



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



Preserving the lessons of sacrifice

Neil MacPherson credits his mother for giving him the strength to survive the Burma Railway as a P.O.W. He returns each year as Vice-Chairman of the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association.

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Darts making a comeback

Yvonne Laidley started social darts at Cambrai with only a few friends, but now as many as 40 men and women enjoy the fun of a game.

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RAAFA gains recognition in excellence awards

THE \$30 million Alice Ross-King Care Centre has taken out a prestigious industry award and won the Innovation and Best Practice category in this year's Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) Excellence in Care Awards.

The ACSA Excellence in Care Awards recognise not-for-profit aged care providers and individuals working in aged and community care within the WA community.

RAAFA Chief Executive Officer John Murray said the Alice Ross-King Care Centre offered 102 single bedrooms with private ensuites, in addition to a dementia-specific care wing, reflecting RAAFA's commitment to supporting the growing number of West Australians living with dementia, Alzheimer's and memory loss.

"RAAFA strives for excellence in every area we operate in and we're delighted that our

Alice Ross-King Care Centre, which represents a truly modern approach to how the aged care industry can respond to the individual care needs of aging people in our community, has won this sought-after industry award," he said.

"We're very proud to have been recognised by Australia's peak not-for-profit aged care industry body and this accolade reflects how hard our staff have worked to make our new centre the huge success it has become.

"We're focused on responding to the individual needs and choices of each of our residents, rather than taking a 'one size fits all' approach traditionally seen in aged care and this has been recognised by ACSA in the awarding of this accolade."



Part of the Alice Ross-King Care Centre team received the award

The secret is to be happy

GORDON Lodge resident Ciss Petkovic will be 99 years old in just a few months - on 7 October - and by her own admission she is loving life and is still very engaged in politics and current affairs.

"There's so much I love in life," says Ciss,



Ciss Petkovic

who was one of the first residents to move into Air Force Memorial Estate in 1982. They were so eager they initially stayed in a nearby motel because the unit she and her husband were moving into wasn't quite finished.

"I love history, particularly English history, and reading about the kings and queens of years gone by. I also love keeping up with politics, although I have to admit to being upset by the lack of respect for others currently displayed in Australian politics, it's very disappointing to see.

"My other love is gardening. I still grow my own veggies and in fact people have started calling

me the Tomato Queen, as I've just harvested my latest crop of tomatoes and capsicums," she laughs.

"First thing every morning, I'm out on the patio with my veggies, come rain hail or shine, and even if I'm having an off day I'll still stick my head out there to check the crows haven't eaten my tomatoes.

"I do love my veggie garden on the patio, and I really think it's important to keep as active as you can, rather than just sitting around doing nothing.

"I try to keep myself busy. I go out with friends once a week for a Chinese meal, see my family a great deal, and I really enjoy the company of younger people. I think they can help to keep you young in spirit."

Ciss, who has lived in the Mount Pleasant and Booragoon area all her life, explains that she was in the hotel business for much of her working life, and her husband was a hairdresser.

"We loved to travel, so we worked hard and saved up to go away every two years. We went overseas on various cruises and loved to go and explore the culture in Europe, particularly Italy," she said.

"Swimming has always been a passion of mine too. I've swum all my life and used to get up at 5:30 each morning to go to the public pool before it closed down. After that I went to Port Beach, but I don't go as much now as I'm a little afraid of falling.

"I have also enjoyed lawn bowls during my lifetime, and I served as the president of the Mount Pleasant Bowling Club for a couple of years.

"If you ask me, the key to a good life is to be happy. You have to look forward, live a clean life and get out and enjoy the outdoors. Certainly keeping your body and mind healthy is also really important, and that's why it's so beneficial to have a positive attitude."

From the cockpit



State President, Graeme Bland

By Graeme Bland

THE past two months have been very busy for myself, the State Executive and the Division Council. Division Councillor David Peet had to resign his position on medical grounds and Allan Henshaw has re-joined the Division Council to complete David's term. We thank David for his contribution and welcome Allan back.

Bomber Command Day

We had a very successful and well attended 75th Anniversary of the Commemoration of Bomber Command with Jean Oliver as our guest speaker. There was an excellent

turnout and a special thanks go to the Air Force Cadets, AFA Melville Band and our volunteers who helped ensure the event was such a memorable occasion.

Next year will be the 75th Anniversary of the Dam Busters Raid so I am looking for survivors or relatives of any of the Dam Buster Crews. If you are or know of someone, I would love to hear from you. Please email me on gbland@raafawa.org.au.

RAAFA Annual Dinner

Our RAAFA Annual Dinner celebrated the 88th year since the formation of the Association in Western Australia. We were fortunate enough to have Sir Angus Houston KC AFC, former Chief of Defence as our guest speaker and he gave the audience an insight into the difficulties surrounding the crash investigation of Malaysian Airways MH 17 in the Ukraine.

I also had the privilege of presenting Maureen Farrell from Cambrai Village with RAAFA Life Membership in appreciation for her dedication to "keeping the wheels turning" at Cambrai for the benefit of the residents.

RAAFA National

I attended the RAAFA National Annual

General Meeting in Melbourne. The National Executive remained unchanged as Western Australia's nomination for the Vice President position was unsuccessful.

The majority of the meeting was about the changes to the National Constitution to convert it to a Company with Limited Guarantee. It was realised that they also need a Strategic Plan, so now arises another distraction. Irrespective, we are determined to ensure National have no rights to interfere with, nor takeover the WA operations.

Former RAAF Pilots Courses graduates

No 2 Flying Training Squadron at RAAF Pearce are still chasing "Double Centurions" who graduated from Courses 48 to 53 to attend and be feted at the Graduations of Courses 248 through 253.

If applicable please contact the Personnel Capability Officer 2FTS per randall.kronenburg@defence.gov.au or phone (08) 95715153 to register your interest in attending as a future "Double Centurion".

Upcoming events

This year "The Nek" Commemoration Service, featuring the 10th Light Horse's

Charge into Beersheba, will commence at 2.00pm on 6 August at Bellevue RSL, 2 Purdon Place, Bellevue.

13 August is Vietnam Veterans' Commemoration at the Vietnam Veterans' pavilion, King's Park commencing at 11.00am.

26 August is the Merdeka Commemoration from 11.00am at the Flame of Remembrance, King's Park.

Representations

RAAFA was represented on your behalf at the following:

- Battle of the Coral Sea commemoration;
- Japanese Consul's visit to the Aviation Heritage Museum;
- US Memorial Day Ceremony;
- Indigenous Veterans' Day Ceremony;
- RCS flag raising ceremony at Government House;
- RAAF Pearce Graduation of No 247 Course; and
- RAAFA National Annual General Meeting.

Remember to "Stay on your feet".

Your Appointed Division Councillor

Geraldine Carlton MBA, B.App.Sci(Nurs), GradCert PSM, GradCert HMS, FAICD

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

Originally from Northern Ireland, Geraldine emigrated to Australia in 1989. She specialised in operating theatre nursing prior to building a career in the WA Public Health system.

She held senior nursing roles in PMH and Rockingham General Hospital (RGH). As the Executive Director Rockingham Peel Group, Geraldine was in charge of community and mental health services in the Rockingham, Peel and Murray District regions. Through a \$125M capital expansion program, Geraldine enabled the tripling in size and significant expansion of services at RGH and the development of more appropriate community services in the Mandurah and Murray regions.

Geraldine has recently transferred to the position of Executive Director Transformation for the South Metropolitan Health Service. This role leads the planning to improve the patients' experience and quality of care across Fiona Stanley,

Fremantle, Rockingham and Murray Districts hospitals and across community services.

