing an excellent alternative for in home meals.

“The community here is so welcoming and we have a number of fantastic clubs and activity groups including indoor carpet bowls, card groups, art and craft groups, yoga, line dancing and boot scooting.

“We are close to the shops, not far from the beach and rivers and of course Mandurah is a great place for crabbing and boating. We have a large caravan and boat parking area onsite for residents who like to get out and about, with the added benefit of no additional parking charges.”

Sheryl said Meadow Springs offers a caring supportive environment for seniors who need an extra hand while continuing to live independently in their own homes.

“To help ensure our residents are supported as best as possible, our Welfare Officer, Angeline Carlton is on hand to link residents

to relevant support services and we also have a Department of Veterans' Affairs advocate,” Sheryl said.

In partnership with Mercy Care, RAAFA is also able to offer AFA Level 2 Care packages within the Estate. AFA Care is the In-Home Community Care arm of RAAFA which also provide personal care, medication prompts and nursing services to Veteran Affairs clients (DVA).

To help provide flexibility for residents whose family come to visit, Meadow Springs also offers four motel units for short stay visits.

“All in all, there's always something happening here – it's a really warm and welcoming community which is buzzing with activity. The residents here really look out for each other,” Sheryl said.

“In addition we have a friendly team of staff who are committed to providing excellent service, and making our residents home an enjoyable place to be.

Meadow Springs also offers a variety of volunteering opportunities for residents, Sheryl says.

“If you're thinking of moving in, but worried you might have too much time on your hands, why not try volunteering – volunteers are most welcome! Perhaps you might like to drive ‘Herbie’ our dedicated golf cart that transports residents around the village,” she said.

“If you have a bus license we are also in need of volunteer bus drivers. The shopping bus goes weekly to the forum and new drivers are always appreciated.

“Some of the other volunteering options available include assisting in the library or office, flag raising, table setting, recycling, bus washing and resident committees for Estate, Branch, Chapel and Club, just to name a few.”

Residents bowled over



AS FANTASTIC as outdoor bowls can be, the game isn't to everyone's taste – which is why there's a thriving indoor bowls club at RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs.

The Meadow Springs Indoor Bowls Club meets twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Estate Clubhouse.

The club is run by Les and Pat Wilkinson, who are joined each week by up to 24 players who range in age from late 70s to mid-90s – although in the winter months the lure of the grey nomad life tends to deplete the group's numbers.

The group has been running for about 16 years now, with Pat and Les at the helm for 13 of those years.

Les explains the group's main aim is to have fun while staying active.

“We don't always go by the rule book, we play strictly for fun – at the end of the

games, half the time we don't even know if we won or lost and we don't care, that's the way we play it,” he says.

“We do have some players who are good enough to go into the comps, but everyone says ‘we're happy as we are’.

“The club usually plays for about two hours, with a coffee at half time to keep our strength up too.”

Les says anyone who is interested in joining the club is welcome to do so – men in particular.

“We are a little short on gentlemen at the moment, so more gents in particular are welcome to join us,” he said.

“And if you'd like to join but don't know how to play bowls, don't worry because we provide lessons for beginners. We try to keep things as flexible and easy-going as possible; it's always a great afternoon and a good way to meet new friends too.”

Life is peachy at the Mews for Betty



LIFE is pretty peachy for RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs resident Betty Boon, who has lived in the Assisted Living Units in The Mews for the past two years.

88-year-old Betty came to Meadow Springs after having a dramatic accident while living on her family property in Gingin – her heart stopped in the shower one day, which caused her to fall and break her back.

A friend visiting for lunch found Betty three hours after her fall – and after significant time in hospital and rehabilitation to regain her health, Betty's family began to look for a supported independent living environment for her to call home.

Now Betty is one of 19 residents who call The Mews home. The Mews offers one-bedroom independent units for single people and couples, who wish to live independently while accessing a minimal amount of assistance each week.

RAAFA Welfare Officer, Angeline Carleton

says the Assisted Living Units at The Mews are for people who need “a little bit of extra support” around the home.

For Betty, this means having a cleaner visit her unit once a week, to help tidy up around her home, while for other residents this means they can access domestic assistance or help in the garden, depending on their specific needs.

