



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



70 years a member

Monty Jeffrey joined RAAFA at the end of WWII and has been a member ever since. He moved to the Merriwa Estate in 2008 and now lives in Karri and Tuart Lodge.

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Cynthia's adventurous life

Cynthia Lyall served in the British Women's Auxiliary Air Force during WWII, which is where she met her Australian husband John. They have lived at AFME for 15 years.

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Celebrating our first birthday



First residents Terry and Sandra Potter cut the cake



Residents and staff enjoyed the carnival



Faye Bell and Paula Pisani enjoyed the photo booth

RAAFAS Alice Ross-King Care Centre celebrated its first birthday on 2 May.

Staff and residents at the stylish and modern centre celebrated with a carnival-theme party, which included speeches, games, music, entertainment, special guests, and a BBQ lunch.

Facility Manager, Helen Falkiner, says the first anniversary included a whole range of birthday celebrations for residents, relatives and staff.

"Our first birthday was a fantastic opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work which has taken place over the past year to make the Alice Ross-King's Care Centre the comfortable home that it has become to so many people," she said.

"For everyone here at RAAFA, the Alice's

first birthday is much more than a milestone, it's an opportunity to recognise the hard work of everyone who has been involved with its success over the last 12 months. It also gives us a chance to look towards the future and our home continuing as the happy and supportive place that it is, for years to come.

Aimee Curtis, Allied Health Coordinator, said the celebrations went very well.

"All the staff got involved on the day dressing up in the carnival theme and our residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We had a troop of clowns, ringmaster, weight lifter and sheriff," she said.

"The entertainment was a hit, especially the last act, Barry Gee, who the residents watched while enjoying a Mr Whippy soft serve."

The birthday celebrations included a presentation by CEO John Murray, as well as fun in the form of a fairy floss machine, Mr Whippy Van, guessing jars, and carnival style fun booths. There was also a violinist, choir and music by the Air Force Brass Band.

The Alice Ross-King Care Centre's first resident, Terry Potter gave a speech on behalf of all of the residents which summed things up nicely: "I take this opportunity to thank the staff who bought us in and looked after us so well throughout the year," he said.

"I also congratulate those who had the vision and skill to conceive, build and manage the centre. The architecture is great and the management has done a terrific job in terms of running this home; thank you to all of the staff for the care you have given us."

Double celebrations

A LARGE congregation at St Michael's Church, Meadow Springs, celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Chapel on 4 May. The church service was attended not only by the residents who make up the regular congregation, but also by the State President, Graeme Bland, his wife Judy and the CEO John Murray.

We also welcomed representatives from the Mandurah and the Meadow Springs Residents Branches and representatives from the local Mandurah Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Churches.

Special guest was the Dean of St Boniface Anglican Cathedral in Bunbury, the Very Reverend Darryl Cotton who gave the address and celebrated Anglican Eucharist.

Revd. David Oxley conducted the service and afterwards, with the Dean, cut the Anniversary cake.

Many people went on to lunch together in the RAAFA Club, and David Oxley was presented with a surprise birthday cake for his 85th birthday.



LtoR David Oxley and Darryl Cotton

Bomber Command – 75 years old

A SUNSET Service celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the formation of Bomber Command in 1942 was held at the State Flame of Remembrance on Thursday, 20 April as part of the ANZAC series.

The ceremony featured memories of RAAF Pilot Officer Robert Blair of West Leederville who flew Halifax aircraft with No

77 Squadron (RAF) out of Fullsutton, England. His memory represented the 55,000 plus Bomber Command personnel killed during WWII of which 3,486 were Australians.

P/Off Blair and his crew were shot down over Germany on his 4th mission on 16 June 1944.

Lest we forget.



From the cockpit



By **Graeme Bland**

IT HAS been a busy couple of months, particularly with my involvement in the Pension and Advocate Centre, helping veterans get their entitlements.

I have recently visited several Branches and hope to catch up with the remainder over the coming months. It is satisfying to see the social activities that have been organised and that more people appear to be participating and enjoying themselves. Remember the catch-cry "Act, Belong, Commit" is vital for a healthy life and it is equally important for community life and unity, besides providing an opportunity to get out and make the most of this extended autumn.

ANZAC Day

Another ANZAC Day has come and gone. Attendances around Western Australia, in the main, were reported as large, which bodes well for 2018, the Centenary of the war to end all wars. It is ironic that the media and North Korea have us on the brink of another conflict even though we are still dealing with the problems of the Middle East.

The State War Memorial Dawn Service was huge as were the crowds for the Perth March. It was just a pity that the RAAF Association contingent only had about 25 people marching. Hopefully that figure will improve for next year. For those who did participate, no matter where, thank you.

RAAFA Annual Dinner

Sorry we had to defer our Annual Dinner until Thursday 15 June but the State Executive thought it worthwhile to wait and get Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd) former Defence Chief as our Guest Speaker.

Seating is limited to 220 so you will need to get in quickly before tickets are sold out. We have kept the cost at \$45 per person and they are available from your Estate Office and Head Office at 2 Sleaford Road, Applecross.

RAAFA National

To be able to maintain appropriate governance, succession and gain eligibility for a Deductible Gift Recipient status for taxation purposes the RAAFA National Council intends to become a Company Limited by Guarantee.

WA Division is ensuring our Division's interests are protected.

All National Office bearers retire at the AGM on Tuesday 13 June and an election of National Office bearers for the coming year will be conducted at the National AGM on 14 June 2017.

Membership fees

Sorry folks but it's 'Budget' time and the Division Council have made the hard decision to put the annual RAAFA Membership fees up from \$55 to \$66 (inc GST) for the first time in ten years.

Costs incurred by the WA Division have increased significantly, including the National capitation fees. A letter has gone out to all members explaining the rise. Still, the Annual Dinner is at a bargain basement price so I encourage you to make use of it.

DVA transition

The CEO and I attended a briefing at DVA Perth on the changes DVA intend to make to improve their services for veterans. They have already relaxed the non-liability assistance for former ADF personnel with cancer, tuberculosis or mental health disorders. Further assistance can be obtained from Advocates at bvetcent@gmail.com.

ADVOCATE Training and Development Program (ATDP)

Some members of the Bull Creek Veteran Support Centre have been recognised under the ATDP Scheme, which replaces the Training and Information Program as of 1 July 2017.

Advocate and Welfare training will now require 10% formal training, 20% supervised training and 70% on-the-job training.

Our biggest problem is finding mentors for whom the Ex-Service Organisations are now responsible.

In the coming months we will be losing many of our existing Pension Officers and Advocates, but fortunately six people from our last TIP entry level course in late May are interested.

If you know anyone who would be interested in helping former and serving ADF Members get their entitlements, please ask them to contact me at bvetcent@gmail.com.

Membership and clubs

Thankyou for sending in your thoughts to my questions on Club use and Membership. It was good to get some positive feedback on record.

Korean War veterans

The 'Ambassador for Peace' medal has been officially released and will be available for Korean War Veterans or their next of kin.

Further details can be obtained from Peter deMasson, President, RAR Association on 0458 200 168 or email peter.demasson@gmail.com.

Upcoming events

- RAAFA National AGM, 14 June 2017
- RAAFA Annual Dinner, 15 June 2017
- Vietnam Veterans Day, 18 August 2017

Representations

Our Division was represented by the State Executive at the following:

- AAFC Branch luncheon;
- RAAFA Amity Village Albany visit;
- Erskine Grove visit;
- RAAF Pearce No 246 Pilots' Graduation;
- Wireless Hill ANZAC Ceremony;
- Perth ANZAC Day Dawn Service and March;
- Fremantle ANZAC Dawn Service;
- Perth Bomber Command Sunset Service;
- RSL Unit and Kindred Meeting;
- ANZAC Service at Hampton High School;
- ANZAC Service at Comet Bay College;
- 15th Anniversary of St Michael's Church, Meadow Springs.

Don't forget to 'Stay on your Feet'



RAAF Association (WA Division) Inc.

2017 Annual General Meeting

By Ron Onions

9.30am, Saturday, 28 October 2017
Langley Hall, AFA Club, Bull Creek
Registration commences at 8.30am

Notices of Motion

Notices of Motion must be with the State Secretary, Head Office, 2 Sleaford Road, Applecross, before 2.00pm, Friday, 7 July 2017.

Division Council Nominations

Nominations for office are to be in writing, using the Nomination Form

available from the State Secretary and signed by the Candidate and the Members proposing and seconding.