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

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



Geraldine Carlton



LtoR Brett Mitchell, Graeme Bland, Clive Robartson, Sir Angus Houston and John Murray

Annual Dinner

THE RAAFA Annual Dinner is an occasion for members to enjoy the atmosphere and a chance to catch up with old friends and this year was no different with close to 120 members and guests attending.

The highlight of the evening was special guest speaker, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (Ret'd), who provided the guests with an insight into the crash investigation of Malaysian Airways MH17 in the Ukraine and the difficulties surrounding it.

Toe tapping music was played throughout the night by No Limits, with many people taking the opportunity to get out on the dance floor.

The evening included the presentation of RAAFA Life Membership to Cambrai Village resident, Maureen Farrell, who has tirelessly volunteered at the Village in many areas.

Sponsorship of the night was by Bidvest and Liquor Traders Australia and the Club staff excelled themselves in the presentation of the delicious dinner.

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See page 11 for submission deadlines

CEO's perspective



CEO, John Murray

By John Murray

The changing seasons can be viewed differently, depending on your perspective. A classic example is our current winter season which I have viewed as beautiful and sunny interrupted only briefly by showers. Yet for those people who have sown \$1M worth of seed into their paddocks, they have a different perspective on the value of sunny days.

Along with farmers, all organisations need to think of potential risks when they venture into planning for the future. The Division Council and Executive team have been working through the strategic direction and opportunities that RAAFA has, measuring them against potential risks and ensuring that there is a balance to enable us to achieve our long term goals.

RAAFA is a unique organisation, its original purpose and origins as an ex-services organisation has developed alongside a significant seniors services business, now turning over \$60M per annum. There are now 595 staff in the organisation and the need for us to respond to the growth of

seniors in Western Australia will require us to potentially double that number over the next 5-10 years.

We have been working to clearly articulate what RAAFA in WA looks like, this is in comparison to our peers in other States where their primary purpose is purely to be a veterans' organisation.

One RAAFA

There have been ongoing discussions about RAAFA membership. Members join RAAFA for a variety of reasons. The "One RAAFA" model diagram shows how the three main elements of our organisation come together:

1. **Veterans**
This portion represents the services we provide for veterans along with advocacy and support;
2. **Membership**
The 4500 members are a mixture of

veterans and non-veterans who can access and enjoy our range of services;

3. **Senior services provision**
Services provided through our residential aged care, retirement living and RAAFA Connect community based services delivery..

In WA our members can be both veterans and service users or they can be people who don't have a veterans background as the majority of members now are.

Many of you became members to access some of our membership benefits, volunteers supporting veterans, or consumers of our seniors services, living in our villages, aged care facilities or receiving community based services.

On the "One RAAFA" model you'll see another overlap in the services provided on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs via our seniors services to veterans who are also members.

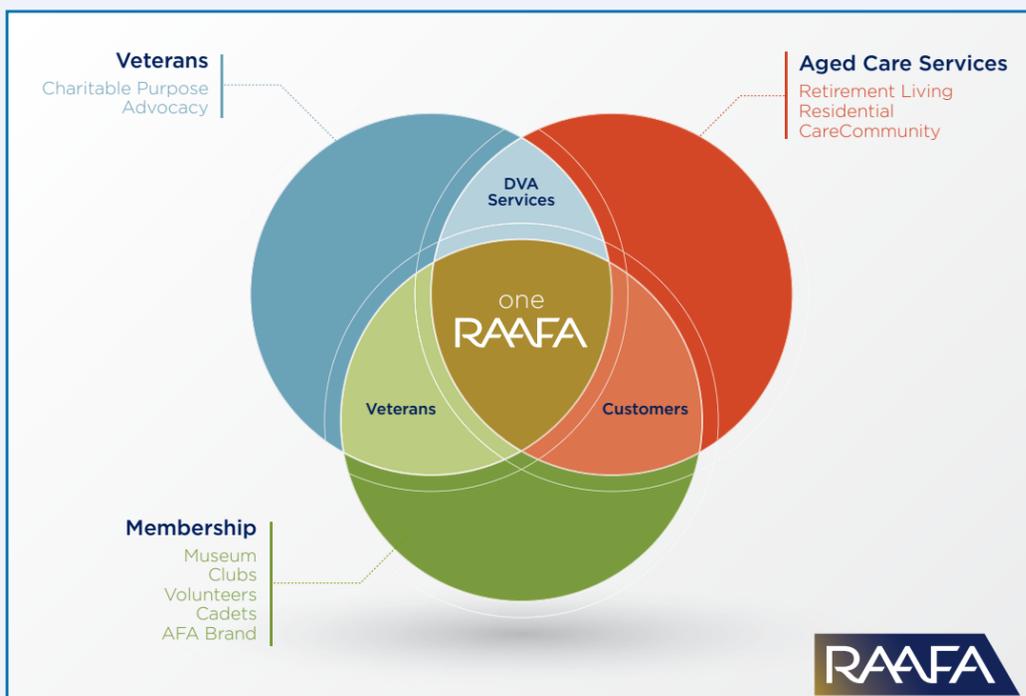
Strategic aspirations

The work done earlier in the year by Division Council and the Executive team to look at the overall strategic aspirations of RAAFA is now being refined further. We need to define what we are doing for veterans, members and our seniors services. Each element forms part of our "One RAAFA" model, but each element needs to be clearly defined with its own responsibilities.

Defining these elements enabled discussions at a recent Branches Forum with regards to accountabilities and responsibilities for Branches within the "One RAAFA" structure.

There was also discussion about how Branches support their members and how they can reach out and support local veterans in the areas where they are based.

We have a number of workshops scheduled over the next few months where we hope to gain greater clarity on these issues.



The "One RAAFA" model

Division Councillor, David Peet

I wish to acknowledge on behalf of RAAFA the work that David Peet has provided in supporting the organisation during his role as State President and Division Councillor. Sadly, due to health issues David has stepped down from his role and I formally thank David and his wife Dianne for the support and effort they have provided to RAAFA over the years and hope that his health improves quickly.

I hope everyone is feeling well and life is being good to you. I thank you for being part of the life of RAAFA.



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

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 the nominee's 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

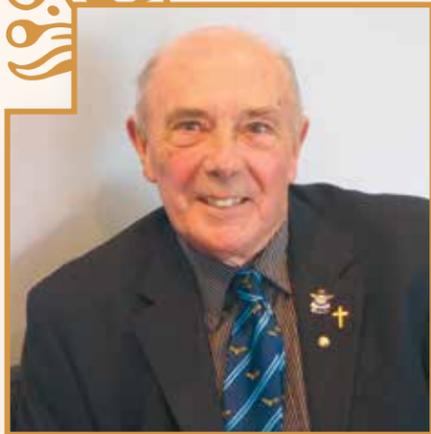
As per Item 10.4b of the Constitution, members unable to attend a meeting may lodge a Postal Vote on any Notice of

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 positions and for the counting and custody of postal vote papers.

The Padre's Piece



By Padre David

I WONDER if you know what the words Klondike, Spider, Freecell, Pyramid and Tripeak refer to? They are all games you can play on the computer in the Microsoft Solitaire Collection, and you now know my addiction.

We are so used to seeing young people totally absorbed with mobile phones in their hands, thumbs whizzing over the key pad as they play their computer games. With the advent of mobile phones (small computers in themselves) a journey on the local rail system is now quite a different experience from what it used to be. There is still the lack of

conversation but whereas we used to bury our heads in the newspaper, now it's the mobile phone that's taken over.

But back to the Solitaire games – I don't think cards hold much interest for young people today, their games are such as Command and Conquer, Red Alert, Warhammer or Team Fortress. However, I suspect I am not alone in my Solitaire addiction amongst our senior age group.