“Coming from a large property initially I found it was a big shift moving here as the new kid on the block, but now I'm happy as a lark,” Betty said.

“Everyone knows me now and people always make an effort to say hi and have a chat. I play indoor bowls twice a week and there are so many other activities to keep you busy.

“I love my garden; I'm out in that all the time and I'm in the environment now to get extra help if I need it.”

Men's workshop a hub of activity

NO JOB is too big or small for the talented blokes at the thriving RAAFA Meadow Springs Estate Men's Workshop.

The well-resourced workshop is a hub of activity each day, which draws residents of all walks of life together in the name of craftsmanship.

In fact, the Men's Workshop is so well known that it's one of the reasons Meadow Springs resident Graham Boyles decided to live at the Estate.

A former farmer and agricultural business owner, Graham is now the Treasurer/Secretary of the Men's Workshop and he reckons it's a pretty unique place.

"The workshop is more than just a workshop – it's a meeting place for the fellows to come down and meet and greet. It gets them out of the house and allows them to and have a social outing," Graham says.

"We always have morning tea each day, just for a chat, so it's a facility that is utilised by many residents who come either for a purpose, to do some repairs, make things, or just for company."

On a daily basis Graham says you can find anywhere between five to ten blokes tinkering in the workshop.

"We have some people who come along every day – it's their hobby and they come

down have a cuppa and do their little jobs. But we also have people who might come in once a week or once a month to do what they need to do," Graham says.

"The workshop is open to all Meadow Springs residents – if you want to come in and do some work, the only condition is that we provide an induction to show newcomers how to use the machinery safely."

Collectively the men who frequent the Men's Workshop boast an impressive array of trades and experience – which means they're the go-to experts for Estate residents who need to request odd jobs and repairs.

"The people that frequent the workshop are of various trades and professions, so it allows us to repair or manufacture virtually anything from electrical, to steel, to woodwork," Graham says.

"We have some extremely competent people, for example one of the gents is a fully qualified technician who can play around with TVs and computers and another is a musician who is also a craftsman, so he is able to lend his hand to almost anything.

"Then we have a retired professional cabinet maker, he makes quite a lot of exceptional quality furniture.

"So anyone in the village who wants some work done invariably ends up coming to us. It's all done voluntarily, but normally we



Graham Boyles

do ask people to make a donation to the workshop in lieu of payment."

The community minded blokes also offer a range of pro bono type support for the Estate. The talented craftsman create a range of items for sale – from beautiful children's toys to camping furniture, with the income generated from these sales going right back into maintaining their equipment or donated to charitable causes.

In addition, the gents from the workshop help distribute donated furniture to local op shops and they also offer a tyre-pressure

pump service for Estate residents.

The group holds an annual Christmas function and also arranges regular social functions for ladies whose husbands have been part of the workshop over the years.

"It's an extremely important part of the village – we always have people stopping by to say g'day and ask what we're making today. It really brings people together," Graham says.

The Mavericks take on Alzheimer's

RESIDENTS at RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs and Erskine Gove are teaming up to take on some of the stereotypes that surround dementia and Alzheimer's disease. They are part of a new social group for people living with memory loss, known as The Mavericks club.

As part of a partnership between RAAFA and Alzheimer's WA, the new social group kicked off in September, aiming to bring together residents who have been diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

Meadow Springs Welfare Officer, Angeline Carleton was approached by Alzheimer's WA Mandurah branch to start The Mavericks, after the organisation realised there was a growing need for such a group within the local community.

"Alzheimer's WA approached me to see whether an in-house club for people who live with memory loss would be well-received by our residents and I thought it was a great idea," she said.

"The aim of the group is to engage with people who might find the prospect of attending groups in the wider community a little daunting, either because of the travel or time commitment. It's a social group, so we'll have morning tea and lunch together, there will be different activities on offer, and of course a chance to have a chat and see



what people want to get out of the group.

"The group is going to meet regularly at Erskine Grove on Tuesdays from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Alzheimer's Mandurah has arranged transport for Meadow Springs Estate residents to take part in the club.

