



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



Champion Volunteer

Meadow Springs resident Hilary Rose was a finalist in the Peel Volunteer of the Year Awards in recognition of 15 years supporting her community.

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Chevalier Awarded

Merriwa resident Maurice Jackson was presented with the insignia of Chevalier in the French National Order of the Legion d'Honneur.

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AFA Care's new location, new manager and new team



LtoR Carena Slattery and Barbara Wright



Jade Salisbury, (2nd from left) and the new nursing team

2016 MARKS an exciting new beginning for RAAFA's community care program, AFA Care, which has recently welcomed a new manager, three new Registered Nurses and moved to a central location within AFME Bull Creek.

AFA Care Manager Barbara Wright stepped into her new role on 14 December, followed closely by three new nurses who will now work between AFA Care and their existing roles at Gordon Lodge under the clinical leadership of Jade Salisbury.

As part of the changes, AFA Care has now moved to an easily-accessible location in Orion Terraces, right next door to the Village Shop.

RAAFA's General Manager – Aged and Community Care Karen Borthwick said the year ahead will be a time of new beginnings for AFA Care, which will ultimately improve service accessibility and flexibility for residents residing in RAAFA retirement villages.

"Our whole focus is on providing more flexible and personalised services in the home by our own team of staff" Karen

said. We have also developed a partnership with MercyCare to enable residents in RAAFA retirement villages to receive home care services from AFA Care staff through Commonwealth funded home care packages.

Karen said that the expansion of AFA Care will also allow RAAFA to provide greater job diversity and opportunities for nursing and care staff who are seeking to develop their skills in both residential and community care, which in turn enhances our ability to attract and retain good quality staff," she said.

The AFA Care team are now working very closely with AFME's Welfare Officer, Carena Slattery, to ensure that residents who need extra support in the home can easily access the services within the Estate through AFA Care.

AFA Care Manager Barbara Wright said AFA Care is now going to be more of a 'one stop shop' to support Estate residents and those in the surrounding communities to remain living comfortably in their own homes.

"We are moving into the office space that

was formerly known as the 'Medical Suites', right next to the Village Shop and we're encouraging residents to pop in and meet us and find out more about what we can offer," Barbara said.

AFME Welfare Officer Carena Slattery said she looked forward to building strong working relationships with the AFA Care team in their new office location.

"It's an excellent time to have AFA Care move up to Orion Terraces. The office will be closer to Welfare as well as the new Alice Ross-King Care Centre, which is really exciting for all of us. Now we can really concentrate our efforts on providing our Estate community with the services they require," she said.

AFA Care Clinical Team Leader Jade Salisbury said it's an exciting prospect for AFA Care to now utilise the team of Registered Nurses from Gordon Lodge and the Alice Ross-King Care Centre.

"We are a passionate group of young nurses and I really look forward to working together for positive client outcomes," she said.

Barbara said she was enormously grateful for the opportunity to lead AFA Care during this exciting phase and the overwhelming support she has received throughout the organisation since taking up the role.

"This is something we are all really passionate about and our new team is looking forward to working with our Welfare Officers, referring GPs, Hospitals and the wider community to enable us to reach out and support our village residents to remain living comfortably in their own homes for as long as possible" she said.

AFA Care offer services on both private fee for service arrangements and funded programs such as DVA Community Nursing, Commonwealth Respite and MercyCare home care packages. The services are also available to residents living in communities outside RAAFA retirement villages.

To find out more, contact Barbara Wright on 9311 4491 or Carena Slattery on 9311 4562.

On the tarmac



State President, David Peet

By David Peet

AGAIN a lot has happened since the last Air Mail report.

Division Council

There have been several changes to the Division Council line-up since the RAAFA 2015 Annual General Meeting in October.

Division Council have selected our two new Appointed Division Councillors, Tony Brun and Peter Bryant, who will serve on council for the next two years.

A temporary appointment to fill the vacancy created by the election of Ron Onions from Division Council to State Secretary has been filled by Allan Henshaw until the next Annual General Meeting in October. Allan was a nominee for Division Council at the 2015 AGM.

Division Councillor, Clive Robartson has agreed to fill the vacant State Vice President position following the resignation of Bill Anderson.

Division Council now consists of the following members:

State President – David Peet
 State Vice President – Clive Robartson
 State Secretary – Ron Onions
 Division Councillor – John Purchase
 Division Councillor – Allan Henshaw
 Division Councillor – Geraldine Carlton
 Division Councillor – Peter Bryant
 Division Councillor – Tony Brun
 Division Councillor – Vacant

Division Council decisions

Recently we were approached by the RSL to consider a joint proposal for the redevelopment of ANZAC House in Perth. Division Council have declined the proposal at this stage.

We are in the process of reviewing RAAFA's branding and associated marketing strategy with initial ideas under consideration.

RAAFA events

We have been reviewing the annual RAAFA events and advise the following:

Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin

Sunday, 21 February 2016, 9.00am
 This Ceremony will include the screening of

the Legacy of WWI Aviators film.

RAAFA Annual Dinner

Saturday, 16 April 2016, 6.30pm for 7.00pm
 Tickets \$45, includes a sumptuous two course dinner and entertainment.

We hope to see many of you for this annual event.

Anniversary of the RAAF Ceremony

This Ceremony traditionally held at Kings Park has been reviewed and will not be held this year. Over recent years it has not been well supported by the wider Membership and conflicts with the RAAF's own celebration functions.