My interest however is in how to tackle the Solitaire challenges. Some may say they have no process. They have no pattern in making the decision as to which card to move first. They just move the first card they think about. However, I work to a process. I am very methodical. I always move the highest card first and when that gets me to an impasse, I then select the lowest card to make a move back in order to be able to try a different track to clearing all the cards from the challenge.

Reflecting on my life that's how I am. I am a methodical person. It was Edgar Rice Burroughs – the creator of the jungle hero Tarzan - who said "We are, all of us,

creatures of habit and when the seeming necessity for schooling ourselves in new ways ceases to exist, we fall naturally and easily into the manner and customs which long usage has implanted within us".

It may be comfortable to not have to think too much but just live out the habits of a lifetime, but I am not sure how much that contributes to life, to my personal life or to the life of our society. Sometimes it is not until I think creatively or from my faith perspective when I believe I have received a gentle prod from God, that I might try something a little differently.

The result is often something wonderful that I wish I had tried sooner. Fear of change makes us want to cling to the way "things" have always been done. I know I am sometimes reluctant to look outside the square to see the new thing that God can and will do in and through me.

There's an old evangelical hymn that has the words "Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of truth, thou hast for me, place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free".

That's my prayer as I share in the new developments of our Association and as I still want to be part of this world of the 21st century.

Shalom



Teddy Dean (centre) with family and Café staff

Birthday surprise

ALICE Ross-King Care Centre's much loved Café Dean celebrated its first birthday in May, which included a special celebration that came as a surprise for one particular resident.

The café is named after the late Tom Dean, a former RAAFA State President from 1987 to 1990 and coincidentally, the opening of the café fell on his wife, Teddy Dean's, birthday. So when her family decided to have a surprise birthday lunch at the café for Teddy, they had a further surprise waiting.

"I just thought we were going for lunch, I knew nothing about the celebration and it was most unexpected," said Teddy.

"The next thing I knew the chef was presenting me with a birthday cake and a knife to cut it with, and then I saw all of the staff standing behind him, it was quite an occasion and something very special to happen on my birthday.

"It was also lovely to see lots of cupcakes being handed out to all the customers for the first anniversary of the café. I think everyone had a great day."

According to Priscilla, the café manager, and Lloyd the chef, it has been a busy year for Café Dean, and it has become an important meeting place for the entire RAAFA community.

"We're so pleased at how popular it's become. It's very much the place to meet family and friends and have a chat, although we also do a lot of takeaways, both coffees and lunches," Priscilla said.

"We have two choices for a cooked lunch every day, and many people pop in and buy one for lunch and take away another for dinner. It's just so convenient for people and we make everything fresh every day, so I think we have a reputation for nutritious, good quality food."

Café Dean is open seven days a week, from 9am to 3pm every weekday, and 10am until 2pm at the weekend. Also on Saturdays, a full breakfast is offered for \$12, including coffee.

Happy first birthday Café Dean!

75th Anniversary of Bomber Command

ON SUNDAY, 28 May 2017, RAAFA held its annual Bomber Command Commemoration Ceremony at AFME in Bull Creek.

This year marked the 75th anniversary as Clive Robartson, State Vice President, paid homage to those who served in Bomber Command and made the supreme sacrifice. 125,000 Australian and allied aircrew served in Bomber Command; of those, 55,500 were killed in action and over 10,500 were taken prisoner.

Over 100 people watched as invited guests laid memorial crosses commemorating the deeds and actions of Bomber Command, ensuring that future generations will remember their heroism and courage.

A very smartly turned out parade of Australian Air Force Cadets set the scene for the wreath and cross laying ceremony, with music provided by the AFA Melville Band.

John Lyall, former member of Bomber Command, and Molly Gordon, widow of Les Gordon also a former member of Bomber Command, placed a beautiful formal wreath at the foot of the Spitfire memorial, assisted by State President, Graeme Bland.

The guest speaker was Jean Oliver, widow of Flying Officer George Oliver, a former member of Bomber Command. George wrote a book about his wartime experiences titled "They didn't just drop from a cloud."

He received recognition for his service being awarded the MID (Mentioned in

Dispatches for distinguished service) RAAF, the Chevalier de la Legion d' Honneur (liberation of France), a Dutch Liberation Medal and Cadet Forces Medal (for 17 years Air Training Corps service).

Jean provided a well detailed insight into George's wartime career, how he learned to navigate over countryside full of villages, roads and railways.

Her insight showed how, with just under six hours formal training, George Oliver found himself as "Skipper" of a Wellington aircraft with full responsibility for both the aircraft and a crew of five!

Jean described how taking part in missions, whether delivering personnel, ammunitions and arms or crates of pigeons used by Resistance groups and the manifold dangers attached to these missions, forged close bonds within the aircrews and also created similar bonds with the ground crews who maintained the aircraft.

George Oliver and his aircrews took part in many famous actions during WWII including flying SOE operatives into Norway to damage the test plant and destroy transport used in Germany's "Heavy Water" projects.

George's crew carried out a paratroop drop at 800 feet without a hitch during D-Day preparations and took part in D-Day on 6 June 1944 describing the events in Normandy: "It was an amazing sight. As we looked down at the 5000 vessels involved in the landing which can only be described as awesome... ships of all shapes and sizes over



LtOr Molly Gordon, Graeme Bland and John Lyall

which RAF fighter aircraft circled to protect all. It was the most awesome and massive military sight that I have ever seen and will ever see!"

While towing gliders full of personnel, bombs and petrol during "Operation Market Garden" to liberate Arnhem in Holland, George Oliver's plane was hit and crashed into a ditch. The crew's luck held and they met up with British soldiers and made their way back to England via Belgium.

Jean Oliver said she and her husband visited the crash site in Holland in 1984 and managed to find some pieces of the aircraft.

The insight Jean gave the gathering concluded with her stating "Today we remember the 55,500 airmen who lost their lives in Bomber Command and pray that such a waste of life shall not occur again.

"Lest we forget."

Recalling memories as a POW

HAVING been born in Scotland, it was quite a life journey for RAAFA resident Neil MacPherson to become a Prisoner of War in Burma when he was in his 20s - and survive.

Neil was born on 14 May 1922, and came to Australia in 1924 with his mother and sister to be reunited with his father, who had come earlier as a settler at Margaret River.

Neil joined the army in the second Australian Imperial Force, known as the 2nd AIF, in 1941. After undertaking training in Northam, Neil was in the last group to be sent to the Middle East, just before Japan entered the war in December 1941.

After spending three months in Palestine, Neil and his colleagues were given leave in Jerusalem, and it was there that he saw the amazing sights of the Wailing Wall and also went to Tel Aviv.

It was on his ship returning to Australia that things changed for Neil, when the boat was diverted to Java in an attempt to slow the

advance of the Japanese southwards towards Australia. Unfortunately, there weren't enough troops to hold off the Japanese for long, and on 8 March 1942 the government of Java surrendered all of its people to the Japanese, which included Neil and his comrades.

Over the next three years, Neil was sent to work on the Burma Railway, before being moved to Thailand and then on to Japan, where he spent the last 12 months of his captivity working in a coal mine in a small mining village.

Neil credits his "wonderful mum" for giving him the strength to survive as a prisoner of war, an experience he describes as "hell", particularly because of the frequent bouts of dysentery and malaria he suffered. The thought of his mum grieving for him gave him the strength to carry on, and against the odds he survived.