Angeline said The Mavericks hoped to dismiss some of the stereotypes that people might have about memory loss.

"There's sometimes a perception out there that if a person is diagnosed with dementia 'that's it'. But that's not correct. People who live with memory loss are still very much a part of the community," she said.

"If you're diagnosed with dementia one day, it doesn't mean you need to pack up and

move into care the next day. Many people can continue to live independently with dementia, again depending on the type and stage of the condition."

How do I join The Mavericks?

For those residents who already access services/supports through Alzheimer's Australia WA, details can be obtained from their Mandurah office on 9535 8772 to check eligibility.

For those who are not receiving any support/respite services please call the Home and Community Care Regional Assessment Services on 1300 785 415 to arrange for an assessment and referral to social support groups with Alzheimer's Australia WA.

Meadow Springs Art Show

27 to 29
November 2016

Friday and Saturday
9.00am to 5.00pm

Sunday
9.00am to 4.00pm

**RAAFA Estate
Meadow Springs**
41 Portrush Parade,
Meadow Springs

Original paintings of
the best quality.
Free admission,
ample parking.

Notes From Branches and Groups

AAFC Branch

John Clifford

Branch AGM

Our Branch AGM has been held and the new committee has been appointed as follows:

President - John Clifford
 Vice President - Rex Kay
 Secretary - Michael Hampson
 Treasurer - Sean Kinsella
 Newsletter Editor - Peter White
 Historian - Charles Page
 Events Co-ordinator - Louis Puccinelli
 Committee Members:
 Graeme McGlashan
 Paul Falconer-West
 Robert Caldera

We note that due to John's untimely death that his place will have to be filled.

History

A sub-committee to research and produce a historical record of the Air Training Corps has been formed.

Upcoming events

October, Rifle Shoot, arrangements are under way.

Saturday, 12 December, Christmas wind-up function, Wings Restaurant.

Airfield Construction Squadrons Branch

Ron Lopaten

9535 7830 lopaten30@iprimus.com.au

We are looking forward to welcoming new members who have served in Airfield Construction Squadrons. For further details contact Ron.

Branch AGM

At our 18th Branch AGM on 20 August the following committee was elected:

President - Bob Henley
 Vice President - Ron Lopaten
 Secretary - Janis Purvinskis
 Treasurer - Jim Gillespie
 Social Secretary - Bev Gilmour
 Floor Member - Ray Smith

Upcoming events

Thursday, 17 December, ACS Christmas lunch, AFA Club Meadow Springs.

Aviation Museum Branch

John Harris

Mini Mart

The Aviation Museum Branch Mini Mart will be on Sunday, 18 October 2015, 9.00am to 12noon outside the Museum. Stalls include books, glassware, crockery, bric-a-brac and a sausage sizzle, cakes and Devonshire Tea and coffee.

We welcome volunteers to help with sales, setting up and dismantling. Any question, please contact any member of the committee or the Museum Manager.

Branch Meetings

Branch monthly meetings will now be held on the third Saturday of each month in the Meg Olive Room, 9.00am to 10.00am. Tea, coffee and nibbles will be available at the conclusion of the meeting.

This change from an evening meeting to a Saturday morning is to encourage more members and volunteers to attend Branch Meetings at a more reasonable hour. Come along and let's have some ideas to make our meetings more interesting after the formal part.

Upcoming events

Saturday, 17 October, Branch Meeting, Meg Olive Room 9.00am.

Sunday, 18 October, Mini Mart, 9.00am to 12noon outside Museum.

Saturday, 21 November, Branch Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 9.00am.

Saturday, 19 December, Branch Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 9.00am.

Cambrai Village Residents Branch

Lindsay Lane

lindsaylane1543@hotmail.com

We welcome new members from Cambrai Village. For further details contact Lindsay.

Branch AGM

Our AGM was held on 20 August and was strongly supported by 113 residents and 29 apologies received. During the AGM certificates of Appreciation and Service were awarded to three residents by our State President. Two nominations are at National Council awaiting evaluation.

The previous committee members were all re-elected with the addition of one new committee member.