We have had discussions with the RAAF and they have agreed to invite a number of representatives to their Birthday Celebrations that will be held in the Aviation Heritage Museum.

RAAFA National

The CEO and State Secretary will be attending the RAAFA National February meeting in Melbourne in my stead to discuss a proposal to change to a Public Company Limited by Guarantee. A recent survey shows that 48% of not-for-profit associations are now using this structure. Unfortunately I have a previous engagement and am unable to attend.

Pilot Graduation

No. 24I Pilots' Course graduated on 4 December at RAAF Base Pearce and I had

the pleasure, along with the State Secretary Ron Onions to attend and present the most improved pilot award to Officer Cadet Emerson Nikesitch.

Visits and meetings

Over the past two months there has been increasing meetings and visits to many kindred organisations and RAAFA villages.

Some of our Division Councillors have undertaken to attend these events and ceremonies which is taking some of the pressure off the Executive and allowing a newer input into Division.

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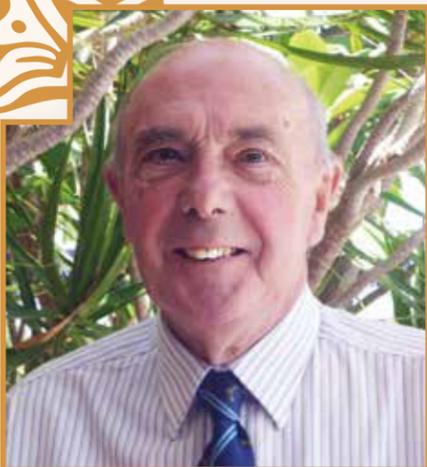
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For Submission deadlines please see page 11

The Padre's Piece



By Padre David

EASTER is going to be very early this year. I have just done a check and you have to go back 11 years to 2005 when Easter Sunday was last in March and then it was the 27th as it will again be this year. In the 20th century there were only four years when Easter came earlier than the 27 March - 1913, 1940, 1951 and 1967.

The setting of the date for Easter is a

fascinating but complicated story. Way back in 325 CE (Common or Current Era) the Church held what is known as the Council of Nicaea. The biblical stories of the death and resurrection of Jesus centred around the Jewish Passover which was celebrated on the first full moon following the vernal (or spring) equinox in the northern hemisphere, and this had led to Christians celebrating conflicting dates. Some celebrated Easter on the Day of Passover and others on the following Sunday. The Council was called to sort the matter out.

They determined the complex formula that Easter should be held on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurred on or after the vernal equinox. To work that out you have to know what an equinox is and that is linked with the fact that the earth axis is at an angle of about 23.5° to the imaginary plane created by the Earth's path around the Sun. An equinox is when night and day is nearly the same length - 12 hours all over the world.

And then a further complicating factor is the comparative calendars - the Gregorian and the Julian calendars. The Gregorian calendar that we use was created because the Julian calendar was slightly too long, but many Orthodox churches observe Easter under the Julian calendar.

As I say, it's complicated, but I also find it fascinating as is the change in terminology CE and Before CE (BCE) from AD (Anno Domini) and BC (Before Christ).

Now if you have stayed with me thus far - congratulations...but what is Easter as a celebration all about?

Long before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, many cultures celebrated spring festivals and holidays around the March (spring) equinox, and their central theme was the idea of a new beginning, a rebirth. For Jews, the Passover celebrates their freedom from Egyptian slavery and although for years they were a nomadic people, their new home - the Promised Land and their new life as a nation promised by God was before them.

A close examination of the biblical references to the resurrection raises many questions with its inconsistencies and I am left aware of a gap between what the

references say and what Christianity has traditionally taught. Yet whatever the Easter experience was, lives were dramatically changed and continue to be changed.

You don't have to believe the impossible about an event in history with an empty tomb and a risen Jesus that a literal interpretation of the Easter story might suggest. It was not a supernatural invasion of the natural world, but when the followers of Jesus used the word "resurrection", they were talking about their personal experience. For them something happened. Their lives were changed. They had a breakthrough in consciousness about human life and their experience of God was redefined. Many in our modern secular world find it hard to put meaning into Easter.

Last Air Mail I mentioned Gerard W Hughes' 1985 book that he called "God of Surprises". One of God's surprises is Easter and the possibility of new beginnings. The symbols of Easter of new life - chicks and eggs, beauty and flowers, and the word itself "resurrection", invite us to experience new life as "the resurrected ones" and to face life with undying confidence and hope.

Shalom

CEO's perspective



CEO, John Murray

By John Murray

THE year 2016 will be well underway by the time you get to read this article and I hope that it started off in a positive manner with the rest of the year being how you would like to see it evolve.

For RAAFA, 2016 is going to be another busy year with far more positive visible impacts being experienced by you, our Members, residents and customers. Over the last 12 months, we have focussed on formulating and implementing various procedures which will now start to flow through to your activities and services.

Alice Ross-King Care Centre

The Alice Ross-King Care Centre at Bull Creek will commence its operations in late

April / May 2016.

The opening of 102 beds will be an additional \$9M part of the operations of RAAFA with the added requirement to employ up to 80 staff to operate this new Residential Care Centre for our frailest Members. This will take our staff numbers to over 550.

The process of opening a Centre of this size is like the commissioning of a ship, with an enormous amount of work required before the first passengers, in our case residents, come to live in the Centre. It will be a significant additional facility for RAAFA and will provide quality care for people with dementia and those in the final stages of life.