The Candidate must be a RAAFA Member entitled to vote. Nominations must be accompanied by a brief Curriculum Vitae not exceeding 300 words and a current photograph which will be utilised for promotional purposes.

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, 4 August 2017 by the State Secretary, Head Office, 2 Sleaford Road, Applecross.

Vacancies on Division Council will be State Secretary – two year term.

Voting Procedure

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

Postal Voting

As per Item I0.4b of the Constitution,

members unable to attend a meeting may lodge a Postal Vote on any Notice of Motion and therefore voting papers will be sent to all members eligible to vote.

Returning Officer

The Division Council will appoint the Returning Officer to supervise the ballot for the vacant Division Council position and for the counting and custody of postal vote papers.

CEO's perspective



CEO, John Murray

By John Murray

THE year is again flying along with the early chills of May starting to be felt.

Budgets

The last two months for the RAAFA Division Council and Executive team has been focussed on the management of budgets with a projected \$60M+ revenue this coming year.

Requirements to ensure the management of 600 staff have been challenged with the Federal Government's previously announced \$1.2bn cut in aged care funding this financial year, which in real terms equates to approx. \$600,000 in lost revenue from our residential care services. This, against the context of a requirement to fulfil our previously negotiated salary increases for our care and nursing staff of 3% has created a net negative start to our budget negotiations of \$1.2M.

The team has worked towards a balanced budget against this negative background and I personally thank all of the team and staff who have contributed to managing this financial challenge.

Corporate Services charge

Of course it's not only RAAFA that has to face these budget impacts as aged care providers right across Australia face the same challenges. It is often questioned by members, as to the cost of the Corporate Services of RAAFA. It has certainly increased over the last four years to respond

to the needs of the organisation. RAAFA has grown from \$30M to \$60M per annum turnover and from 420 to 600 staff in the same period.

We have conducted benchmark analysis through a national organisation that looks at the proportion of corporate costs in the aged care and retirement living sector across Australia where the average percentage of corporate service costs are approx. 12.9%. RAAFA is currently 8.6%, 50% below the average across Australia. We continue to monitor all of our costs to find the best way to achieve maximum benefits.

There is very good news for those who are living on our estates. When we seek to reduce the costs of the organisation we negotiate very hard when it comes to major expenditure items like gas, electricity, insurances and telecommunications.

The residents on our estates are now in a position where they have access to free calls to mobiles, local and national landlines for one monthly fee of \$16.50, which equates to \$198 per annum. This not only provides access to telephones but with the introduction of fibre optics on our sites, access to other services such as cable TV, internet and ATV services. By comparison, to get a similar package through Telstra "home phone pinnacle package" it would be costing our residents \$85 per month or \$1,020 per annum. In addition, we have negotiated reduced rates for international calls for those who wish to call overseas. The additional benefit of this agreement is that the telephone costs of the business services at RAAFA will also be significantly reduced, which also reduces our Corporate Services costs.

Development

The Division Council as part of its strategic planning endorsed the Executive team to continue to look at developing additional homes because we have a significant number of existing members seeking accommodation. A good example of this is at Bull Creek where we have only

three vacancies with all three units currently under refurbishment in readiness for a new resident to move in.

The current waiting list for Bull Creek is 700 and we do not have any additional accommodation at this stage that we can provide to these people. The next proposed development is in the consultation process with residents at Bull Creek. The proposal is to rebuild the existing AFA Club and provide serviced apartments above to the level of five storeys. Not only will this provide a modern community clubhouse amenity for residents, but for all RAAFA members.

The housing development proposed to take place above the clubhouse will be focussed on a serviced apartment model, with smaller units where additional services can be provided over and above the provision of housing. This would be things like cleaning, catering, laundry services and care. The majority of these apartments will be two bedroom with ensuite and separate toilet and of a smaller floor size than the previous development of Orion and Mirage Terraces. This will also make them more affordable.

There is a large demand within our community for the provision of additional services between the existing independent retirement living and the residential care facilities. In the past, there was provision of aged care hostels, known as low band facilities, but these are no longer being funded by the Commonwealth. The expectations are that people utilise community-based services until it is no longer feasible for them stay in their own home. It is clear this is not only a need at Bull Creek, but across all RAAFA estates and we will be looking at what these options may be.

Aviation Heritage Museum

The Aviation Heritage Museum at Bull Creek is an icon of RAAFA and represents the history of both civil aviation in Western Australia and more importantly an ongoing

expression of the service that has been provided by veterans in the defence of Australia. The museum was built in the early 1970's mostly from funds raised by volunteers.

A review of the structure of the Museum is about to be undertaken, primarily to determine whether the existing buildings will continue to be used in their current form. This is the first step of a broader review of the museum's capacity to increase displays and ensure the safety of the artefacts we currently have. As such the museum precinct is to be treated as a major project to ensure that it has the capacity and is modernised to suit the needs for the next 40 years.

We will need to lobby State Government, Lotterywest and others to seek their support to develop the museum to a more modern standard. We know for example that the roofing on the south wing needs replacing and that we need to update or provide better air conditioning for visitors and volunteers, who are an integral part of the museum's success.

Volunteers Week

This week is Volunteers Week and I am continually humbled by the efforts that our volunteers put in to provide services to the broader community in which they live.

This ranges from driving the buggies around our estates to transport residents, to the bus drivers who take residents to the local shopping centres and on broader trips, gardeners, people who deliver mail and assist with Air Mail. The Aviation Heritage Museum volunteers who, without their assistance, the museum would not be open for seven days each week all but for four public holidays each year. Those who collect bread from local bakeries and distribute to the residents.

To all of you who in some way, small or large, contribute your time to support others and the organisation, I sincerely thank you and wish you continuing good health for the coming year.

Membership fee increase

DIVISION Council has reviewed RAAFA Membership fees in parallel with budgeting for the 2017-2018 financial year, and from 1 July 2017 will increase membership fees from \$55 (inc GST) to \$66 (inc GST) per year.

RAAFA last increased membership fees in 2007, and as of April 2017 had nearly 4,600 card-carrying members. Whilst inflation has, in recent times, been very low, over the whole time period, inflation, and therefore the costs of membership services, have risen significantly.

In order for us to cover costs in our

Division/Membership services area it was resolved to increase fees to \$66 (inc GST) for all new memberships and for annual renewals for the forthcoming financial year. We hope you will continue to support RAAFA by continuing as a member and enjoying the benefits outlined below.

- access to RAAFA clubs at four locations;
- social and reunion activities;
- service pension and disability claim assistance (for serving and former members of the ADF and their dependents);

- opportunity to participate in commemorative ceremonies;
- access to short stay accommodation for visiting family and friends (available at three locations);
- Aviation Heritage Museum free entry for members;
- Air Mail newspaper, published bi-monthly; and
- opportunities for involvement in the organisation through a wide range of volunteer activities.

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See page 11 for submission deadlines

The Padre's Piece



By Padre David

FOR ANZAC Day the three RAAFA Branches here in Mandurah asked me to conduct our ANZAC ceremony and wreath laying at the Meadow Springs Memorial Wall. The ceremony was timed for 8.30am and was well attended. The weather was good and we

were pleased to welcome students from Frederick Irwin Anglican School who were our flag party.

In introducing the ceremony I recounted the story of a very ordinary young man who came from Mandurah. His name was ROLLO MONCRIEFF MUIR. He was actually born in Southern Cross in 1892 and his father worked on the goldfields as an assayer.

At the turn of the century the family moved to Mandurah. Rollo with his two brothers William and Hugh went to the Dalrymple School, the first government school in Mandurah. By 1914 Rollo and his brother Hugh were working as railway firemen in Perth. The outbreak of war was an exciting time for these young men and being so fit Rollo was immediately accepted as a private in the 16th Battalion's D Company.

After spending a short time in training at Blackboy Hill, Rollo and his Battalion left for Egypt. They were young and full of excitement at where they found themselves because the majority of them had never left Australia before. Free from the normal confines of society, facing imminent danger and with money to burn they wanted to experience all that Egypt had to offer - and in April 1915 he was sent to the Venereal Diseases Hospital in Malta for treatment.

Four months later he rejoined his unit and was sent to Gallipoli. He was wounded shortly afterwards and evacuated to England to recover. It was while in England that he met Kathleen Spary and they were married in June 1916, but they could have little time together. We do know he absconded from his base in October probably to see his new wife, and that he had his pay docked.