Remembrance Day

Expressions of Interest have been extended to all residents who wish to participate in the Wreath Laying ceremony for the upcoming Remembrance Day (11-11-2015). The idea is to involve as many residents as possible outside of the Commemorations Committee.

Mindarie Senior College

Cambrai is maintaining their close relationship with Mindarie Senior College with three visits to the College. Three groups of 15 residents participated in assisting the students in their Community Services Certificate Course. They enjoyed a morning tea whilst spending an hour in different groups sharing interaction with the students. The students were given the opportunity to see how they related to our senior citizens which is an integral part of their course.

City of Perth Branch

Allan Stewart

9311 4375

We are looking forward to welcoming new members from Bull Creek and surrounding

areas. For more information contact Allan.

Branch AGM

The AGM was held on 20 August and unfortunately no one put their hand up to be President so we don't really qualify to be a Branch, but we wish to continue as a social group and possibly with new members, will get up and running again.

Upcoming events

Sunday, 4 October, Mokine Memorial Service. Bus departing AFME Bull Creek. Contact Allan for more details.

Mandurah Branch

Ruth Poat

Branch AGM

The Branch has had its AGM and the Branch Committee is as follows:

President - Ron Gregor
 Vice President - Hugh Brett
 Secretary - Ruth Poat
 Treasurer - Shirley Yeomans
 Membership - Frank Poat
 Raffles - Hillary Rose
 Committee - Diana Gibbs
 Committee - Peter Brophy

Upcoming events

Thursday, 15 October, General Meeting, Middleton Hall, 4.00pm.

Thursday, 10 December, Christmas lunch, 2 courses, \$25.00 for Members after Branch subsidy of \$6.50. Entertainment by Peter Williams.

Saturday, 17 December, Christmas General Meeting, Middleton Hall, 4.00pm.

Meadow Springs Residents Branch

Eileen Oxley

With the availability of the amenities rooms in the club, several new activities have been arranged and enjoyed by our residents. These include a monthly Sunday Movie presentation and a regular 'Tea & Talk Tuesday' morning with guest speakers drawn from our residents.

A Sunday excursion to the Mandurah foreshore was enjoyed by a number of residents as was a recent visit to a Chinese restaurant in Pinjarra for lunch.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 4 October, Mokine Memorial service.

Sunday, 18 October, Craft Fair.

Tuesday, 20 October, 'Tea & Talk' special presentation of 'Stay on your feet'.

Sunday, 25 October, Movie.

Tuesday, 27 October, visit to Peel Zoo for BBQ lunch.

Sunday, 8 November, bus outing.

Tuesday, 17 November, 'Tea & Talk' morning.

Sunday, 22 November, Christmas concert by 'Heart & Soul'.

Sunday, 29 November, Movie.

Tuesday, 1 December, Canal trip for Christmas lights.

Monday, 7 December, Residents' Branch Christmas lunch.

MER Branch

Judy Bland

Branch AGM

At the recent AGM a new Committee was formed and we hope to continue the good work done by the retiring Committee.

Generic email addresses for the Branch have been created and are as follows:

President - pres.merbranch@raafawa.net.au
 Secretary - sec.merbranch@raafawa.net.au

Upcoming events

Wednesday, 11 November, Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held under the Spitfire at 11.00am.

Sunday, 13 December, Carols by Candlelight by the Lake.

December, Christmas Lights Tour. Details to be provided at a later date.

Merriwa Branch

Joyce Johnson

joycejohnsson54@gmail.com

We welcome new members from the Merriwa area. For further details contact Joyce.

The last few months have been very busy and with Christmas fast approaching the next three will continue the same.

Penrhos College visit

A visit to Penrhos College on 28 July for their yearly theatre production was enjoyable. It was a compilation of productions from the last ten years, by a varied and talented cast.

Branch AGM

We held our AGM on 10 August with the election of the committee for the next 12 months. After this meeting we held a wine tasting so residents could sample and comment on additions to the range. This proved very successful with lots of good feedback.

Other events have included Movie Nights, Devonshire Tea, Sunday roast and a Fathers Day extravaganza.

Upcoming events

Sunday, 4 October, Mokine Memorial trip and lunch at Northam RSL.

Monday, 5 October, Residents Committee meeting.