Karri Lodge

Next we will commence the \$2.5M refurbishment of the dementia specific areas at Karri Lodge at Merriwa. This will assist to provide a better activities area and additional beds, for those with this challenging disease.

Retirement living

The demand for retirement living right across Australia is exponential with the doubling of housing requirements to cater

for those over the age of 65.

The research that RAAFA has done, both of its own members and the broader community, along with information that has come through research by the Property Council of Australia, shows that for RAAFA to continue to be providing services at our current level within the community, we would need to build somewhere between 800 - 1,400 homes over the next five to 10 years to respond to the baby boomer demand.

In response to this we have commenced reviewing the Master Planning for Bull Creek along with reviews of Meadow Springs and in time Merriwa, to see what opportunities there are.

The consultation processes for Bull Creek and Meadow Springs will be commencing over the next few months and will be the first stage of responding to what is a huge demand on the organisation going forward. This will also provide the opportunity for our current residents to have input into their needs within the estates.

Charitable Purpose Committee

The primary purpose of RAAFA, being an ex-service organisation has progressed further with the establishment of the

Charitable Purpose Committee. The need for us to continue to focus not only on our commemorations but also on our broader involvement in the needs of ex-service personnel is imperative. This will ensure that RAAFA continues to be supportive of those for whom the Association was originally established.

Division Council

I would like to welcome to Division Council Tony Brun, Peter Bryant and Allan Henshaw and thank them for providing us with the opportunity to tap into their skill sets to assist us in this large growth period.

The Division Council will have a very busy year ahead of them, responding to the demands of the organisation and I look forward to working with them to ensure you as Members, residents and friends of RAAFA have services appropriate to your needs.

The additional workload and development to be undertaken with this growth will require further review of our internal structures. This will ensure we have the right capacity to respond to the growth that the Association is focusing on.



74th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin

Sunday, 21 February 2016

You are invited to join us for the annual ceremony marking the 74th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin (19/02/1942).

The ceremony will be held at the Memorial Wall, Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek Sunday, 21 February 2016 commencing at 9.00am.

The ceremony will be followed by morning tea in the Langley Hall and will feature a screening of the "Legacy of the WWI Aviators" film (30 min) and a display of historic photographs.

There will also be free entry to the Aviation Heritage Museum for attendees following the ceremony.

Medals may be worn.

Please advise your attendance by Monday, 15 February on 9311 4595 or twright@raafawa.org.au.

Premiere screening of "Legacy of the WWI Aviators"



Delivery of the first air mail

By John Harris

AFTER some months of working through ideas of what to do for the annual Christmas party for the volunteers of the Aviation Museum and the Museum Branch, it was decided to have a barbecue outside the Club followed by the premiere screening of the Aviation Heritage Museum's new movie Legacy of the WWI Aviators, produced and directed by Peter Du Cane, in Langley Hall.

109 volunteers put their names on the list, but the number that turned up was beyond our wildest dreams! It was estimated that we had a crowd of approximately 200.

After a few hiccups, we got underway. Because of the huge turnout the salad was a bit scarce for the tail-enders, but everyone

ended up with something to eat.

Eventually we trooped into Langley Hall a few minutes after 6.30pm. The movie was, in my opinion, outstanding. There were shots of flying from WWI, photographs that one would not have thought were in existence, as well as the film star volunteers!

How they got the scenes of the three Bristol Tourers (converted FB2s) flying up to Geraldton and the solemn and sad accident when two of the crew were killed when their plane went into a spin and did not recover was impressive. A very fitting end to the evening.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff and all those who helped with the event, never losing their smiles.

Your new Division Councillors

WE WELCOME Peter Bryant and Tony Brun who were appointed to Division Council in December 2015. They have come on board for a two year period to fill the vacancies created by the retirements of Karen O'Neill and Tim Humphry.



Peter Bryant

Peter was born in Sydney. The son of a career soldier he spent many of his younger years living on army bases in Australia and overseas. His father retired in Perth, which is where Peter completed his secondary and university education.

Peter has over 27 years' of financial and company secretarial experience in the Australian, UK and US markets.

He is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Barmenco, a global underground mining company with operations in Australia, Egypt and West Africa. Peter has held leadership roles in a number of companies including ASX 100 company Seven West Media Ltd and engineering and development group, GRD Limited (acquired by AMEC Australia Finance Company Pty Ltd in 2009).

Peter was the Group Company Secretary and Chief Financial Officer (WA) at Seven West Media following the merger of The West Australian Newspaper Group (WAN) and the Seven Media Group in 2011. Prior to the formation of Seven West Media he was the Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary of WAN where he was the executive lead on the negotiation and implementation of WAN's acquisition of Seven Media through a billion dollar capital raising.

Outside of work, Peter is an active member of the Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club, and sits on the WA Advisory Boards of the Starlight Foundation and Role Models and Leaders, a charity focused on the

development of indigenous girls through a variety of programs.

Peter holds a Bachelor of Business and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.



Tony Brun

BEng (Civil), MBA (Tech Mgt), FAICD, FIPWEA, MIEAust, RPEQ
Adjunct Associate Professor (Sustainability)
Curtin University

Tony was appointed to the role of Executive General Manager of Integrated Planning

at Perth Airport Pty Ltd in 2013 and also holds the role of Adjunct Associate Professor (Sustainability) and Chairman of the Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute.

Tony is responsible for the integrated planning framework which oversees the long term planning and approvals for all aviation, infrastructure and commercial property developments at Perth Airport. He is also leading the planning and approvals phase of the New Runway Project and the planning for consolidation of passenger services to Airport Central.