On 16 January 1917 he joined the 4th Division in France. At this point Germany had established the fortified Hindenburg Line stretching from the North Sea to Verdun in France and the French town of Bullecourt was behind the enemy lines.

On 11 April 1917 the fateful order was given to break through the Hindenburg Line and capture Bullecourt. The resulting battle left 3000 Allied soldiers dead and 1170 taken prisoner. Rollo was severely wounded and died on 13 April in the Reserve Lazarette Verdun Hospital.

His parents were initially told he had been injured and taken prisoner. There are in existence letters that indicate how anxious the family in Mandurah was but it was several months before they learned of his death.

This is a typical story of the ANZACs we remember each year. Sure there were some great outstanding examples of valour but ANZAC Day is not the day to remember the battles of intrepid, fearless warriors but it's the day to remember the ordinary, young, strong, enthusiastic, full of life, young men who went to their death in the service of their nation and for the peace of our world.

As I concluded last time: Lest we forget

Shalom

Your Division Councillor Lindsay Lane

LINDSAY Lane was elected to Division Council in 2016.

Lindsay completed a Diploma in Material Management (B.Comm Management) at Natal Technical College and after a B.ComM Degree majoring in Financial Management and Economics from University of South Africa.

Lindsay worked for a multi-national company, Federal Mogul as Logistics Manager for 17 years amongst other positions. In addition he lectured part time for Damelin College in Durban, was made honorary life member of the Institute of Purchasing South Africa and Chairman of the Natal State Branch.

He played rugby and soccer, representing his State at squash, athletics and swimming. He was the manager for the Springbok Junior Biathlon Team (running and swimming).

Lindsay lives at RAAFA's Cambrai Village, and became involved as a volunteer in events set-up and the annual fete. He joined the Residents Committee as Vice President and President and was the Chairman of the Commemorations Committee.



Lindsay Lane

Monty Jeffrey

KARRI and Tuart Lodge resident Monty Jeffrey was born on 5 October 1924, and other than stints overseas during the war years, has lived in Perth ever since.

Monty joined the RAAFA at Pearce in 1942 and soon after was posted to the Ballarat Wireless Air Training School. Upon completion of his training Monty was posted to Bomber Command in England.

Monty went on his first bombing raid on 16 August 1944, the first of 23 missions, many of which were embarked upon from Snaith airfield.

"I'm very thankful I survived," says Monty who was called up to enlist when he was just 18 years old. "People still don't realise, war is a terrible thing.

"I suppose those missions could have been thought of as terrifying experiences, but we were only 18 or 19 years old and didn't know any better, but there are things that you always remember that you really don't wish to at times."

An outbreak of chickenpox aboard the Durban Castle, the boat he returned on after the end of WWII delayed Monty for a few days before he could actually set foot on home soil.

Having been a book salesman before the war, Monty continued his career in sales working for amongst others JH Wilberforce and Co, selling Simpson Washing Machines, and Cecil Bros where he was in charge of the recording of stock, sales records, invoicing and photography for over 100 stores Australia wide.

Monty finally retired on 25 May 1990.

It's fair to say that he was fully immersed



Monty Jeffrey

in the community throughout his life. As a youngster, he was a member of Cubs, Boy Scouts and the City Amateur Swimming Club.

Monty played both tennis and squash until the late 1980s and served on various committees. His other love for many years was helping to build wheelchairs for kids overseas through the charity Wheelchairs for Kids in Wangara.

Monty moved to the RAAFA Merriwa Estate in 2008 and now lives in Karri and Tuart Lodge.

Recently he was presented with his 70 year RAAFA membership certificate, something he is very proud of.

Following the end of WWII Monty returned to Australia in 1946. On being demobbed and handing in his equipment he saw a stand asking all returning RAAF servicemen to join the RAAF Association. He did not know why, but it just seemed like the right thing to do.

So after 70 years of membership, sharp as a tack but maybe a little unsteady on his pins, Monty received his certificate from the State Secretary, Ron Onions and Division Councillor, David Peet.

Annual fete a success

THE Cambrai Annual Fete was held on Sunday, 2 April this year. We traditionally hold the fete in October, but because this clashed with other Fetes in the district the Fete Committee decided to try something different - and all in all were very pleased with the outcome raising in excess of \$12,000.

Residents and families contributed by donating items for the various stalls, including cakes, preserves, pre-loved resalable goods, scones for the Devonshire Tea, books, and plants. In all we had 15 stalls including the all-important sausage sizzle with the smell of cooked sausages and onions wafting over the estate.

On the day over 80 residents volunteered their time on the various stalls, which added to the community atmosphere in the village

- one visitor said "what a happy place it was with everyone having a smile on their face".

Funds raised from the Fete are mainly used to provide subsidies for residents to go on day trips; attend the Annual Christmas Dinner; support the Commemoration Committee for ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies, purchase DVDs and books for the Library and providing those little extra luxuries we have come to appreciate.



Three generations march at ANZAC

IT'S fair to say that McNamara Lodge resident Bob Porteous is a West Australian through and through.

The 95-year-old was born on 11 February 1922, and is still active enough to march in this year's ANZAC Parade with his family.

"It was the first time the three generations had marched in the ANZAC parade, so it was special for all of us," said Bob who marched proudly alongside his son and granddaughter.

Bob joined up for WWII at ANA House on St George's Terrace. In 1943, he undertook his training at Clontarf and went on to Mount Gambier where he learnt navigation skills.

He was then shipped off to England via Panama, to a place called Mildenhall near Cambridge, where he joined 622 Squadron. From there, Bob was mostly a navigator on Lancaster's, predominantly on exercises in the UK, although he did fly out to Japan on transport work.

Bob was demobbed in Sydney in 1949, where he spent four years before returning to Perth



Bob Porteous

and working for BP, a company with which he had a long career from 1954 to 1976.

"I still go to Squadron reunions every year in Canberra, and I'm hoping to go over during June," he says.

"War is bloody terrible, and it's not something you really want to talk about, but remembering those who lost their lives is really important."

Easter bunny visits

A VERY cute little Easter bunny could be seen hopping around the Club at Air Force Memorial Estate on Thursday, 13 April.

She distributed eggs to delighted residents at the Club dinner-dance.



Knight of Nights

THE RAAFA WA Division Annual Dinner on 15 June 2017 will be honoured to have a Knight of the Order of Australia as guest speaker, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd).

Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd) was awarded the Knight of the Order of Australia in January 2015 for extraordinary and pre-eminent achievement and merit in service to Australia, through distinguished service in the Australian Defence Force, continued commitment to serve the nation in leadership roles, particularly the national responses to the MH370 and MHI7 disasters, and in a variety of roles in the community.

Sir Angus joined the RAAF as a cadet pilot in 1970 and spent the early part of his career flying UH-1 Iroquois helicopters, Macchi MB-326H and Strikemaster aircraft. He assumed command of No.9 Squadron in 1987 to introduce the Black Hawk helicopter and the transfer of the unit to the Australian Army.

Sir Angus was appointed as Chief of Air Force in 2001. In 2005 he was promoted to Air Chief Marshal and appointed Chief of the Australian Defence Force. He served as Chief of the Defence Force until his retirement in 2011.

Sir Angus is well known to Western Australians from his appointment as head

of the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) which was located in Perth to coordinate the Australian Government's support for the search into

missing Malaysia Airlines MH370 in 2014. He finished his work with the JACC in July of that year when he was appointed as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to lead Australia's efforts to help recover, identify and repatriate Australian's killed in the Malaysia Airlines MHI7 disaster.

Sir Angus is currently Chair of several large organisations and serves as a member on a number of different boards. Along with this he is patron of various charitable organisations and was recently announced as the new Chancellor for the University of the Sunshine Coast.

RAAFA is honoured to have Sir Angus as guest speaker for our Annual Dinner. Tickets \$45 available from your Estate Office or Head Office Applecross.

We look forward to sharing the evening with you.



Sir Angus Houston

Home sweet home

WHEN Mary Richards spent close to three years in the Air Force's equipment section at Pearce Air Base, it felt like she had around 500 big brothers.

"I loved it," recalls Mary, who joined the Air Force when she was 17 years old. "I looked after all of the equipment, so any servicemen who wanted anything for their section had to come through me."

Mary, who was born in Stonehouse in Scotland in 1939, emigrated to Perth when she was 10 years old on the ship The Georgic.