Monday, 12 October, Bi-Monthly resident meeting.

Tuesday, 13 October, Devonshire Tea.

Saturday, 31 October, RAAFA AGM, AFME Bull Creek, doors open 8.30am for 9.30am start.

Monday, 2 November, Residents Committee meeting.

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, \$10.00 roast of the day lunch
Monday, Chase the Ace 4.00pm to 5.30pm
Tuesday, \$10.00 fish and chips lunch

Counter lunches

Monday to Friday, from 11.30am to 1.30pm

Dinner dance

Friday, 5.30pm to 10.00pm

Events

Saturday, 3 October, AFL Grand Final, includes pie and chips \$8.50
Friday, 30 October, English Buffet, 5.30pm to 6.30pm \$25.00
Tuesday, 3 November, Melbourne Cup Lunch \$30
Residents requiring transport out of 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

Events (Bookings essential)

Sunday, 18 October, buffet 12noon to 2.00pm
Tuesday, 3 November, Melbourne Cup luncheon, 11.00am to 2.00pm
Thursday, 31 December, New Years Eve function with entertainment, 7.00pm

Bar Closed

Thursday, 24 December 2015, reopening Tuesday, 5 January 2016 except for New Years Eve function 31 December 2015

Langley Hall on Monday 5 October. Next year the Winter and Summer Parades will be arranged by Fay O'Brien for the MER Branch. Many thanks to Fay for her help for our Branch.

Upcoming events

Monday, 5 October, Fashion Parade, Langley Hall.

WRAAF Branch

Judy Bland

9311 4401

Good luck to those going to Coolangatta for the National Reunion, I'm sure a good time will be had by all.

Upcoming events

Tuesday, 6 October, General Meetings, Meg Olive Room, 7.30pm.
Tuesday, 3 November, General Meeting, followed by a Chicken/Champagne Supper, Hat Parade and Duck Race, 7.00pm.
Saturday, 14 November, Annual Lunch at the AFA Club, Bull Creek. Further information is in our WRAAF Newsletter or ring Judy.

Meadow Springs Club

Phone: 9582 5375

Trading Hours



Bar

Monday, 10.30am to 2.30pm
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10.30am to 6.00pm
Wednesday, 10.30am to 8.00pm
Saturday and Sunday, contact bar staff

Specials

Monday to Friday, morning tea from 10.30am. A variety of scrumptious cakes available at low prices!
Monday, roast lunch \$12.00
Tuesday, best fish and chips lunch in town, \$10.00
Wednesday, Chase the Ace, bingo, horse racing and evening meal. Small dinner serves now available for \$11.50 – regular size \$13.50.
Thursday, Happy Hour 4.30pm to 5.30pm, Sports Bar.

Counter lunches

Monday to Friday, 12noon to 2.00pm

Events

Friday, 9 October, Fine Dining in the Beaufort Restaurant, 6.30pm
Thursday, 15 October, Mandurah Branch meeting and dinner
Sunday, 18 October, Craft Fair
Friday, 30 October, Buffet and Champagne Divas
Please contact the Club for bookings. Our friendly staff are looking forward to having you join us at Meadow Springs Club.

Motels

Time for a getaway? You can book a stay in one of our motel units for just \$75.00 per night (including continental breakfast). Bookings essential on 9582 5375.

Merriwa Club

Phone: Club 9400 3640
Kitchen 9400 3642

Trading Hours

Bar

Tuesday and Friday, 12noon to 2.00pm
Wednesday and Saturday, 12noon to 6.00pm
Thursday, 10.00am to 6.00pm

Specials

Wednesday, Happy Hour 4.00pm to 5.00pm
3rd Wednesday, Offal Club 12noon to 2.00pm
Thursday, morning tea 10.00am to 11.00am
Thursday, games night, Chase the Ace 4.00pm to 6.00pm
Friday, Happy Hour 4.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday, dinner main hall 5.00pm to 9.00pm
Saturday, coffee and cake 2.00pm to 3.00pm
Sunday, once a month roast

Counter lunches

Monday to Saturday, 12noon to 2.00pm
Sunday, lunch 12noon to 2.00pm once a month

SUBMISSIONS FOR AIR MAIL

Deadlines are:
6 November for December/January issue
8 January for February/March Issue
4 March for April/May 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 in the first instance or via snail mail to Julie Stearne, AFME, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149.