Prior to his role at Perth Airport, he was the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Greater Geraldton where he managed a workforce of 450 people and an annual \$137M budget, with responsibility for more than \$550M of assets.

Tony holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering, Masters of Business Administration (Technology Management) and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia.

Formation of the WAAAF Branch

By June Perry

NEWCOMERS to the AFME, and I guess others too, wonder about the RAAFA's Branches and Committees and how they began. I would like to tell you about our Branch.

The Womens' Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) was established in 1941 during WWII. For the first time, women in Australia were recruited as administrative staff and technicians who were subject to Air Force Law, Service, Discipline and Secrecy Obligations. Men were serving in the armed forces overseas and women were needed to replace them at home.

Altogether, 27,258 women in Australia enlisted, 3,345 from Western Australia. The youngest recruits were 18, some were in their 30s. Besides taking on such traditional tasks as clerical and kitchen duties, the women were trained, for instance to become mechanics, riggers, instrument makers and metrological assistants. The whole coast line from Cairns to north of Geraldton was screened by Radar Stations with women on duty 24/7. At one stage, there were 800 women serving as Wireless Telegraphists at HQ in Melbourne. My "mustering" on enlistment was designated as a Clerk-Pay and I worked in the Pay and Accounting Section. Women in the WAAAF served in 72 other musterings.

WWII ended in 1945 and at a meeting of ex WAAAF held on 16 May 1946 the name chosen was the Women's Division of the Air Force Association. Subsequently, at a meeting held on 19 June 1948 it was changed to WAAAF Branch. Further meetings were held in July 1948 and October 1949.

The next record available briefly states - Reformed ANZAC Day 1966.

The 17 year lapse between meetings is easily explained. At the end of WWII, our men came home, we young women were discharged and all returned to civilian life. Most of us did what comes naturally, we got together, got married, found somewhere to live and proceeded to contribute to the biggest "baby boom" Australia has ever experienced. It took time, money, and energy to raise those babies, but the time did pass, and many were keen to renew old friendships and the camaraderie of war time.

There was another important incentive to rejuvenate the Branch. Members of the Air Force Association had not been idle and their efforts were rewarded when they were granted land at Bull Creek. The RAAFA's city premises were sold and in 1969 development of what is now this Air Force Memorial Estate began.

There is no information available for the Branch 1966 to 1969 about any fundraising

activities, but in 1970 donations to the Association began.

From 1970 until 30 June, 2014 approximately \$66,000 was raised and donated to RAAFA. Over \$20,000 was in the form of cash funds for RAAFA, including two free of interest loans made in 1974 and 1977.

Among the many donations was one to the Spitfire Appeal, several to Flying Group Reunions, a pianola for the Club and for a pergola with creeper and rose bushes and \$100 per year for the Estate Library.

Listed for the Club are curtains and blinds and three stoves at different times and a microphone. \$9,000 was given for furnishings and skylights for the then new Gordon Lodge. The Aviation Heritage Museum received an exhibition cabinet, a mannequin and donation for steps. Funds were given for the old bus maintenance and steps. A donation went to the RAAFA Chapel Fund.

Several cash donations have been made to RAAFA's McIntosh and Swetman Scholarships and \$1,000 was given in 2014 to help with the cost of the Estate's new buggy.

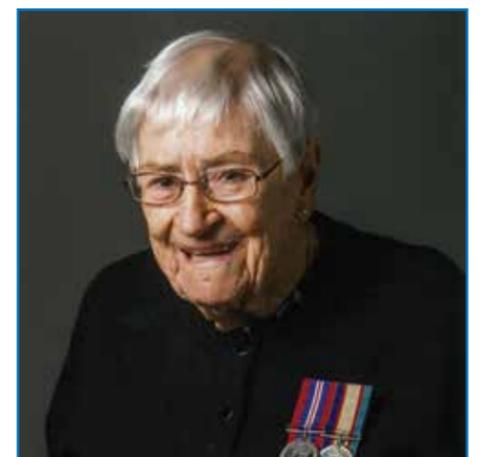
Other donations - these add up to approximately \$8,500 were given in times of need and natural disaster to bush fire and flood appeals, the Flying Doctor and many

other well known charities.

Our Branch's record is second to none and Members are proud of all we have achieved.

Old father time waits for no man or woman and sadly the time to disband is coming. Our ranks are thinning and most of those left are over 90 - the youngest is 89. We are planning a final 75th Annual Reunion Luncheon on 14 March, 2016 to celebrate the 75th year of the formation of the WAAAF.

Then it is planned to make our last donations and wind up our affairs by the Annual General Meeting in August 2016. WAAAF Branch is very proud of its contribution to AFME and RAAFA. Members will continue to meet socially at the AFA Club for as long as they are able.



WAAAF Branch President June Perry

Division Councillors thanked

DIVISION Council held its annual partners' dinner in November 2015 to acknowledge the support that the wives and husbands of our Divisional Councillors provide and the time, energy and expertise our Councillors contribute.

This year the State President, David Peet, took the opportunity to present Certificates of Service to the three retiring appointees who have provided invaluable service to RAAFA.

Karen O'Neill accepted a position on the Division Council in December 2010 and extended her contribution to the Division by also serving on the Finance and Audit Committee and State Executive until 2014.

With her vast commercial expertise as a finance, compliance and governance professional, Karen was able to impart an inordinate amount of knowledge to the Division Council and Committees, which was gratefully and readily received. Her advanced studies in the Not for Profit sector, combined with the above capabilities were a huge advantage, particularly when the restructure of RAAFA was instituted.