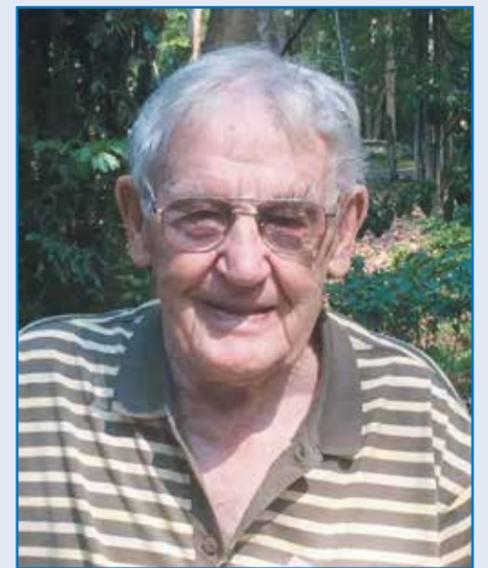
Serendipitously, Neil arrived back in Australia, via Manila, on 21 October 1945,

his mother's 45th birthday. "She told me it was the best birthday present she ever had," says Neil, who recalls that he spent the next few months recuperating before being discharged from the Army in February 1946.

Prior to the war, Neil had worked as a Shipping Clerk, and after it ended the same company welcomed him back with open arms and he progressed through the ranks to become a State Manager before he retired in 1980.

Today Neil, who has two daughters from his first wife, who sadly died, and three sons to his second wife, still visits Thailand each year in his capacity as vice-chairman of the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association.

"We take 16-year-old high school students up to Thailand every year. They see for themselves how men died to preserve the freedom they enjoy today, some who were not much older than them, and I'm proud



Neil MacPherson

to say since we started the organisation in 1997, 400 students have since made the 10 day trip with us.

"It's a special thing to do, and even though I'm 95 years old, I hope to continue making the annual pilgrimage for as long as I'm able."

RAAFA Veteran Support Centre

By Graeme Bland

WE INTEND to relocate the RAAFA Veteran Support Centre at Bull Creek to a more convenient location on AFME so that we can better serve the Veteran Community.

The new location will have more room and be easier to find at the front of the Estate. The Centre has been kept busy with more people seeking our assistance.

Once the move has been finalised we will work towards finding a suitable location in the Meadow Springs/Erskine area as we have two new trainees in that area.

During the disruption, the Centre can be contacted by bcvetcent@gmail.com or by ringing Graeme on 0400 234 612.

Dam Busters bomb

By Jo Naylor

THE Aviation Heritage Museum, under the direction of the Manager, John Park, goes from strength to strength. With over 210 volunteers providing a mix of talents, John has a wealth of knowledge and resources at his disposal to bring his ideas to fruition.

The notion of showcasing a replica of the famous Dam Busters' bouncing bomb was one such idea that was put to the Aviation Museum Branch. The Branch agreed that it would be an excellent addition to the Avro Lancaster display, which already includes a number of bombs that were donated by the European Area Branch back when Les Gordon was Branch President.

The Museum Branch agreed to meet the cost of manufacturing the bomb casing at \$600 and local company Kounis Metal



Industries very kindly offered to donate the internal parts. However, when the daughter of the late Les Gordon heard of the plan, she and her husband immediately offered to pay for the manufacture of the bomb casing.

The Museum is very grateful to Barbara and Graeme Dundas for this generous offer.

We can't wait to see the addition to an already fabulous display.

Gold Card for British Nuclear Test veterans

MINISTER for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan called on surviving participants of the British Nuclear Test (BNT) program in Australia and veterans who served as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) to register for free health care.

Mr Tehan said the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Budget passed the Senate in June 2017, meaning the Government's \$133.1 million program came into effect from 1 July.

"The Gold Card can be used by eligible

former members of the Australian Defence Force to pay for their health care," Mr Tehan said.

"This Budget measure will also provide this health care coverage for affected pastoralists, Indigenous people and other civilians determined to be within the same vicinity as the participants of the BNT.

"I strongly encourage anyone who believes they are eligible under this program to contact DVA and begin the process.

DVA can be contacted on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for regional callers.

Shopping days

EVERY Monday and Wednesday morning the Amity Village bus takes up to nine residents to the shopping centre to pick up the odd item.

Although these days are known as the "Shopping Days", the highlight and main purpose of the trips is the social morning tea at a different café each time with the often scenic ride home "the long way"!

This photo was snapped by one of our resident shoppers and shows Monday's



group of morning-tea connoisseurs with one of our wonderful volunteer bus drivers, Richard Colmer.

John recalls his memories of war

ALTHOUGH he was born in Canterbury in Kent in 1932, RAAFA Amity Village Albany resident John Turner has lived in Australia for over 40 years, and is the first to admit he's led a full and exciting life.

John served in the Korean War on board the light fleet carrier HMS Glory, where he was in the engineering branch. When the Korean War ended in 1953, he volunteered to stay on to fight in the Malayan campaign, serving on board HMS Lysander until 1954, at which time it set sail back to England.

"I think my reason for wanting to serve my country was instigated by the fact that I lived through the Battle of Britain. I can vividly remember the skies being black as Spitfires and Hurricanes flew overhead taking part in "dog-fights" with Messerschmitts, Junkers etc, whilst the German bombers tried to fly to London," recalls John, who in his later years ran a number of businesses both in the UK and Australia.

"Canterbury was very badly bombed during the war and I can remember one Saturday afternoon with an attack by Messerschmitts flying at rooftop level bombing the town. I had to kick the door of a house open to take refuge from a bomb, which actually dropped next door and totally demolished the other three houses. I was very lucky to survive unscathed.

"I can also remember the doodlebugs flying over and dropping out of the sky when their engines stopped. One time I was blown back onto the bed behind me from the blast, and another time I was caught on the banister of the second storey of our house which saved me from flying down the stairs.

"War is a terrible thing, and I lost a number of friends and shipmates over the years, but I must admit that I found the years of serving in the Royal Navy, frequently in dangerous situations, in Korea, Malaya and other places and carrying out the duties

expected of us by our Governments rather exciting."

Did you know?

The Korean War began in June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf.

As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them.

Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China or even, as some warned, World War III.



John Turner

Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end. In all, some five million soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the war.

The Korean peninsula is still divided today.

F-111 simulator

THE team of volunteers at the Aviation Heritage Museum are currently working on an original F-111F simulator, which has been sourced from overseas and is on loan to the museum. The simulator has undergone a major transformation from being hooked up to a room full of computers and hydraulics, to now being in a 'flyable' state.



LtoR Geoff Breuder and John Murray in the simulator

Indeed, it has taken a small group of volunteers nearly four and a half years to progress the simulator to its current state, where it's now possible to sit in the cockpit, start the engines, pre-configure for 'take-off' and then carry out a flight.

For technically-minded readers, the functioning controls include ailerons, elevator, a rudder, gears, throttles, flaps, wing sweep, brakes and some pitch steer options.

Currently the hard-working volunteers are working on the lighting circuits and expect to have some panels and instruments lit up shortly. Many of the original incandescent globes have been replaced with LEDs which should provide a longer time before needing replacement.

The cockpit includes a 'through the windscreen' experience with the inclusion of a data projector and, eventually, the team hopes to incorporate a quality sound system with a 'butt kicker' to keep the pilots awake.

While it is not fully operational or open to the public as yet, museum staff are receiving lots of interest from visitors, so it's already providing quite an interactive experience and point of interest.

Special thanks must go to volunteers Michael Butcher, Neil McNeil and Ian

Robertson who have been key to overseeing the interfacing and electrical processes. In addition, Greg Bish and Kim Williams spent many hours in restoring the panels and painting.

What a fantastic initiative that will interest many visitors to the museum, in addition to giving them a great deal of enjoyment and entertainment. CEO, John Murray, took it for a spin recently. Great job guys!