"We arrived in Fremantle and moved to Manjimup where I went to school until I left at age 14," says Mary, who won prizes for her skills at Highland dancing when she was a youngster in Scotland, and in fact was junior champion for two years.

Unsurprisingly, Mary went on to meet her husband while she was in the Air Force, but had to leave when she and her husband Bob got married in Manjimup on 17 October 1959.

"We settled in Maylands, but moved around quite a bit because of Bob's job as an instrument fitter," she says. We were in South Australia for two years, then Williamtown in New South Wales for 18 months and then we had three years in Malaysia.

Many decades on - and two grown up daughters later - Mary and Bob now call RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs home. "We've been here for 17 years now and love it," says Mary.

"We love the atmosphere, the friendship and the comradery, in fact everything about it," she laughs.



Mary Richards

RAAF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, 15 June 2017

Come and enjoy an entertaining evening, catching up with old and new friends.

We are pleased to announce our guest speaker is Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd), a widely-respected individual across Australia. Retiring in 2011 after 41 years of service in the military, during which he was Chief of the Air Force and Chief of the Defence Force.

The evening will begin with a welcome reception at 6.30pm, followed by a two course dinner, with wine.

Thursday, 15 June 2017 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm, in Langley Hall, AFA Club, Bull Creek.

Tickets \$45 per person

Includes pre-dinner drinks, two course dinner, table wine, tea and coffee.

Dress: Men - lounge suit. Ladies - after five wear. Miniatures may be worn. Create a table of 10 or we can organise for you.

Tickets available until Wednesday, 7 June 2017 from Estate Offices and Head Office, Applecross. Call 9288 8400 for details.

Estate buses will be provided.

Jewel in the Great Southern

ACCORDING to residents, RAAFA Amity Village Albany is the perfect place to retire, particularly for those who want to remain active and engaged. Beautiful homes, and gardens, with wonderful facilities such as the gym, heated swimming pool and welcoming clubhouse; however the main attraction at our village is the welcoming community spirit.

Located on the corner of Ulster Road and North Road, the Village is conveniently situated close to a range of shopping options and amenities, including Albany Regional Hospital which is only five minutes away.

Home to over 130 residents, Amity attracts active seniors who thrive on living in an

interactive, safe community, where people share similar values.

Amity Village Estate Manager, Irene Smith, said the Amity residents make the most of their retirement and are very much enjoying this phase of life in their beautiful surrounds. Residents have the choice to be as interactive and as involved as they wish, as well as being actively involved in the Albany community and enjoying their own privacy.

“We’re extremely fortunate to have such an active, vibrant community which is so friendly and inclusive,” she said.

“Anyone who lives here will tell you that there is a range of very popular social activities happening throughout the week which residents enjoy being part of. We

boast that there are no old people at Amity – everyone is young at heart. There is a strong focus on well-being and a happy balanced life. People look out for each other, as well as respecting each others space and privacy.”

The estate offers a range of spacious two and three bedroom units. In addition, the village has a range of on-site facilities, including the communal clubhouse and BBQ area, library, hairdresser, visiting doctor surgery, workshop, arts and craft room, swimming pool and gym.



Retirement living at Amity Village is like being on a cruise ship – you put your feet up, relax and enjoy the ride. Join in the activities that interest you, enjoy the social interaction, soak in the beautiful surrounds, enjoy good company, as well as the solitude of your own space, not worry about a thing and love the comforts of your own beautiful home.

Making the move



Ron and Marion Denney

WHEN 80-year-old Marion Denney and her husband Ron, 82, came to live at RAAFA Amity Village Albany, it was the first move they’d made in 61 years.

“We moved to our farm in Cranbrook just after we were married and we stayed put,” explains Marion, who recalls the first time she saw her husband-to-be, he was riding a horse at the Kojonup Agricultural Show.

“Making the move was a huge thing for us, but we visited Amity to have a look at what it was like and that’s the advice I’d give to anyone thinking about entering retirement living themselves - basically to go and spend time there and see if you like it.”

Since moving to Amity Village in September last year, Marion has been pivotal in setting

up the Botanical Art group, which attracts between five and 16 residents each week.

“I’m a botanical artist and I taught at Albany Summer School for a few years, and each week I really enjoy giving a hand to the ladies and helping them create a beautiful painting.

“There is so much going on that you soon know everybody by their first name.”

Marion says the decision to move into Amity was made as her husband Ron’s medical problems increased and the couple felt they needed to be closer to support services, just in case.

“Ron is full-time in a wheelchair now and we’ve had the inside of the house made wheelchair-friendly, in addition to having the curbing changed so that we had flat access outside the house,” she says.

“Ron is still able to get out and about though, and does a lap of the community every morning in his wheelchair; everyone speaks to him and vice versa, it’s a really friendly village and we’re very happy to be here.”

Familiar faces

“WE’VE never looked back since moving into this community, it’s been very good to us and we have a dream manager in Irene, she is just wonderful,” says long-term resident Fay Wych.

Fay and her husband Bob moved into Amity Village Albany in May 2006 and, it’s safe to say, they have well and truly immersed themselves into the community ever since.

“We pretty much know everyone, and we know where everyone lives,” laughs Fay, who has lived in Albany all of her life.

“There’s so much to do, there’s the gym and pool and there’s lots of activities happening each day. We enjoy the casserole teas once a month and also the catered meals which are also monthly,” adds 81-year-old Bob, who was born in Fremantle and is proud to announce he feels as ‘fit as a fiddle’.

“Outside the village there is also plenty to do, including golf, which I play twice a week. Amity is just a really lovely place to live, especially if you want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the big smoke,” he says.

Congratulations are actually in order for Bob



Bob and Faye Wych

and Fay, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary earlier this year. The couple, who have three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, met when Fay worked in a boot repair shop in Albany. Bob was working as a fireman at the time and kept popping into the shop to buy shoe laces - even though, much to Fay’s amusement, he actually had elastic sided boots at the time!

“If I had any advice for people thinking about making the move to Amity Village, I’d say just come in and see for yourself, have a chat with people who already live here and see what’s on offer, you’re certain to love it,” Fay adds.

Feeling safe and secure

RAAFA Amity Village Albany resident Joan Webster is the first to admit that living in the RAAFA community was an incredible help when her husband Rex passed away three years ago.

“It definitely helped me, because so many people have been through the same thing,” says Joan, who has lived at the village for around seven years.

“The beauty of Amity Village is that it’s big enough to be home to plenty of people, but small enough so that you can get to know everyone.”

Since moving into the village, a decision that was made largely due to her husband’s deteriorating health, Joan has found it easy to remain active. She exercises every day in the pool, is involved in the social club, plays cards regularly and takes part in the monthly casserole dinners.

“I love the fact that everyone is extremely friendly, but equally, no one intrudes into your private life,” she says.

“It really is the perfect situation, because if you want company you can have it, but if you want your own space, that’s not a

problem either.

“And on top of that, if anything goes wrong and you need a handyman for example, or a gardener or assistance from the Welfare Officer, these people are all around on site to step in and lend a hand.”

Joan, who was born in South Australia and moved to WA’s southwest in 1962, says she also feels very safe at the RAAFA community.

“Right from day one I felt very secure and safe here and I’ve also made lots of friends, I love it,” she says.



Joan Webster

A different adventure for Cynthia

RAAFA Air Force Memorial Estate resident Cynthia Lyall's experiences of WWII are a little different from that of many of the other members of the WAAAF WA Branch.

Born and raised in the UK, Cynthia served in the British Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF), rather than the Australian WAAAF.

Despite coming from a naval family – Cynthia's father and her two brothers all served in the Navy – she was eager to go against the family grain and instead join the WAAF.

"I joined in 1943, as soon as I finished boarding school when I was 18 years old. I finished school and two days later I was in the WAAF," Cynthia says.

"I had a girlfriend who had an uncle who was an airman, and he told her that he could pull some strings to get her into the WAAF, and I asked her if he could do the same for me."

So that was that, Cynthia enlisted in the WAAF, where she trained and worked as a plotter.

"I was the one whose job it was to plot

movements on the map in the middle of the table, while the controller stood up on a platform watching. The instructions would come through my earphones from the girls in another area passing on the information, and I would plot the movements of the aircrafts. It was all very interesting," she said.

"That's how I met my husband; he was an Australian tail gunner at the next station. I always knew when he was flying, because I would see it on the maps. We used to go out to dances, and he used to watch me dancing with the American soldiers before he came over and finally asked me himself.