During this difficult period, Karen unequivocally supported the proper functioning of Divisional Council. The advice and support she offered to fellow Councillors and senior management, was very much appreciated

Tim Humphry accepted an appointment to Division Council from 2010-2015.

During his tenure, Tim served with distinction not only on the Division Council but also on the Planning and Development Committee. With his excellent business acumen, Tim had a clear sense of our financial activities. His knowledge and input greatly contributed to our forward and ongoing planning at Bull Creek, ultimately leading to the development of Mirage and Orion Terraces - our Independent Living apartments, in addition to our new 102 bed residential aged care facility.

During what could be considered a turbulent five years, Tim, without fear or favour, has supported the correct functioning of Divisional Council. He is truly respected for his advice and ongoing support of fellow Councillors and senior management alike.

Carole Bain was an appointed Divisional Councillor from 2012 to early 2015.

With her aged-care qualifications and background with Silver Chain, Carole was in possession of the necessary expertise to provide valued assistance to the Aged



LtoR Karen, Tim and Carole

Care Division. These competencies also allowed her to critically assess the potential opportunities, problems and issues that were pertinent to our communities. Together with her financial acumen, Carole was able to provide advice to the Division Council on these issues, with conviction, clarity and integrity.

Carole extended her contribution to the Division, by also serving on the Planning and Development Committee in 2013-2014 during the initial planning stage for the new 102 bed residential aged care facility.

Carole was an advocate for improvement - always ready to offer precise, considered advice when the opportunity arose, particularly in the Aged Care, Community and Health sectors.

Christmas carols for Amity Village

THE RAAFA Amity Village Albany residents enjoyed each other's company at a Christmas party held on 4 December, 2015.

Residents revelled in singing numerous Christmas carols accompanied by Lyn Wansbrough who played the backing music on the organ.

A great night was had by everyone who attended, with some of the very talented residents also providing such varied and pleasurable entertainment as a poetry recital and singing of popular ditties.



End of an era

By Jo Naylor

IT DID indeed seem like the end of an era when, on 2 September 2015, the decision was made to close the European Area Branch.

When my husband and I first became part of the RAAF Association we assumed it was a vibrant social club. Then we joined the European Area Branch and soon realised that we were members of something far more prestigious.

First granted its Charter on 25 August 1955, with Lance Howard DFC as President, it was noted in Per Ardua (p41) that the European Area Branch was "... to survive the years to play a major role in helping to guide the AFA of the future."

In the ensuing years Lance Howard, Des Sands DSO DFC, Geoff Harris, Ray Perry, Les Gordon, and Vic Ferry DFC were all to serve terms as WA State President. Hedley David made an outstanding State Treasurer when he served alongside Les Gordon. They laid a solid foundation for future developments.

Other European Area Branch members on their own initiative did much for the Association: Les Ingram of tomato sauce fame, Doug Harrison who introduced

Friday night raffles and Monday Chase the Ace, raising thousands of dollars for the Bull Creek Club, John Crago generous benefactor to the Aviation Heritage Museum, Ray King who initiated the move to acquire the Association's Lancaster Bomber, Ray Perry who loaned the money to buy the Wackett aircraft and then converted the money into a donation, Eldred Klemm who was an integral part of the early years of RAAFA and continued as a volunteer in the Administration Office until well past retirement age.

The European Area Branch was never a social group per se. Its main aim was always to support the Association. What always impressed me in my early membership was the way in which all Branches worked together to raise funds for the Association and its first estate and aged care facilities. The annual fete was a highlight, an event that was eagerly supported by families living in the surrounding suburbs. There was always friendly rivalry to see which Branch could most benefit our Association.

It is with a sense of great pride that we can see how far the RAAF Association has progressed. We can be thankful for the Division Councils that forged ahead by



The Branch was instrumental in the acquisition of the Association's Lancaster Bomber

developing new retirement villages. Could those WWII Air Force veterans ever have foreseen the RAAF Association as it is today, when planning the AFME in Bull Creek and the Aviation Heritage Museum? A leader in the provision of retirement and aged care facilities; owner of a world-renowned aviation museum. An Association with a property portfolio now worth millions of dollars. More importantly, an Association that still adheres to its original mission and objectives.

It now falls to the Estate Branches to continue the tradition of working together to further those objectives and enhance the name of the RAAF Association. There are still ex-servicemen and women from later conflicts who need our help. To that end I urge our newer Branches to support the RAAFA Charitable Fund set up by the Division for that purpose.



Alcoa service to the community

By Sheryl Munday

AS PART of Alcoa's Month of Service to the Community, a group of volunteers helped out at Meadow Springs Estate giving the gazebos a much needed facelift. The volunteers were also aided by some of the Meadow Springs residents, who saw the project through to completion.

Alcoa's Month of Service is a global initiative and approximately 600 Pinjarra Refinery workers volunteered out in the community during October.

Memorial Spitfire restoration

RAAFA Head Office in consultation with the Museum, is investigating the restoration of the Memorial Spitfire.

When Frank Purser and the Association wanted to put a Spitfire out in front of their clubhouse on Adelaide Terrace, they didn't have any money, nor did they know where to get a Spitfire. But they did have faith in themselves, so they voted to acquire one anyway. Immediately they put out word that they were looking for a Spitfire to all their friends and members.

The Association searched the world and found a Mark 22 version in England that was owned by the local RAF Association. They negotiated the sale for £87 and then asked complete strangers in England to donate their time to pick it up, transport it to the docks and dock workers in Fremantle to donate their time to unload it.