Fast facts

The F model simulators were originally stationed with the 48th TFW Liberty Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England.

During this period the 48th TFW played an instrumental role in Operation El Dorado Canyon on 15 April 1986. This was a reprisal raid against Gaddafi's regime in Libya for bombing a disco in Berlin, Germany which killed three people, including a U.S. serviceman.

In 1990 and 1991, the 48th TFW was called upon again during Operations: Desert Shield and Desert Storm to counter Saddam Hussien's invasion of Kuwait. In both instances, the F-111F Mission Simulators would have been instrumental in mission rehearsal for those combat operations.

RAAFA Life Membership

IT WAS with great pleasure that State President, Graeme Bland awarded RAAFA Life Membership to Maureen Farrell at the Annual Dinner on 15 June in appreciation of her tireless volunteer work for the benefit of RAAFA and Cambrai Village.

Maureen joined RAAFA on 27 April 2001 when she moved into Cambrai Village with her husband Derek and has been a willing volunteer ever since.

Her volunteer work has included being the Treasurer of the Cambrai Village Residents Branch for seven years, Vice President and now Branch Committee member.

She has held the position of Secretary of the Social and Activities sub-Committee since 2006, Fete sub-Committee since 2005 and is Editor of the Village Magazine.

Maureen was instrumental in organising



Maureen Farrell and Graeme Bland

the 10th and 15th Village Anniversary celebrations, which involved an enormous amount of work and time on her part and resulted in a lot of pleasure for the Village residents. She also helps provide computer training to those who require help.

Ten Cambrai Village residents also attended the Annual Dinner to share the proud moment with Maureen. A remarkable woman, Thank You.

First Aid training

By Vanessa Priestley

OVER 50 Cambrai Village residents recently attended St John's First Aid Training for seniors.

The training included basic life support skills, essential first aid skills and CPR, which is always important to know in case of that unexpected emergency.

Morning tea was provided and enjoyed by all.



Demonstrating CPR to the Cambrai residents

Membership due

A reminder that it is now time to pay your annual membership fee.

If you have not received your renewal advice or would like to arrange direct debit payment, please contact Erin on 9288 8400.

Chocks away and clear skies ahead

IN NOVEMBER 2016 Horrie Miller was inducted into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame at Temora, New South Wales. Horrie's daughter, Marie Megaw gave an acceptance speech about his amazing life of which we have included excerpts.

"As thousands of people board aircraft every day – jetting off to all parts of the world, complaining about delays or the cost of excess baggage, I wonder how many would spend a moment to consider the evolution of this amazing form of transport.

"Those early beginnings are a fascinating tale of trial and error, initiative and tenacity, ingenuity and bravery.

"My father Horrie Miller, was born at the right time to be part of this momentous era and was gifted with the courage and drive to take the risks required to be a man of the air.

"And what extraordinary times they were. He went from being an early airframe builder to a WWI pilot who survived.

"Horrie often spoke of the wonderful men he worked and flew with back then – men such as Harry Hawker, Bob Cousins, Stan Brearley and Arthur Kennedy.

"He also spoke of his disregard for pompous British officers, and I still have a chuckle today imagining how frustrating it must have been for such officers to deal with a band of free spirited larrikins from the land down under.

"There was, no doubt, a shared admiration amongst Australians in 3 Squadron AFC for the gallant German pilots. The most famous of those was Baron Manfred von Richthofen, better known as the Red Baron.

"My father spoke of seeing him flying over the battle fields in France with the notorious Flying Circus. More extraordinary is the fact that dad and the rest of 3 Squadron gave the Baron a burial with full military honours after he had, as we now know, been shot down by Australian ground fire.

"Horrie returned from the war determined to follow his dream of being a flyer. He could see the immediate attraction of barnstorming tours and air racing, but quickly set upon the potential of aviation for mail and freight, passenger transport and surveying. He and others were also quick to grasp the potential for linking remote communities and other nations.

"After the establishment of MacRobertson Miller Airlines in South Australia the main operation was later shifted to Perth in 1934.

"The company's reach now included Perth to Darwin. In those early years MMA was a lifeline to every town and many pastoral stations in the North of WA, providing passenger and mail services along with much needed supplies.

"Its pilots and crew were of the highest standard, and its service and maintenance team were second to none. A measure of the engineering standards were the services

procured from MMA by the RAAF to undertake major refits, repairs and assembly on their behalf.

"One of my earliest memories is sitting in the rear of a DC 3 in the cold wet dawn on the runway at Perth Airport as it revved its engines for take-off to head for Broome. The exhilarating feeling and the smell of fuel and oil – there was nothing like it. I still have a great love for those iron horses that proved to be the backbone of MMA for many years after WWII and still stand out for their monumental role in aviation history across the world in peace and war.

"My father lived in Broome for much of the year. In 1946 Dad acquired a CAC Wackett which had been used as a training aircraft during the war and used it as his own personal aircraft. I was lucky enough to experience these flights on a couple of occasions, and clearly remember the thrill of taking off over the orange dirt and flying low over the aqua blue waters of Roebuck Bay and up the coast over the pristine white beaches.

"This aircraft has been rescued and restored by the wonderful dedicated volunteers at the Aviation Heritage Museum in Bull Creek.



Marie Megaw with Horrie Miller's Aviation Hall of Fame certificate

It is one of four surviving Wacketts in Australia of the 200 built.

"In conclusion, and on behalf of the family, I would like to thank the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame for honouring my father on this wonderful occasion. We are proud to have him numbered amongst those honoured.

"On behalf of my Early Bird father I wish you all 'chocks away and clear skies ahead'."



Jinkil Lee and Harold Cheek

Resident receives Peace Medal

AFME resident, Harold Cheek was presented with the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal on 12 July by Jinkil Lee, President of the Korean Veterans Association at a small gathering at the Bull Creek Club, along with four fellow Korean War veterans from the HMAS Bataan.

The commemorative medal was presented as an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to service men and women who served in the Korean War.

Fay Duda, the Honorary Consul said, "It is a great honour and pleasure to express the everlasting gratitude of the Republic of

Korea and our people for the service you and your countrymen have performed in restoring and preserving our freedom and democracy.

"We cherish in our hearts the memory of your boundless sacrifices in helping us re-establish our Free Nation.

"In grateful recognition of your dedicated contributions, it is our privilege to proclaim you an "Ambassador for Peace" with every good wish of the people of the Republic of Korea. Let each of us reaffirm our mutual respect and friendship that they may endure for generations to come."

Quilt unveiled

THE official unveiling of the memory quilt made for the Alice Ross-King Care Centre was fittingly carried out as part of the Centre's first birthday celebrations in May.

John Murray and Helen Falkiner thanked

the ladies from Which Craft, a group of talented, craft loving residents on AFME who lovingly designed and created the memory quilt for the people living in the Alice Ross-King Care Centre.



Which Craft members with the memory quilt



Ivor Thomas

Village green thumb

CAMBRAI Village resident Ivor Thomas enjoyed garden lessons at school, but was never really into gardening in his younger years, having spent 15 years in the army and travelling the world.

“It was just something I never did, but these days I find it really relaxing,” says the 79-year-old who emigrated from London in 1970 with his wife Jean and three children.

In 1998 they moved into RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs and were in many ways pioneers of the village. Then, four years later, they moved to Beldon and finally into Cambrai Village seven years ago.

Ivor explained that when he and Jean moved into Cambrai Village the piece of land opposite his house was pretty neglected. But Ivor saw its potential, as did fellow residents Brian Binney, Horrie Annear and Ted King, who together cleared the block of pine trees, grevilleas and other vegetation.