Merriwa Branch (cont)

Sunday, 8 November, Merriwa Mini Fair, 9.00am to 12noon.
Wednesday, 11 November, Remembrance Day.
Friday, 4 December, Residents Committee Xmas dinner.
Wednesday, 9 December, Club Xmas Lunch.
Monday, 14 December, Bi-monthly Residents meeting.

WAAAF Branch

June Perry

june.r.perry@gmail.com

There was no change of Office Bearers for 2015/16 at our AGM held on 3 August, 2015.

Next year on March 2016 we will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the WAAAF and are planning the usual Reunion Luncheon.

Branch members were invited to Pearce to attend the Graduation of No 240 Advanced Pilots Course on 4 September. A RAAFA bus was booked and Members looked forward to the occasion.

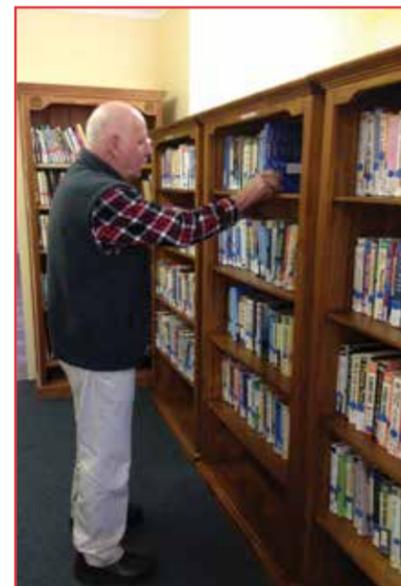
The very last Fashion Parade and luncheon sponsored by our Branch will be held in

Amity book worms

Residents at RAAFA Amity Village Albany are most appreciative of the six boxes of large print books donated by the AFME Library at Bull Creek. Our avid readers now have a new range of books to peruse.

Many thanks also to the Amity Library Coordinators, Margaret and Alan Stone, for cataloguing, standardising and shelving the new books.

Alan and Margaret organised another bookcase to accommodate the new arrivals, plus passed surplus culled books from the Amity Library to a local charity.



Alan Stone perusing the selection

New St John's Patient Transfer Service set to benefit RAAFA residents

GETTING to and from hospital, doctors and specialists appointments can be tricky sometimes – but thanks to a new transport service, RAAFA Members and residents now have easier access to medical hubs.

The new St John Patient Transfer Service offers affordable, easily-accessible transportation and is available Monday to Friday across the Perth metropolitan area.

The pricing structure allows clients to budget their expenses based on their travel needs per month and not incur mileage fees that other companies may charge. The service also allows for ride-along companions, to help ensure client safety and care.

RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs resident, Bob Bell, recently used the service to travel from Mandurah to Hollywood Hospital in Perth, where he had an early 8.00am appointment.

"I was speaking with the HACC people in Rockingham about getting to and from my appointment and they suggested I try St

John's and that is how it started. I believe I was one of the first clients to use the service because it only started on 1 July," Bob said.

"It was a nice car and a very pleasant driver who took me to my appointment and helped me with all my gear. Then when I'd finished at the hospital I called the driver and he came to pick me up again.

"I couldn't fault the service and it was very reasonably priced. Sometimes it can be difficult arranging transport to get to Perth for appointments, so it's good to know this option is available."

Welfare Officer Angeline Carleton said the service will be available for residents on all of RAAFA's estates.

"Bob and his wife came to my office enquiring about transport and they mentioned St John's, so I assisted them to make the calls," she said.

"I spoke to Alysha from St John and she explained the service they provide and payment options. We have now set up



Bob Bell

an account with St John's, so if RAAFA residents use the community transport service, St John's will send the invoice to our office and any charges will be added to the resident's monthly account. We also ensure residents receive a copy of the invoice.

"This is a fantastic and very reasonably-priced new service which fills a gap for people who might have found it tricky to get to and from their appointments previously," she said.