Finally it was installed in front of the clubhouse due to the generosity of Vickers

Aircraft and many unnamed supporters. A fibreglass and steel version of the Spitfire can now be seen in front of the Aviation Heritage Museum and the restored original is located in the north wing.

It is often said that the Memorial Spitfire is one of the most important assets and symbols of the Association. It was placed in the front of the clubhouse on Adelaide Terrace to symbolise the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in service to their Country.

When the Association started to build AFME in Bull Creek, the Spitfire was one of the first items moved from town. It was installed at the front of the Estate so that all who passed would know that this is the place where the Association lives and what we represent. It indicates that our first priority is remembrance of those who came before.

In 1985 the Royal New Zealand Air Force

Repair Depot built a Mark 16 version Spitfire model and donated it to our Association. This fibreglass and steel model was erected on the same pole that was built and donated by Vickers Aircraft in 1959.

The Memorial Spitfire has been reconditioned and painted several times over the years and once it was even fitted with Christmas lights! The ravages of time, humidity and wind, have slowly damaged the aircraft. To this end we need to remove the Spitfire and have it professionally restored to its original glory as a permanent



reminder, so please don't be alarmed when you find it missing. It will be returned.

Military Pension Assistance

By Graeme Bland

RAAFA's Pension and Advocate Practitioners provide valuable assistance for ex-service personnel and their families in understanding the multitude of paperwork about military pensions and disability compensation.

Our practitioners operating at Bull Creek and Merriwa have had a busy past 12 months and anticipate another busy year in 2016. Our practitioner at Merriwa will be back in business in May and the practitioners at Bull Creek and Meadow Springs will be back after a Christmas break.

All our practitioners have had specialised training (TIP) in the three Military Compensation Acts and are very strict on their observance of confidentiality.

For all enquiries contact the Bull Creek Pension Office on 9311 4235 in the first instance.

Many serving and former members of the Australian Defence Forces have benefited from the expertise of our practitioners and we get the satisfaction of helping the less fortunate of our Service mates.

More information on TIP training and the 2016 training programme can be found at www.tipwa.org.au or the Department of Veterans' Affairs website www.dva.org.au.

DVA is undergoing a lot of restructuring including the introduction of many new Delegates. There has been misinformation regarding Centrelink taking over DVA operations. This is false and the Minister has reiterated that DVA will remain a stand-alone entity serving the veteran community. However DVA, in the interest of efficiency, will be utilising some of Centrelink's processes to reduce duplication.

I recently attended a Veterans' Review Board Forum where they revealed a series of expediency changes that will greatly benefit veterans.

Cambrai volunteers' Christmas lunch

CAMBRAI Village has a very large contingent of volunteers who are the glue that holds their caring community together. They have close on 140 volunteers on the Estate and of those, around 90 attended the volunteers luncheon on 8 December 2015.

The volunteers cover a wide variety of services ranging from two teams of gardeners, the library, club supporters, commemoration event organisers, paper garbos, general garbos or tidy-uppers, "Genevieve" drivers, fete organisers and helpers, village welcomers and those who visit the sick and lonely, workshop volunteers and yet others who organise the many and varied activities in the village that enhance the life of the Cambrai community.

Estate Manager, Nick Walker hosted the event, with the assistance of Ron Onions, State Secretary, who is also a resident at Cambrai Village. Ron and Nick were assisted by the staff in helping to serve food and beverages to the volunteers who attended.

All in all it was a happy celebration and a small token of appreciation from RAAFA for the wonderful contribution our volunteers make to the life of the Cambrai community.



Hilary Rose

2015 Peel Volunteer Awards

CELEBRATING International Volunteer Day on 4 December 2015 RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs is proud to have three nominees in the Peel Volunteer of the Year Awards with one becoming a finalist.

Eileen Oxley, Graham Boyle and Hilary Rose attended a breakfast at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club.

Congratulations go to Hilary who was a finalist in the awards. Hilary has been volunteering in many areas for over 15 years and was a well deserving contender.

Meadow Springs is fortunate to have a terrific group of volunteers providing invaluable support year round for their fellow residents and the wider community. This was the first year we have submitted nominations for the awards, and it is hoped we can make this an annual event, where the nominees are put forward by fellow residents.

Australian Red Cross Community Visitors Scheme



AUSTRALIAN Red Cross is seeking volunteers to help with its Community Visitors Scheme. Trained volunteers will be matched to make a regular social visit to an isolated elderly person living in the community or to facilitate a group in an aged care facility. You will visit people who are socially isolated and whose quality of

life would be improved by your friendship and companionship.

If you are interested in assisting and would like further details, please contact Debbie on (08) 9726 6700 or dkwhite@redcross.org.au

75th Anniversary of the Australian Air Force Cadets



RAAFA's AAFC Branch members after the service

By Charles Page

TO MARK the 75th Anniversary of the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC), a service of commemoration and thanksgiving was held at St George's Cathedral, Perth on 9 January 2016. The Service was attended by over 200 cadets, instructors and relatives. RAAFA State President David Peet was amongst those attending, along with Commander Geoff Hurren RAN, Lt Colonel Murray Drover, and members of RAAFA's AAFC Branch.

The AAFC was originally formed in 1941 as the Air Training Corps (ATC). It was disbanded in 1975, but reinstated in 1976 as the AIRTC and in 2001 it was renamed Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC).