“We set about clearing it, building some raised garden beds and then we started a veggie garden,” he explains. “We recently put in a wishing well, pond, small waterfall and a bench seat, so that residents can come along and have a sit down and relax in what I think is a very peaceful environment. In fact we have named it Tranquil Park.”

Recently, Ivor and a number of his neighbours have installed tool, storage and garden sheds, and have also built a shade house as well as a greenhouse.

“We started slowly but it has just grown bigger and better. A few more residents now come down periodically to help out and two ladies, Margaret Sloss and Di James have taken over the control of the herb garden. In fact Di has made signs for all the plants so residents know what we’re growing,” he said.

“We’ve got a great system now, we put any veggies down at the office and have a little honour box next to them. People put in some money for whatever produce they want, and those funds are put back into the garden. For instance we recently saved up and bought a compost bin and two worm farms.”

Ivor explains that people can become a member of the gardening club by contributing just \$5 and that money goes towards purchasing fertiliser and other gardening consumables.

“It’s hard work, but no one got sick through hard work did they and I think we all love spending time out there,” adds Ivor.

Anyone interested in joining the Garden Club or lending a hand can contact Ivor on 9304 5008.



Alan and Barb Barker

Carpet bowls anyone?

ACCORDING to Cambrai Village resident Fred Atwood, laughter is the best medicine and having a giggle is certainly something that is assured for those residents who take part in carpet bowls on a regular basis.

Taking place three times a week, on Tuesday from 9 to 12noon, Wednesday from 1 to 4pm and Saturday from 1 to 4pm, Fred explains that it is also good exercise, given the walking involved and of course the bending over to retrieve the bowling balls.

Carpet bowls at the Village costs only \$2, which includes tea, coffee and biscuits and two or three coach trips or dinners organised each year which are heavily subsidised.

“It’s very much a social activity, rather than a sporting activity and it’s a great way for residents to meet people and make new

friends,” Fred said.

“We play a couple of games and then have afternoon tea and tell a few jokes. Once a month we also host a birthday Saturday where everyone brings a plate and we have a small celebration for all the birthdays that happened during the month.

“My impression is that some people who are new to the village are quite shy, but my advice is to come and join us, the ice soon gets broken and you’ll be laughing in no time.”

Anyone who would like to join in can just come along to a game, where they will be shown the rudiments of the game or for further details, contact Fred at unit 177, Val Carmichael at unit 180 or Vice President Brian Thompson at unit 226.



Cambrai's happy carpet bowlers

The place for us

ACCORDING to Alan Barker, moving into Cambrai Village was one of the best things he and his wife have ever done.

“I absolutely love it here and, if it’s at all possible, I think my wife Barb loves it even more,” laughs Alan.

“We actually moved into another RAAFA retirement village about 10 years ago, but if I’m honest, I just wasn’t ready because I was still working and that prevented me really getting involved in the community,” he said.

“But here, we feel completely immersed in it, we play darts every week, my wife does craft, we have drinks and nibbles with our neighbours every Thursday, and as well as that I’m learning to play the ukulele and I also drive the buggy around the estate as well as the shopping bus.”

Alan explains that he and his wife moved into the estate a short time before Christmas and, on the evening they arrived, their neighbours invited them along to the Christmas party taking place the following night.

“That really broke the ice, as well as giving us a good excuse to stop unpacking boxes for a night,” says Alan.

“On top of that, I met a guy I hadn’t seen for donkeys’ years, a colleague that I worked with in the fire service. We still recognised each other despite it being a decade since we had last seen each other, and we both reckoned each other hadn’t changed a bit.”

In addition to everyone who lives on the estate being incredibly friendly and welcoming, Alan also believes that a lot has to do with the staff.

“We think that the welcoming attitude comes straight from the top, and you really can’t fault Nick, the Estate Manager, he’s a lovely bloke and we’re lucky to have him,” he says.

“When we looked at Cambrai Village, our first impressions were extremely positive. Then, when they called us to say there was a unit available, we snapped it up and have never looked back. This is the place for us.”

Just like a hotel



Mary Parrott

WHEN one of Mary Parrott's friends back in the UK had a look at the estate her friend was living in, via a virtual tour on RAAFA's website, her immediate reaction was, "wow it looks beautiful, just like a hotel."

And Mary - who moved into the estate just over a year ago - couldn't agree more.

"The gardens are beautifully kept and everyone is so friendly, I simply can't praise it enough," says the 78-year-old great grandmother, who hails from Lancashire in the UK.

"I had been coming to Australia regularly after my daughter emigrated back in the 1980s. I worked in the civil service for 42 years and the holidays I was given were quite generous, which is why I was able to come out fairly often," she explains.

"I got to know Cambrai Village many years ago as I had friends here and often visited

to go to events and have meals with them on the estate. In many ways it became a second home.

"Then when I emigrated in 2000 I moved to Currambine and lived there for 12 years, but I decided I needed to downsize my home after being diagnosed with a spinal condition which means I'm not quite as mobile as I once was - so I decided to move into Cambrai Village.

"I still lead a busy life. I'm in the darts and carpet bowls clubs, and I've joined the village singers, as well as being involved in lots of activities outside the estate, including the local church choir and a South African gospel choir."

Mary explains that residents at the estate can be as sociable or as quiet as they want to be, while at the same time having the peace of mind of 24 hour security.

"I'm a very sociable person, but you can basically do whatever you want to here, there is no pressure at all," she said.

"Also, because it's RAAFA and there are so many ex-service men and women here, everyone seems to have had very interesting lives, and there's always lots of good stories that get told as people reminisce and talk about their past. I just love it here and I would recommend it to anyone.

Cambrai residents put their best foot forward



LtoR Margaret Gribble, Jacque Carrick, Mary and Neville Green.

CAMBRAI Village's walking group provides residents with the opportunity to increase their physical fitness while also socialising with other village residents, all at the same time.

Launched in May, residents meet each morning at 8.15am and are divided into two groups, one walks within the village grounds, while the other walks outside along the perimeter of the village.

Each group comprises from five to nine

residents, with all levels of fitness catered for and they are accompanied by a co-ordinator.

Any new residents who would like to meet new friends, while increasing their fitness are more than welcome to attend. Just come along to the foyer any weekday morning at 8.15am, and don't forget to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring along a water bottle.

For further information, contact the Co-ordinator, Jacque Carrick, on 9304 5061.

Aiming for fun

FOR those who've never played before, darts can be a safe and fun social activity, just ask Cambrai Village resident, Yvonne Laidley.

"We started very small with just a few friends, but as the years have gone by numbers have increased and we now have 30 to 40 members with an even mix of men and women, which is great" said Yvonne.

The much loved game can be played sitting or standing, and this sociable activity can help maintain hand-eye coordination, whilst also improving activity levels, so why not give it a go.

"All of us are very friendly and for those residents who might be interested in joining us, we'd say, just turn up, we'd love to see you."

Darts are played from 4pm every Tuesday in the Cambrai Village Club Room. For more information call Yvonne on 9304 5125.



Yvonne Laidley



Taking a trip down Memory Lane

THE Memory Lane Café first opened its doors to residents at Cambrai Village in February and has quickly become extremely popular.

The café is a place where people living with memory loss, together with their care-givers, can get together in a safe, supportive and engaging environment, to socialise and share information.

It's also a place where people living with dementia, or those perhaps concerned about their memory, can interact, laugh, find support, share concerns and celebrate life without feeling embarrassed or misunderstood.

The café supports meaningful reminiscing opportunities, and also provides music

therapy, to maximise brain health.

As well as encouraging friendship and acceptance, it seeks to provide a regular and supported social opportunity for both the person living with memory loss and the person providing care.

Participants can also access a range of basic support information, resources, education and referral details.

The café runs each Wednesday morning between 10am to 12noon.