"We were all very young, and I think we all thoroughly enjoyed our time. We knew we were doing a good job, and we never queried it. Every day was a new day."

As was the case with many of the WAAF and WAAAF ladies in the WA Branch, Cynthia and her friends worked hard but enjoyed their downtime too.

"We lived in a billeted country home with a flat roof, and this is the naughty part, but my friends and I used to climb up onto the roof and strip off and sunbake," Cynthia recalls.

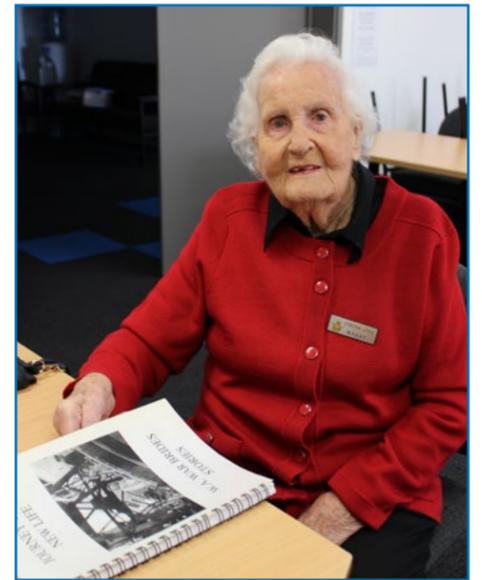
"One of the boys caught wind of it and they came and bombarded us with toilet paper from the air – all the trees around were covered in toilet paper. We could have been court marshalled for that! And I can't remember if we even got a tan after all that."

John and Cynthia married in London and had their first baby, before he was posted back home to Australia.

"I had to wait until our daughter was five months old before I could travel. I came out on a war bride ship, full of mums and littlies and there was one doctor on board who had to cope with all that for six weeks," Cynthia said.

"Leaving my family behind was terribly sad. Both of my brothers had been killed in action during the war. One was serving on a submarine, the other one was on a cruiser. So when I married John and came out here, I'll always remember my parents' faces seeing me off when I left on the train. At that point there was just my sister left with them in the UK."

When Cynthia arrived in WA, she spent only a few weeks in Perth before the family moved to Kalgoorlie.



Cynthia Lyall

"I'll never forget that – I didn't know what had hit me. You couldn't get a countryside more different from what I was used to," she said.

Cynthia and John have lived at Air Force Memorial Estate for about 15 years now. Cynthia has been a member of the WAAAF WA Branch for many years, and also regularly meets with other British WAAF ladies who now live in Perth.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Australian group, and I always have yearly lunches with the WAAF ladies too. I've loved every minute of it," she said.

Support a weight off Jackie and Andrew's shoulders

HAVING access to advocacy services provided through RAAFA's Pension and Advocacy Officer Graeme Bland has been like a weight lifted off the shoulders of Andrew and Jackie Skinner.

It has been a long journey to access the right support services and compensation since Andrew fractured a vertebrae in his neck during a service-related incident while serving in the Navy as a Quarter Master Gunner in 1985.

"In 1993 Andrew was discharged from the Australian Defence Force after reaching the rank of Petty Officer in the Naval Police. During the discharge process Andrew was sent to see a neurologist, who, unbeknownst to us, recommended he be referred for an MRI to investigate these ongoing issues, but this never came about."

However, Andrew was quick to secure a job and settle into 'civvie life'. After five years he had to leave this position due to his worsening symptoms.

Despite this Andrew was never without employment, his condition however continued to deteriorate and back in 2001 he was granted a Gold Card from the DVA. By 2010 it was clear that his injury was seriously impacting his quality of life and, in 2015, he was forced to stop working. He began the process of lodging a pension claim with DVA, but this was rejected and the couple were left with the only option of appealing to the Veterans Review Board.



Jackie and Andrew with Graeme Bland

"We had seen an advocate at Anzac House who was helpful. He helped arrange for Andrew's injuries to be recognised under both Acts, but this advocate then moved on from the RSL.

"It became evident that we had to look into finding another advocate to help us, because we just didn't know how to navigate the way we needed to". Jackie and Andrew were recommended to contact the Advocacy Service at RAAFA, and subsequently met and worked with advocate Graeme Bland.

"I can't describe the feeling of relief hearing Graeme say 'come in and we will have a chat about it'," Jackie said.

"We gathered all our documents and Graeme looked through them and said

to leave it with him. He didn't make any unrealistic promises because things can always go either way. But we came away from that meeting with a glimmer of hope for the first time in years."

Graeme helped put together Andrew's application, and with him by their side at the hearing, they successfully met with the Veterans Review Board to appeal the prior decision.

Jackie said she and Andrew were 'extremely relieved with the outcome and it is such a huge relief'.

They were full of praise for the knowledgeable, sympathetic and supportive understanding they received through RAAFA's Advocacy Service.



Meadow Springs Open Day

Tuesday, 20 June, 1pm to 4pm

THIS is your opportunity to take a guided tour where you will experience the lifestyle you can enjoy at one of RAAFA's most sought after estates.

- Meet the manager and staff at Meadow Springs
- Experience the warm and friendly lifestyle community
- Walk through a wide range of 2 bedroom homes on display
- Explore the fabulous resort-style facilities and attractions
- Talk to residents about what life is like at RAAFA

Come and see what could be your next home. For more information call 9582 5000 or ms@raafawa.org.au.



ANZAC Day 2017



RAAFA Amity Village



RAAFA Amity Village



Cambrai Village



Cambrai Village



Erskine Grove



Erskine Grove



RAAFA Estate Merriwa



RAAFA Estate Merriwa



RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs



RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs



Perth Parade



Perth Parade



Perth Parade



Perth Parade



Vivian Bullwinkel Lodge

On Foreign Foam and Shore

By Pam Bevan

THE rosemary hid its purple face; Larks ceased to trill
The wind has given up its chase in the bitter winter chill
Then rose a cold yellow dawn and bone-chilled to the core
Platoons of Aussie diggers approached a distant foreign shore
And angels cried a flood of tears at what their fate may be
In boats afloat a blackened burning oil-slicked sea
As they rowed on regardless with gallantry and pride
Towards Gallipoli with their allies at their side.

They fought for a great country: they shaped our history
As their bullet ridden boats sunk beneath a broiling sea
While mothers wept the loss of sons gone for evermore
Washed up on a tide of red on foreign foam and shore
And amidst the stench of brave men lost, dysentery and lice
They carted away the bodies of so many sacrificed.

And in the horror of the gullies, cliffs and blood filled trench
They kept their spirits lifted in that awful graveyard stench
With loss of limbs and fallen mates in mud and whistling shell
As shrapnel whizzed; and bullets zipped in that tortured battle hell
Thousands they lay injured: rations there were few
As under fierce resistance their casualties fast grew.

And with grieving hearts in disbelief we try to understand
The empty boot, a crushed slouch hat, a shattered wedding band
And men with thin and silvering hair march with pride and zest
To honour mates so sadly lost and pinned across their chest
Medals glisten; children stare ask the question Grandpa why?
As hymns are sung mates greet mates, and speeches make us cry
And we listen to the stories told about brave soldiers of our past
Then silently watch the Australian flag flap sadly at half-mast.

Hear the prayers in the semi-darkness try to stem our tears
As silently majestically the pale pink dawn appears
And as the bugles lone salute drifts to meet the sorrowed sky
We bow our heads in silence for those precious lives denied
And somewhere who knows where? These soldiers sleep alone
Lost in unmarked graves away from family and home
And we commemorate their sacrifice; and their bravery will stay
Like seas that broil; and winter winds they'll never fade away.



Love is all you need

BY HIS own admission, John Bailey is lucky to be alive.

"I often look back and think I should have been dead 100 times," says the Gordon Lodge resident who is 96 years old, and considers himself 'sharp as a tack'.

"I was a fighter pilot in the RAF and flew Spitfires and Hurricanes as well as Wellington bombers. In total I did one and a half tours of operation, which equals around 76 operations," recalls John, who was born in Leicestershire in the UK.

"We bombed many different countries in Europe including Austria, northern Italy and Yugoslavia. Often our target was railway yards, and we flew from an airstrip on the Adriatic Coast which we shared with the Americans.

"We were shot at from tall buildings as we flew just below the skyline, and also from the ground below. We were very lucky to survive."