Wing Commander Andrew Shearman OAM, the Officer Commanding No 7 Wing (WA) AAFC stated, "We should pause for a moment to reflect on those members who have served and been

members of the AAFC over the past 75 years. They represent the strength and fabric of the organisation's past and provide the foundation and direction for the future".

At the beginning of the service, three cadets paraded the AAFC National Banner and presented it to the Cathedral for the duration of the service.

The service was conducted by the Right Reverend Kate Wilmot, Assistant Bishop of Perth, and Chaplain to HQ I3 Brigade. In her address, she paid homage to the WWII cadets, "We can be certain that some of these young men were killed in action, or seriously wounded, and some would have been taken prisoner".

The Reverend Tim Harrison, who is a WWII veteran and former paratrooper, added "The current generation, because of their membership in the AAFC have gone on to become productive, disciplined

and committed members of our Australian society".

The final hymn was sung to the Dambusters' March, played with great enthusiasm and gusto by the Cathedral's organist. It was a stirring and moving finale, especially as many ATC cadets served as aircrew on Lancasters.

After the service, some members of RAAFA's AAFC Branch visited the Kings Park Memorial and Honour Avenue of Plaques to pay tribute to the cadets killed in service. The Branch is researching WA cadets killed in service and an Honour Roll Board is being proposed, as well as a collection of biographical and historical information.

Further 75th Anniversary events include a Freedom of the City March on 10 April, and a Debutantes Ball with more events yet to be announced.

Chevalier awarded

MAURICE Jackson and his wife, Catherine (Jose) have recently joined the Tuart and Karri Lodge community, after living on RAAFA's Merriwa Estate for 20 odd years.

On Wednesday, 16 December 2015 the Returned and Services League of Australia (WA Branch) held a ceremony in honour of the WWII veterans which Maurice was invited to.

Awards were presented by Patrick Kedemos, Honorary Consul of France in Western Australia, on behalf of HE Christophe Lecourtier, Ambassador of France to Australia. Maurice was awarded with the insignia of Chevalier in the French National Order of the Legion d'Honneur.

Maurice reported he felt very honoured to receive the highest decoration, The Order of Legion d'Honneur. He reported there were also another nine veterans awarded this honour. Catherine Jackson also attended the event, and said it was a lovely morning to share the experience with all the other veterans.

Maurice served in the Royal Artillery for seven years. With his regiment he fought in the Landing of Normandy and D-Day, the initial assaults on 6 June 1944. The Normandy Landings were the largest seaborne invasion in history. The operation began the liberation of north-western Europe from Nazi control, and contributed to the Allied victory on the Western Front. Maurice reported he was in the British 6th Airborne Division for the Invasion of Normandy and fought in various places in France.

Congratulations again to Maurice Jackson on being honoured for his services in WWII.

Other WA veterans who received the Legion d'Honneur medal included Douglas Arrowsmith, Colin Chapman, Frederick Cox, John Durbin, Kenneth May, Francis Mouritz, John Richards, William Utting and Stanley Willis.



Maurice and Catherine Jackson

Enquires about the Alice Ross-King Care Centre can be made in person at Gordon Lodge reception, by phone to 9311 4500 or by email to katieb@raafawa.org.au.

The new care centre is expected to generate more than 80 jobs, with recruitment for staff including nurses, carers, allied health professionals, administration and hospitality staff, set to begin in the coming months.

Alice Ross-King Care Centre due to open in April



LtR Daria Koutsoukos and Katie Borthwick

CONSTRUCTION works on RAAFA's \$30M Alice Ross-King Care Centre at AFME Bull Creek continues to progress right on schedule, with the care centre on track to be completed by the end of March this year. RAAFA's General Manager – Aged and Community Care Karen Borthwick said she was pleased to let RAAFA's residents know that the state-of-the-art new centre is

on track to be admitting the first residents by the end of April.

With the final internal fitout now taking place, Project Manager Daria Koutsoukos and Project Coordinator Katie Borthwick will be the 'faces' of Alice Ross-King Care Centre in the busy lead-up to the official opening of the centre.

Karen said that in addition to providing 102 beds for residents, the new care centre is going to be a fantastic new central hub for the entire RAAFA community to enjoy including a café to be known as Café Dean, a multi-purpose

meeting room known as the Vic Murray Room, a hairdressing salon and podiatry services. In the longer term, the Care Centre is looking to offer integrated activity programs for both Estate and Care Centre residents.

"It's a very exciting time for RAAFA as we

move towards finalising the new care centre, which is going to be a centrepiece for AFME which we can all be enormously proud of," she said.

"As we get closer to the official opening date there will be opportunities for our existing residents to come through and see the care centre, which we will keep all residents updated about."

"We'd like to let all our residents know that we are now taking enquiries from those who are interested in moving into the new care centre. We are also accepting respite care bookings for the new care centre from 1 July 2016, and we were excited to receive our first respite care booking from one of our Estate residents last week."

Katie is working closely with AFME Welfare Officer Carena Slattery to ensure all residents on the Estate who may be requiring residential care services are prioritised for admission into the new care centre.

Vale John (Jack) Colpus, RAAF Bomber Pilot 467 Squadron

ON 26 November 1943, Jack was flying an Avro Lancaster B Mk.I R5868 code named "S for Sugar" when shortly after bombing the target Jack's plane had a collision with another Lancaster, taking five feet off the wing tip.