If you are a resident at Cambrai Village or a carer and would like further information regarding attending the café, please contact Vanessa Priestley on 9304 5280 for an information pack.

Thank you

By Nick Walker

FOR the past 14 years at Cambrai Village, the Tuesday Volunteer Unit Gardeners have done a tremendous job pruning, cleaning, weeding and tidying the front unit gardens for residents who are unable to do this work themselves.

Regrettably, due to age, health issues and the lack of new fresh volunteers, this group have had to discontinue their services.

On behalf of all residents and staff at Cambrai Village a HUGE THANK YOU to the retiring group (Bob, George, Dave, Erica, Yvonne and Doug) and those who have undertaken this work in the past - your contribution to the overall look and appeal of the village has been much appreciated.



LtoR Bob Brennan, Yvonne Cotton and George Messer

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, AIRTC, 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, publishes an informative newsletter and conducts historical research.

For membership and other enquiries please contact Charles Page.

Upcoming events

Tuesday, 8 August, Austal Shipyard visit, 10.30am to 12noon.

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

The Museum recently had a visit from Frank Matthews, a former volunteer who built the Demoiselle, Sopwith Camel and Bristol Tourer replicas that are so proudly displayed in the south hanger.

Reginald Bayshaw from Amateur Radio VK6BQQ made his 800th ham radio transmission from the navigator's position in our Lancaster Bomber on the morning of 27 May. This was a world-wide event, so it was great publicity for the Museum.

We have learned that a tail assembly that would complete our Sabre aircraft has been found in Townsville... Now how to transport it to Perth?

Mandurah Branch

Shirley Farmer

The Branch meeting on Thursday, 15 June was followed by a meal of steak and ale pie and vegetables.

Gentle reminder – can all members who intend to dine, please ensure they put their name in the folder by the bar, no later than the Monday prior to the meeting. This is essential for catering purposes.

Early bird announcement - Christmas raffle

There will be a MEGA MYSTERY FIRST PRIZE at the Christmas lunch this year. Tickets are \$1 each and sales started at the June Branch meeting. Remember, the more tickets sold, the bigger the prize. This is in addition to our usual raffle with an array of fantastic prizes, tickets 3 for \$1, and purchased on the day. Many thanks to those members who continue to donate gifts. Your generosity is appreciated.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 17 August, General Meeting, 4.00pm, followed by Branch AGM. Dinner, of pickled pork and mustard sauce served from 5.00pm. Candidates for the committee should complete a nomination form, and return to me via Box 287 no later than Thursday, 3 August. Forms are available on the noticeboard.

Friday, 22 September, Lunch at Bentley Pines. \$40 per head, includes morning coffee, lunch, and transport. Places limited to 38, EOI and wait lists on noticeboard. Deadline for

payment 17 September, to Norma, Box 160. The chefs are working on their menus, which will be displayed on the noticeboard.

Merriwa Residents' Branch

Joyce Johnson

Joycejohnsson54@gmail.com

In May an afternoon tea for Merriwa volunteers was held as a thank you from RAAFA. The afternoon included entertainment, drinks and food, and was capped off by the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to all volunteers.

Mothers' Day was celebrated with a wonderful Sunday Roast with over 120 attending. A small gift was given to all mums courtesy of the Branch.

Our new lounge chairs have been delivered to finish off the 'lounge bar' in the club. Everyone loves the look and the Blue Gum is now the place for meals.

Quiz nights have commenced on the last Tuesday of each month in the hall at 4.00pm. The girls from the bar (namely Coral and Brogan-Louise) run the night with professionalism and fun. It is great to get together, have some fun and win prizes, book at the bar if you wish to attend.

Theme nights on the third Tuesday night of the month are proving to be very popular. Last month was Indian, August – Mexican, September – Thai, October – German and November – Spanish. Book early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited.

Upcoming events

Tuesday, 8 August, Movie night.

Wednesday, 9 August, Bingo.

Sunday, 13 August, Sunday roast, book at the bar.

Monday, 14 August, Resident Branch AGM. Tuesday, 15 August, Theme night, book at the bar.

Wednesday, 23 August, Bingo.

Tuesday, 29 August, Quiz night, book at the bar.

Sunday, 3 September, Fathers' Day Sunday roast, book at the bar.

Tuesday, 5 September, Footy Tipping dinner.

Tuesday, 12 September, Movie night.

Wednesday, 13 September, Bingo.

Tuesday, 18 September, Theme night, book at the bar.

Tuesday, 26 September, Quiz night, book at the bar.

Wednesday, 27 September, Bingo.

Tuesday, 10 October, Movie night.

Tuesday, 7 November, Melbourne Cup luncheon.

Sunday, 12 November, Merriwa Annual Fete.

Meadow Springs Residents' Branch

Fran Hewitt

Here in Meadow Springs we have a variety of events/activities happening, which residents can check out on the notice board.

The bi-monthly Sunday movies are well received and our Tea and Talk Tuesday mornings are very interesting with different speakers each time.

Upcoming events

See the noticeboard for events to be organised by the new Committee.

Later 2017, Mini Expo, planned in association with our Welfare Officer, bringing together a variety of agencies and suppliers.

Bull Creek development

By John Murray

THE Air Force Memorial Estate club house at Bull Creek was built in the late 1960's opening in the early 1970's and has been a prime focus for the growth and development of RAAFA through these years.

Bull Creek was originally a country club with no intent at that stage to be developed into a retirement village and was the heart and soul of the Association in Western Australia. The building has now reached a point where any attempt to upgrade the existing structures would lead to a major refurbishment and from a financial perspective, is not a viable option.

Consultations have been held with the residents on the estate and they have supported a proposal to build a new club

house with a five storey accommodation block above. We have now commenced detailed planning of the building which will involve underground parking and a whole range of issues that need to be worked through.

During the period when the current building is demolished and rebuilt, a temporary club house in the form of a large commercial marquee will be erected at the eastern end of the bowling green. We are using the bowling green as the surface is reaching its end of life and needs to be replaced shortly. This provides us with the perfect opportunity to utilise the surface during construction and replace the covering after the new club house has been opened.



The estimated construction costs for this project is approx. \$30M and it is anticipated that the construction costs for the new

club house will be recovered through the leasing of the units above at the end of construction.

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, 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Monday to Friday, morning coffee and afternoon tea with a selection of cake slices, 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

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month, A la Carte dining night (bookings essential)

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

September, Fathers' day lunch.

September, Quiz night.

Details to be announced closer to the date. Please call the Club for more information.

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

Second Friday of the month, dinner in the Beaufort Restaurant. Come and join us for an evening meal and great company.

Thursday, 17 August, Mandurah Branch Meeting and Dinner.

Friday, 1 September, Mini Expo. Watch for further information in the Club.

Short stay accomodation

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.

Merriwa Club

Phone: 69400 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

Last Tuesday of the month, quiz night, 4.00pm to 6.00pm, happy hour 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Wednesday, happy hour, 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Thursday, morning tea, 10.00am to 11.00am

Thursday, games night, 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

2nd Sunday, lunch, 12.15pm

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 is on

Events

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

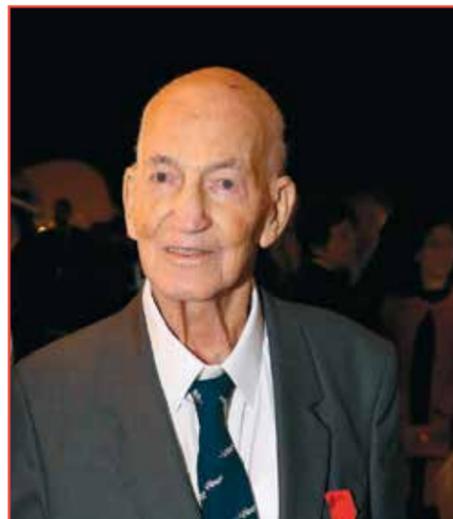
SUBMISSIONS FOR AIR MAIL

1 September for October / November
6 November for December / January
5 January for February / March

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 Sleaf Road, APPLECROSS WA 6153.