To find out more about the service please just ask your local Welfare Officer.

iCareHealth rollout almost complete!

WE'RE pleased to report that all RAAFA Lodges have now gone live with iCareHealth software, with Tuart and Karri Lodges the last to do so on 3 August.

iCareHealth is an all-in-one software which allows residential and home care providers to manage and integrate their clinical and care management documents across the continuum of aged care.

For RAAFA staff, this means that iCareHealth reduces the burden of hardcopy paper work, by bringing together residents' documents including care plans, assessments and details in one easily-accessible format.

Ultimately this helps us to improve our productivity, maximise funding, reduce compliance risks and enhance quality of care.

iCareHealth Project Coordinator Barbara Wright explains RAAFA is now in the process of rolling out the last component of the software, the medication management system, with in-house training starting over the coming weeks.

"As part of the new medication management system we have introduced new medication trolleys and 'Motion Pads' which will help streamline medication processes and reduce risk of error for RNs, ENs and MCCs when caring for our residents," she said.

In-house training commenced on 31 August at Vivian Bullwinkel Lodge and McNamara Lodge, with the medication management system going live from 9 September. Training will commence at Gordon, Karri and Tuart Lodges from 12 October, with the system going live on 20 October.

RAAFA Operations Manager Sheila Yardley thanked all staff who have been involved in the transition to iCareHealth for their unwavering commitment to ensure the success of the project.

"This has been an incredibly robust process from start to finish. We've been continually seeking feedback and meeting with our teams. Overall it has been a huge team effort. The support between the facilities has been incredible," Sheila said.

As with any process involving change, we have encountered occasional teething issues which we've worked through with our teams. There is still a little way to go yet, but we can see the end point now. It's to all our staff's credit that they have embraced iCareHealth enthusiastically and we're really pleased with the process so far.

"Our Director of Care, Karen Borthwick, has been brilliant throughout the process and we are really grateful for her support. Thanks also to our CEO, John Murray and the Executive team. It's been a massive all-round team effort."



Barbara Wright and Sheila Yardley

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.

Gentle Gym classes: Every Wednesday with professional exercise physiologist.

Tai Chi classes: Every Monday.

October

Thursday, 1 October, 10.00am-11.30am, Orion Function Room.

RAC Presents Decade of Action

Following last year's successful event we are again hosting the RAC community guest speaking team. The roads are becoming more and more aggressive. Be prepared to drive confidently amidst all of the congestion. Plenty of time for questions and answers.

Thursday, 8 October, 10.00am-11.30am, Orion Function Room.

Eric McCrum Returns!

The much loved radio personality Eric McCrum will return to the estate to entertain us once again. Always a super personality with passion, pictures and stories to tell.

The topic is yet to be confirmed but the theme will be Australian. \$3.00 donation appreciated. Bring your whole family for this event!

Thursday, 15 October, 10.00am-11.30am, Orion Function Room.

RAC Presents Your Driving Future.

RAC will return to complete their two part series on seniors driving in the community. This is a great presentation for all drivers so please feel free to invite a guest.

Thursday, 29 October, 10.00am-11.30am, Orion Function Room.

Paraplegic Benefit Fund

Our guest will arrive in a wheelchair. He will be open and honest. He will inspire and touch us. Who is he? Let him introduce

himself to you. Let him share his story. Family and friends are welcome.

November

Friday, 6 November, 10.30-11.30am, Orion Function Room.

Brain training returns with the lovely ladies from Juniper. Small group, so please RSVP.

Thursday, 19 November, 10.00am-12noon, Orion Function Room.

Parkwood Pharmacy will bring their increasingly popular Christmas market to the estate. If you are looking to find a gift for that special someone or perhaps just seek a pharmacist's advice; come along on the day.

Tuesday, 24 November, 2.00pm-3.30pm, Village Hall.

Ladies GEMS Meeting

Topic to be confirmed.

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.

Amity Village Albany

Saturday, 3 October, 9.30am, Villa Carlotta Travel.

Mandi from Villa Carlotta Travel will provide a presentation on their holidays and services, followed by Q&A's and morning tea. (Note this is the tour group that six Amity Village residents escaped to the Pilbara with this year!)