After the war John initially went back to England, but his best friend in the RAF was a young Tasmanian, and as things were bad in Britain - and his friend suggested he should take a trip to Australia - John decided to make the move. After seeing where his best mate lived on 22 acres of land, he recalls he thought he'd found paradise.

John ended up living in Tasmania for over 20 years. He became a racing car driver and built a number of cars, including a Maserati. Although he had initially studied pharmacy, he retrained as a mechanical and electrical engineer, and owned his own garage for many years.

"There was a sign up on the door that said: 'Never worry, never fear, when in trouble, John is here'", he laughs. "I think that was because I was considered the local mechanic,



John Bailey

doctor and vet, as my father was a doctor and I had also done a pharmacy degree, so locals came knocking on my door for just about anything."

John moved to Perth in 1966, and has lived here ever since.

"I absolutely love Perth," he says, whilst reminiscing about also enjoying writing poetry and singing. "I first wrote a poem when I was five years old, and I've actually won awards for my poetry during my lifetime, which is something I enjoyed very much."

So at 96 years of age, and having had what could arguably be labelled an exciting life, does John have any tips for a life well lived?

"Think young, is my advice, never stop learning and keep interested in things," he says. "As you get older, I think you realise how little you know about life and the universe.

"But at the end of the day, all that matters is love, we're all brothers and sisters, we're all earthlings if you like, and I think we should never allow nationality or religion to divide us."

Remembering an original ANZAC

ALTHOUGH RAAFA Amity Village Albany resident Nola Coventry's father was one of the original ANZACs, she admits that throughout her lifetime she never heard him speak of his time at Gallipoli.

"He was a quiet man who was devoted to his family," Nola recalls. "The 1920s were grim years because of the depression and I was the last of five children. But nevertheless, my father believed education to be very important and he made sure all of his children had a good schooling.

"I was sent away to boarding school for eight years, I don't know how he possibly afforded it, but he somehow did and it's something I'm very grateful for."

Private Frederick Lloyd Martens served with the 6th Reinforcements of the 10th Light Horse Regiment in the Australian Capital Imperial Force, embarking at Fremantle for the Middle East in June 1915.

He was working as a horse driver in Narrogin when he enlisted, his father writing a letter of consent for him to join up. Completing his mandatory training at Blackboy Hill, Fred proceeded to the training camps in Egypt and by September 1915 he was in Gallipoli, seeing action for five weeks before being hospitalised with illness.

Returning to duty, and with the campaign moving to the Senai Peninsular, Fred's unit was involved in an ill-fated advance on a Turkish garrison on 17 September, 1916. Aware of the futility of the advance given the Turkish stronghold and that military support units had failed to arrive, an order was received to withdraw.

Drawing heavy fire from the enemy, Fred received a gunshot wound to his left leg, shattering his tibia. With the wound remaining undressed for three days, the injury turned septic and, critically ill, Fred

was transported to Port Said for treatment where he recovered in the 14th Australian General Hospital at Abbassia.

Fred was discharged in June 1917 and, after the war, returned to live in Narrogin, taking up work with the WA Government Railways as a fireman working on the Pinjarra line.

He is remembered as a man with an acute awareness of civic responsibility - Fred and his wife Frieda were very active in the Pingrup community.

Remembering her father, Nola recalls how he wasn't too keen for her to embark on a nursing career.

"At first, my father didn't want me to do nursing, but I know he soon became very proud of me and I loved my nursing career



Nola Coventry at the Amity Memorial wall with a photo of her father

which spanned over 30 years," she says.

Nola and her husband Brian have lived at Amity Village since 2004. "We moved into the very first stage of the village when it opened, and we still think it's wonderful living here," she said.

Notes From Branches and Groups

Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) Branch

Charles Page

9305 1582 or chaz747@bigpond.com

Membership is open to former air cadets, and all instructors and staff of the AAFC, Air Training Corps, and Women's Air Training Corps. Former members of overseas air cadet organisations are also eligible.

The Branch carries out social activities, local tours, picnic/BBQ days, caravan/chalet trips, rifle shooting, gliding, and publishes an informative newsletter. Branch members also attend commemorations throughout the year, and liaise with 7 Wing AAFC at RAAF Pearce.

The Branch conducts historical research, and has recently presented two Honour Roll Boards of cadets who died in service.

Recent events include a picnic and tour of Whiteman Park, a gliding weekend at Narrogin, and a rifle shooting practice and BBQ at Mundaring.

For membership and other enquiries please contact Charles Page.

Upcoming events

July, date TBA, 7 Wing Junior NCO Graduation Parade, RAAF Pearce.

Saturday, 12 August, AAFC Branch AGM and Luncheon, Wings Restaurant, Bull Creek.

20-23 October, Caravan/Chalet trip, Taunton Park, Margaret River.

Sunday, 26 November, Rifle Shooting, Canning Vale.

Aviation Museum Branch

Jo Naylor

Volunteer thankyou

Thanks to the generosity of a "volunteer grant" from the City of Melville, Museum Manager, John Park was able to put on two separate sausage sizzles, followed by coffee and cake, as a thank you to the hard-working museum volunteers.

Our bi-monthly film nights are open to all AFME residents and friends and are proving to be very popular. Why not come along to our next one on 13 July?

Upcoming events

Thursday, 8 June, General Meeting, 1.00pm, Mess Room, Aviation Heritage Museum.

Thursday, 15 June, RAAFA Annual Dinner. It would be good if we could get together a table for Museum Branch members. Note the date and get your tickets.

Thursday, 13 July, Bi-monthly Film Night, 7.00pm, Meg Olive Room.

Thursday, 10 August, Branch AGM, 1.00pm, Mess Room, Aviation Heritage Museum.

Mandurah Branch

Shirley Farmer

We tried a new format at the April Branch

Meeting and included mystery raffle prizes as well as the usual beautifully presented gifts. The change was well received and we thank those who donate prizes or money for the gifts. The meeting was followed by a meal.

Thank you to those who completed the questionnaire suggesting future trips or social events. Of the 154 questionnaires circulated, we received just 15 replies. These responses have been collated and will be discussed at next month's committee meeting. It should be noted that our social calendar has been finalised for this year, but we will certainly look at adding the suggestions to next year's calendar of events.

Early bird announcement - Christmas raffle

There will be a MEGA MYSTERY FIRST PRIZE at the Christmas lunch this year. Tickets are \$1 and go on sale at the June Branch Meeting. Hilary will be selling the new tickets. Remember, the more tickets sold, the bigger the prize.

This is in addition to the normal raffle with the usual fantastic range of prizes. Tickets for those will be three for \$1, and purchased on the day, as usual.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 15 June, Branch Meeting, at 4.00pm, followed by steak and ale pie, and vegetables. Anyone with dietary restrictions, see Lorraine to arrange an alternative.

Thursday, 13 July, Evening Casino Trip, leaving estate at 3.30pm, returning at 9.00pm. Cost \$15 per person including dinner.

September, proposed trip Bentley Pines TAFE. Watch for further details.

Meadow Springs Residents' Branch

Eileen Oxley

A successful fashion parade was held in early April. Our models did well exhibiting wonderful poise to display the garments supplied by 'Mrs Joneses Boutique'.

A number of the Residents' Committee and Mandurah Branch members attended the Meadow Springs Primary School ANZAC ceremony. As usual it was a memorable occasion with the senior students conducting the proceedings. Guest speaker Dave Mabbs, President of the Mandurah RSL, delivered the address focusing on Mandurah's ANZAC history.

Our own ANZAC service at the Memorial wall was very well attended and appreciated. It was led by Reverend David Oxley, with the story of a young Mandurah ANZAC.

The visit to Government House was enjoyed and we had several who had not been before and were duly impressed.

The bi-monthly Sunday movies, although attended by a few, are well received.

Upcoming events

Later this year, we are planning, in association with Tracey, our Welfare Officer, a mini expo

to bring a variety of agencies and suppliers of information suitable for seniors.

Thursday, 15 June, RAAFA Annual Dinner, Langley Hall. Guest speaker Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd).

Tuesday, 18 July, First Aid session.

Friday, 21 July, Branch AGM, all positions will be vacant.

Other proposed activities include, Mandurah Performing Arts Centre - free performance of the 'Soft Shore Shuffle' by the Barundi Peace Band.

MER Branch

Rhonda Mays

ANZAC Day

We had a very successful ANZAC Day ceremony under the Spitfire with over 150 people attending, followed by an opportunity to catch up with an ANZAC biscuit and a cup of tea or coffee in Langley Hall.