Vale George Aylmore

By Graeme Bland

GEORGE Aylmore joined the RAAF Association in 1945 and had been a long-standing member for over 70 years.

He joined the RAAF in 1942 at the age of 18, training as a wireless operator/gunner and was subsequently posted to England in 1943. George served in Bomber Command becoming a crew member flying in Wellington and Lancaster bomber aircraft as a member of No's 550 and 150 (RAF) Squadrons.

He participated in 36 raids surviving 36 chances of becoming one of the 3,500 Australians of Bomber Command who did not return.

George acquired a 1928 Gipsy Moth VH UAO in 1957, which turned out to be one of the first delivered to the RAAF as a trainer in Maylands in 1932. This aircraft had a history of surviving many crashes, including twice into the Swan River, but none with George as the pilot.

He traversed the Nullarbor Plain three times, surprising motorists when he folded the wings and drove up to the petrol bowser to fill up.

In 2016 George was awarded the French Legion of Honour for his part in the liberation of France.

Rest in Peace George.

Open Day a success

RAAFA held its first Open Day at Meadow Springs Estate on 20 June and it proved to be a huge success.

The Open Day provided people with the opportunity to take guided tours around the Estate and visit four different style two bedroom units that are indicative of the units currently available on the Estate.

The day was a great example of people working together and it highlighted the warm and friendly community lifestyle that exists on the estate.

A sales office was set up in the activity rooms at the Club, where afternoon tea was provided and staff were available to answer questions about RAAFA, the estate and moving to a unit.

Residents kindly volunteered their time to help and ferried people between the different display units in the buggy, pointing out the features and highlights of the estate.

The four display units were manned by residents to provide people with the opportunity to ask questions about what life in a retirement village is really like and why they choose to live at RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs.

We were overwhelmed with the numbers that attended and estimate over 70 people came to see what life at a RAAFA village is all about.

For more information about vacancies at Meadow Springs, call Sheryl on 9582 5000.



Some of the interested visitors at the Meadow Springs open day

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 - Life Care Physio Clinic, Orion Medical Suites

Contact 9424 0200 for an appointment with David.

Mondays, 12noon – Falls Prevention Clinic with a Professional Physio, Orion Function Room

Fees apply, rebates available.

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, monthly, 11.30am to 12.30pm – Ukulele Lessons, Orion Function Room

Are you musical? Do you like to sing along? Are you a toe tapper? Even if you don't have a musical bone in your body, simply come along and have a go. Martin is an excellent teacher and the songs are delightful.

Wednesdays, 10.00am – Fitness with Emma continues, Orion Function Room

Personal gym instruction available.

Thursday, 10.00am – AFME Chess Club, Orion Function Room

Want to keep your mind active and your memory sharp. Fight Dementia and learn something new or revisit something you used to enjoy.

Thursdays are presentation mornings

Personal interest, spirituality, natural therapy, history, science and health. Contact Carena if you have any suggestions or want to know what's happening next at Bull Creek.

Friday, monthly, 10.30am – Brain Training, Orion Function Room

Please call for dates. Caitlin has returned to test and tease your brain like never before.

Fridays, 10.30am – Five Elements QiGong, Orion Function Room

This is a gentle but effective way to take an active part in your own wellbeing. Give this wonderful therapy a try. Professional Instructor, \$5.00 a class.

Fridays – All Saints Intergenerational Program – Working around school terms – Orion Function Room

With plenty of opportunity to visit the

school for artistic events and Christmas celebrations

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 will be commencing her Saturday walking group here. There will be stretching and a friendly coffee after class.

July, Line Dancing commences for a season

If you are interested just let me know. David teaches dance to suit you. If you wish to sit, then you can still take part.

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

Tuesday, 8.00am to 2.00pm, Arcade. Australian Hearing

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

Contact Suzanne or see the Merriwa Messenger for other upcoming welfare events.

Cambrai Village

Weekly

Cambrai Walking Group meet every morning and some afternoons, anyone interested in joining please meet in the foyer at 8.15am

Comfortable walking shoes and water bottle required.

Wednesday and Sunday, Physiotherapist Julie Pham and Steve White

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

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

First and 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.

Monday, 21 August, 10.00am to 11.30am, Arthritis and Osteoporosis WA Presentation, Club Room

Come and find out more information on the many different kinds of arthritis including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, what causes arthritis and pain management.

First and Last

By Allan Henshaw

THE 20th anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales in August prompted me to reflect on my close involvement with her first and her last military engagements.

In mid 1985 I was posted to the Harrier base at RAF Wittering near Peterborough in the UK as a newly promoted squadron leader. I had spent the previous two years as a flight commander at the RAF College, Cranwell on the Department of Initial Officer Training.

Shortly after I arrived at Wittering the Officer Commanding Administration Wing (OC Admin), told me that, as I was fit, smart and well used to parades having just come from Cranwell, he would like me to be the Parade Commander for the installation of the Princess of Wales as the Honorary Air Commodore for the base.

The Royal visit was scheduled for late September and was to be the first military occasion for Her Royal Highness. The following months were taken up with innumerable practices and rehearsals for the

parade while the rest of the base cleaned and preened itself for the occasion.

On the big day the parade was assembled and marched onto the parade ground. I stood everyone at "ease" and waited for the arrival of the red Wessex helicopter of The Queen's Flight. To say that I was nervous was an understatement.

The Princess arrived and was greeted by the Station Commander and escorted to the saluting dais as I brought the parade to "attention" for the Royal Salute. After the last strains of the band's rendition of the National Anthem faded I marched forward to the dais, performed a sword salute and invited her to accompany me to inspect the parade. Her trademark "wink" eased the tension somewhat!

As we walked across the parade ground she said "I've never done this before but my husband has done lots. What do I do?" I replied, "Don't worry Ma'am, just stick by my side and I'll tell you what to do".

After the parade the day was filled with visits to various sections of the base and lunch at the Officers' Mess. My part was over.

Years later, in 1990, I was posted as OC Admin to RAF Benson near Oxford and

home to The Queen's Flight (TQF).

TQF had the responsibility to repatriate the body of any Royal person who died while overseas. The last occasion that this had been required was when the body of the Duke of Windsor was brought back from France in 1972. The protocol which had been written for that occasion, Operation Haze, had been consigned to a dusty cupboard and almost forgotten about. However, in 1990, with Her Majesty the Queen Mother in her 90s, felt that it was time to dust off the protocols and update the details.

As OC Admin that task fell to me and I ended up rewriting the whole thing. The process took almost three years as procedures and protocols had to be agreed between TQF the operators, RAF higher command and the Royal Household. Eventually, all was agreed and Operation Overstudy was duly signed off.

I left the RAF in May 1993 and arrived in Australia later that month, never giving Overstudy a moment's thought after it had been published. Then, at the end of August 1997, I, like many others, heard the shocking news of Diana's demise in Paris.



In August 1997 I watched, as millions of others did, the repatriation of Diana's body to the UK at RAF Northolt. The movement of the aircraft on landing and taxiing, the arrival at the reception area, the line up of the assembled dignitaries, the positioning of the coffin bearers and the hearse as well as the timings were exactly as I had written them years before. Her very last military engagement.

Princess Diana was a much loved public figure but she takes a place in my life somewhat more than most.