High-tea

A successful high-tea was held on Wednesday, 3 May in the Orion Terraces meeting rooms. It was a great success and our thanks go to Judy Bland who did all of the cooking.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 15 June, RAAFA Annual Dinner, Langley Hall. Guest speaker Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd).

Friday, 30 June. A Night to Remember, in Langley Hall with entertainment by Paul Ewing who will take us down memory lane with music from the 50s and 60s. A meal will be available through the Club.

Sunday, 23 July, Tivoli Sunday Matinee - The Best of British. This is filling up fast. \$20 per person includes bus fare, light meal and the show.

Friday, 29 September, A jazz band will entertain us in Langley Hall, with a New Orleans style meal available.

Monday, 9 October, Wildflower Tour to Chittering Valley and visit the Bindoon Bakery. Get in early as there are only 40 seats available.

Merriwa Residents' Branch

Joyce Johnson

Joycejohnson54@gmail.com

Upcoming events

Sunday, 11 June, Sunday Roast.

Monday, 12 June, Resident Bi-Monthly Meeting.

Tuesday, 13 June, Movie Night.

Wednesday, 14 June, Bingo Main Hall eyes down 7.30pm (every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of month) - 28 June; 12 July; 26 July.

Thursday, 15 June, RAAFA Annual Dinner, Langley Hall. Guest speaker Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd).

Tuesday, 20 June, Theme Night in the Blue Gum (Italian).

Friday, 7 July, Magic at Merriwa dinner.

Tuesday, 11 July, Movie Night.

Sunday, 16 July, Sunday Roast.

Monday, 17 July, Little Unique Clothing Boutique (winter collection).

Tuesday, 18 July, Theme Night in the Blue Gum (Indian).

Monday, 14 August, Resident Branch AGM - election of new committee.

Sunday, 12 November, Merriwa Annual Fete.

WRAAF Branch

Judy Bland

gjb41@bigpond.com

Upcoming events

Tuesday, 6 June, Fish and Chips Lunch in AFA Club, Bull Creek, 12noon, \$12 per person includes dessert. Bookings Laeraine 9306 2681 - Everyone welcome. Bring a gift for the raffle. PLEASE NOTE -NO MEETING on this day.

Thursday, 15 June, RAAFA Annual Dinner, Langley Hall. Guest speaker Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd).

Tuesday, 4 July, General Meeting followed by Branch AGM, Meg Olive Room, 7.00pm followed by supper and friendship.

Tuesday, 25 July, Christmas in July, at 35 Lakeview Drive, Edgewater commencing 12noon. Bring something towards lunch - bookings and details from Laeraine 9306 2681. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday, 1 August, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.00pm, followed by supper and friendship.

6-8 April 2018, National Reunion hosted by WRAAF Branch WA, to be held in Adelaide. Approximately 150 have registered at this time. Expression of Interest forms available from Laeraine 9306 2681 or Judy 9311 4401.

SUBMISSIONS FOR AIR MAIL

7 July for August / September
1 September for October / November
3 November for December / January

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 airmail@raafawa.org.au in the first instance or via snail mail to
Julie Stearne,
2 Sleat Road, APPLECROSS WA 6153.

Bull Creek AFA Club

Phone: 9311 4460

Trading Hours



Bar

Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 6.00pm
Friday, 9.30am to 10.00pm
Saturday, 3.30pm to 6.30pm

Specials

Monday and Wednesday, Happy Hour drinks, 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Monday to Friday, morning coffee and afternoon tea with muffins and cakes, 9.30am to 5.30pm

Monday lunch, roast of the day, \$11.00

Monday, Chase the Ace, 4.00pm to 5.30pm

Tuesday lunch, fish and chips day \$11.00

(New date) Now every 2nd Wednesday of the month, A la Carte dining night (bookings at bar)

Every 2nd Thursday lunch, lambs fry and bacon \$13.00

Counter lunches

Monday to Friday, 11.30am to 1.30pm

Dinner dance

Friday, 5.30pm to 10.00pm

Events

Thursday, 15 June, RAAFA Annual Dinner, three course dinner with special guest speaker, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd). Tickets \$45 can be purchased from the Estate Office or Head Office Applecross.

Friday, 30 June, Dinner Dance, entertainment by Peter Ewing, playing all the classics from the 50's-90's. Tickets \$20 per person (includes main meal from dinner menu). For tickets call Rhonda 0429 336 666.

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

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

Tuesday, best fish and chips lunch in town, \$11.00

Wednesday, Chase the Ace, Bingo, horse racing and evening meal. Small and regular size meals available

Thursday, Happy Hour, 4.30pm, Sports Bar

Friday, weekly specials (offal day \$12.50, pasta Friday, parmi and beer \$15.00 and sliders and chips \$12.50) See Specials Board

Counter lunches

Monday to Friday, 11.45am to 1.30pm

Events

Friday, 9 June, A la Carte menu in Beaufort Restaurant with raffle and music by Bob Frazer.

Friday, 14 July, A la Carte menu in Beaufort Restaurant with raffle and music by Bob Frazer.

Short stay accommodation

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



New furniture is transforming the Merriwa Club

A place to relax at Merriwa

THE Merriwa Club and bar area is slowly being turned into a great place to meet and relax and enjoy a few cold ones. Following encouragement by the residents, the Merriwa Residents' Branch is transforming the area with casual furniture and inviting décor.

This transformation started last year when the Branch purchased eight new lounges along with coffee tables and foot stools to be placed near the windows. With views onto the bowling greens, this area has quickly become a great place to relax, drink a coffee and take advantage of the free Wi-Fi supplied by RAAFA.

The next addition was a small fridge to keep milk cold ready for the coffees and teas. This area has also made an ideal setting for our Devonshire tea afternoons.

The lounges also improve the movie night

experience with residents arriving early to ensure they get a good position. It was after one of these nights that a couple of lounges were placed in the bar area and this proved a great hit.

It was then decided to create a Lounge Bar with more casual seating, making the Blue Gum a full time restaurant for lunches, morning teas and functions. All tables will eventually be removed from the bar area and additional chairs ordered so we can have four areas dedicated to informal relaxation with friends.

Once all the furniture is in place we hope to have an area available for all residents to come and enjoy the facilities of the Club and be proud to bring their friends along.

Merriwa Club

Phone: 9400 3640

Trading Hours



Bar

Tuesday 11.00am to 2.00pm
Wednesday 11.00am to 6.00pm
Thursday 10.00am to 6.00pm
Friday 11.00am to 9.00pm
Saturday 11.00am to 6.00pm (Winter closing time dependent on patronage)
Closed Sundays and Mondays

Lunches

Tuesday to Saturday, 12noon to 1.30pm

Specials

Wednesday, 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, Happy Hour, 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Friday, dinner, Main Hall, 5.00pm to 9.00pm

Saturday, coffee and cake, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Saturday, fish lunch \$12.00, 12noon to 1.30pm

Events

Tuesday, 20 June, Italian Theme Night in the Blue Gum Restaurant.

Friday, 7 July, Magic at Merriwa dinner.

Sunday, 16 July, Sunday Roast lunch.

Tuesday, 18 July, Indian Theme Night in the Blue Gum Restaurant.

Blooming joy

THE residents and staff at Gordon Lodge enjoyed a sunny autumn day and planted out the new wheelchair accessible planter boxes, provided by Fleetwood, with flowering bulbs.

The residents had their afternoon tea in the courtyard and then the avid gardeners got their hands dirty, planting out the various bulbs.

During this coming winter and spring the courtyard will be a riot of colour and fragrance as the daffodils, ranunculi and other bulbs burst into flower.

Fleetwood Senior Project Manager, Chris Blair said, "it is a genuine pleasure to support community projects like this, especially for those who don't get about as much as they used to".



Cambrai Club

Phone: 9304 5401

Trading Hours



Bar

Tuesday and Wednesday, 4.00pm to 8.00pm
Friday, 12noon to 2.00pm and 4.00pm to 6.00pm

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

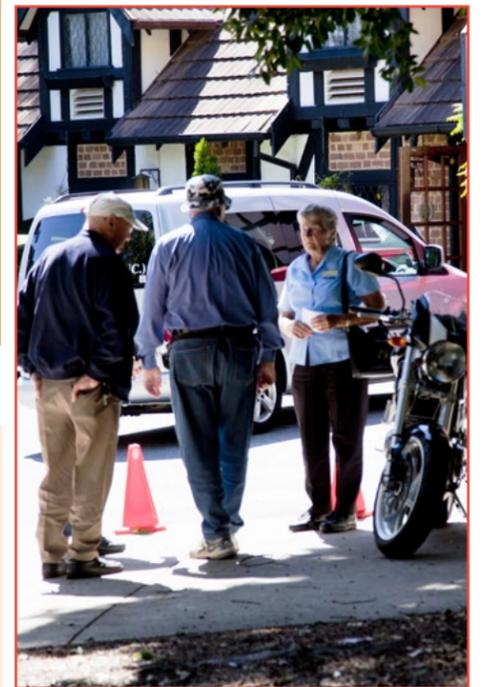
Wednesday, morning tea, 10.00am to 11.00am

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

Friday, Happy Hour, 5.00pm when function on

Events

Alternate fortnights on Friday, either a three course buffet or sundowner. Book early as both events will be popular. Don't forget to invite family and friends. We look forward to seeing you there.



Heritage Village visit

By Lillian Bridewell

RESIDENTS from Erskine Grove had a great day when we took a trip to the Heritage Village at Armadale.

We enjoyed morning tea at Serpentine Falls on a beautiful fresh morning and then went on to the Village pub for a wonderful lunch with great service.

When we came out three of our party, Margaret Cunningham, Bob Schwartz and Alan Eulenstein were seen admiring a motorbike and in a big discussion as to who was going to ride it home. We all hoped it wasn't Margaret or we would have had to walk.

Introducing Welfare Officer, Ceridwen

26 YEAR old Ceridwen Fitzpatrick is the new Welfare Officer at Amity Village Albany, and although she has only been in the job for a few weeks, she admits she absolutely loves her new part-time role.

Ceridwen, who lives on a farm in Mount Barker, has previously worked in allied health and the disability sector, and is also a carer for her foster sister.

“My first impressions of Amity Village are that it’s a friendly, welcoming and extremely active community,” says Ceridwen, who is also studying for a Bachelor’s of Anthropology and Social Psychology degree at the University of WA campus in Albany.

“It’s also a very supportive and involved place. When I arrived I was very pleasantly surprised to see on the notice board that there are three or four events usually planned every day, from tai chi, to music and craft clubs.”

Outside working and studying, Ceridwen is also a volunteer for the SES and Mount

Barker Community Gardens, where she was recently involved in a creek revegetation program with the local primary school.

“Amity Village is just a great community for retired people, I can see why they all love it,” she said.



Ceridwen Fitzpatrick with Sheila Quicke

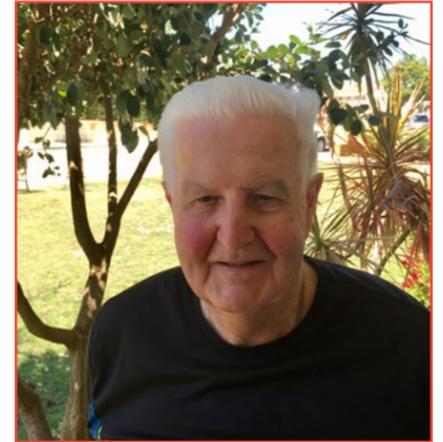
RAAFA Connect services enjoyed

ONE of the friendly people you will see around Air Force Memorial Estate is John Slee. John and his beloved late wife Zoe, moved into the estate 12 years ago when they decided to retire in Western Australia to be closer to family.

They have both been active in participating around the estate including in social and volunteer programs, from being involved with the choir to administration duties or driving the buggy.

John says he loves living in the estate because of the comradery and friendship with the other residents. John lives independently in a Retirement Living unit with a little help from RAAFA Connect who provide him with fortnightly domestic assistance. This allows John to have more time to do the things he loves and he has two great passions in life - golf and music.

It was their love of music that led John and Zoe to join ‘Sing Australia’ 11 years ago. Sing Australia is an organization that has group choir practices in different areas all over Australia. They welcome everyone to join and promote singing as benefiting health and social wellbeing.



John Slee

With Sing Australia John has travelled to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra to perform. He says that it is like a second family and such a great group to be part of. He encourages anyone who thinks they may enjoy it to come along and have a go.

So next time you see John’s happy face driving the buggy or around the estate make sure you say hi or stop him for a chat!

If you would like more information on Sing Australia visit singaustralia.com.au or on the services RAAFA Connect provide in the community 9311 4498.

RAAFA Welfare Team

CAMBRAI VILLAGE

Vanessa Priestley 9304 5280

RAAFA ESTATE MERRIWA

Suzanne Free 9400 3778

AFME

Carena Blair 9311 4562

ERSKINE GROVE

Angeline Carleton 9586 4309

RAAFA ESTATE MEADOW

SPRINGS

Tracey Lockett 9582 5369

RAAFA AMITY VILLAGE

ALBANY

Ceridwen Fitzpatrick 9841 8311

The Welfare Service aims to:

- Assist ALL MEMBERS, no matter your location, 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

All events, \$2.00 donation unless otherwise stated, morning/afternoon tea included. Family and friends welcome.

Weekly

Mondays, 10.30am - Laughter Group, Alice Ross-King Care Centre

Mondays, morning class – Falls Prevention Clinic with a Professional Physio, Orion Function Room

Fees apply, rebates available. Contact Carena for times.

Mondays – 10.30am - Tai Chi Chen Style, Orion Function Room

With professional instructor, \$5.00 per class. Simple to learn with only 8 moves enables you to concentrate on each step.

Mondays, 2.00pm – Meditation Group, Village Hall

Wednesdays, 10.00am – Fitness with Emma continues, Orion Function Room
Personal gym instruction available.

Friday, 16 June, 10.30am - Brain Training, Orion Function Room
Caitlin has returned to test and tease your brain like never before.

Saturdays, am – Nordic Walking or pole walking

This is a super way to get your feet walking and your brain working all at once. Heather is a trained Nordic walking instructor from Alzheimer’s WA and she has commenced her Saturday walking group here. There will be stretching and a friendly coffee after class.

Small Donation to Alzheimer’s WA requested. Contact Carena for details. This group will be running throughout 2017.

All Saints Intergenerational Project is continuing to delight all involved. If you are interested in joining in, call Carena for details.

Exergaming has come to AFME and people are loving it.

Fun ways to get fit indoors. If you are interested contact Carena.

Contact Carena for information on what’s coming up in June and July.

Meadow Springs

Weekly

Tuesday, 10.00am – Mavericks Social Club for Members Living with Memory Loss, Erskine Grove Clubhouse

Bus transportation available for Members not living on the Estate. Contact Angeline or Tracey for more information.

Erskine Grove

Weekly

Tuesday, 10.00am – Mavericks Social Club for Members Living with Memory Loss, Erskine Grove Clubhouse

Bus transportation available for Members not living on the Estate. Contact Angeline for more information.

Merriwa Estate

Weekly

Monday and Wednesday, 9.00am – 9.45am Water Aerobics, Therapy Pool, \$7.50
Craig, Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer to the senior age group, provides low impact stretching and cardio exercises to enhance your fitness and wellbeing.

Thursday, 10.00am – 11.00am – Group Functional Fitness, Meeting Room, \$10.00 includes smoothie

Craig, Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer to the senior age group, provides low impact fitness sessions on living a healthier, happy

lifestyle and nutritional advice.

Monday, 9am – Noon (Approx), Chiropractic, Dr Brian Tvoric available to support your needs, Arcade
Phone 0431 196 461 for appointment.

Tuesday, 8.00am-2.00pm, Australian Hearing, Arcade

Available for hearing screenings and equipment maintenance, repairs and battery servicing. Some DVA benefits available. Appointment book in Arcade. Phone 9204 9200.

Monday, 26 June, 10.00am – 12.00pm, RAAFA Connect

Presentation on the new services available from RAAFA Connect to assist residents with their needs. Morning Tea provided.

Cambrai Village

Weekly

Wednesday and Sunday, Physiotherapist Julie Pham

Available for appointments from 8.00am. Appointment book located in the Cambrai Foyer.

Tuesday, 8.00am -12noon, Podiatrist Fredrick is available for appointments, see book in Cambrai Foyer.

First & third Thursday of the month, Australian Hearing – Cambrai Treatment Room

Available for advanced hearing checks, hearing aid repairs, equipment cleaning and new batteries. Some equipment available for free for DVA recipients. Call 9204 9200 for an appointment.