Jack, using outstanding pilot ability, was able to bring his plane safely home flying for four tension filled hours, landing at Linton-on-Ouse in North Yorkshire. As he touched down on the runway at 120mph (about 20mph too fast due to the steeper angle of the descent) the port wing stalled. If Jack had made a normal approach at the correct speed, the plane would have stalled before landing and crashed. The other damaged Lancaster from No 61 Squadron landed safely at Waddington with minimal damage.

"S for Sugar" went on to complete 137 operational sorties. This famous bomber, restored to her former glory, now resides in the RAF Museum, Hendon just out of London with Jack's name on one of the engines. It is one of the oldest surviving Lancasters.

Jack was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on 3 January 1947 by Sir James Mitchell, the Lieutenant Governor of Western Australia at Government House Gardens, Perth. He also received a Bar for doing over the usual 30 missions and a green endorsement in the logbook written by Lord Elworthy, equerry to Queen Elizabeth.

In Jack's words "Our bombing operations would not have been possible without the efforts of innumerable civilian people, and members of the Navy, Army and Air Forces, who fought for "Peace not Glory".

Jack was born on 10 October 1920 in

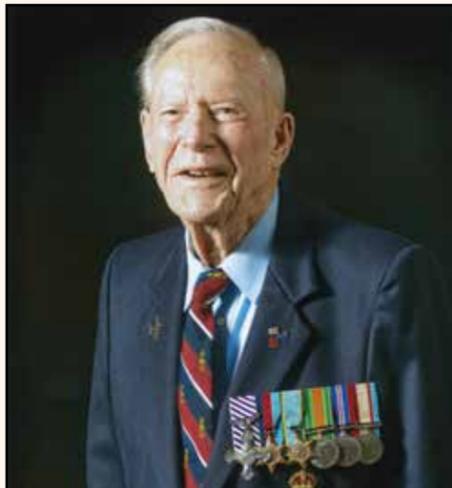


Photo by Bruce Maconachie

Barker Road, Subiaco and died on 10 October 2015 at Hollywood Hospital.

Jack enlisted in the RAAF at the age of 21 and achieved his pilot's licence before his car licence. He did his training at Pearce and Geraldton before leaving from Fremantle for the UK on 5 September 1942.

At the end of WWII in August 1945 Jack was discharged after four years service which included one year being a Flying Instructor at Lichfield Staffordshire where he trained RAAF bomber pilots.

On Jack's return to Perth, he completed his apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner and was a registered builder before becoming a building inspector with the Perth City Council for 31 years. He had a busy time supervising the construction of venues for the 1962 Commonwealth Games at Perry Lakes Stadium, Beatty Park and the Leederville Velodrome.

Jack, formerly of Parkland Villas, Woodlands leaves three daughters, seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Fighter Squadrons' Association



Back row LtoR Felix Sainsbury, Laurie Leckie, John McDonald, John Bailey, Jean Shirley Donaldson. Front row LtoR Kitch Pugsley, Mick Michael (President), Max Messenger

By Mick Michael

MEMBERS of the Fighter Squadrons' Association (WWII veterans) gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Association at a Christmas lunch at AFME in Bull Creek.

Retired Wing Commander Gareth Neilson was speaker and guest of honour at the lunch.

The Fighter Squadrons' Association, formerly 77 Squadron Association, was formed on the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII.

Initially 77 Squadron was formed at RAAF Base Pearce, WA on 16 February 1942 and proceeded on Active Service.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII, Qantas kindly offered to fly to Perth all past members of 77 Squadron who were able to attend. Gatherings were organised and old friends and comrades

relived their war experiences and enjoyed the opportunity to rekindle friendships. The highlight of the celebrations was a march through Perth and the granting of Freedom of the City.

It was at these gatherings that the idea of an association was formed and the 77 Squadron Association came into being.

As time went on the numbers of the 77 Squadron Association began to fall and so it was decided to widen the base for membership and the name was changed to Fighter Squadrons' Association.

Fighter Squadrons' Association continues to have a close association with the RAAF Air Base at Pearce and the Flying School and recently donated a perpetual trophy to the Flying School.

Fighter Squadrons' Association proudly march on ANZAC Day displaying their banner.

Erskine Grove bi-annual fete

Sunday, 10 April, 2016
starts 9.30am
19 Oakleigh Drive, Erskine

There will be

- * homemade cake and preserves *
- * white elephant stall *
- * books *
- * Devonshire teas *
- * sausage sizzle *
- and much more

Parking is very limited in the village but ample parking in the Halls Head Bowling Club is available. It is the first turn right from Sticks Boulevard, and the gate in between will be open for you.

Childhood revisited

By Carena Slattery

THERE were mop top chickens, fluffy bunnies, baby goats, a calf, a lamb, guinea pigs, a puppy called Freckles, delicious homemade cup cakes, 57 Year Four children and a host of delighted Bull Creek residents.

This day was the first of many as All Saints College and AFME Bull Creek took the first steps in forming a closer relationship. The project between All Saints and Bull Creek will commence in early 2016 with a group of Year Six students visiting the Estate to interview interested residents. It is hoped that the many wonderful stories held within the hearts of the residents will contribute to the character of each participating child.

This project is in no way a short term

fancy. It is a relational journey that will serve to enhance the lives of every community member both near and far. There's no denying it, the difference in years only added to the magic of easy conversation. Eyes brightened, laughter bubbled over and cakes were devoured. What an amazing experience!

Thank you so much to the Memorial Estate Residents' Committee who generously financed and assisted with the event. Thank you to all of the volunteers, children's assistants and amazing teachers.

We welcome All Saints College and we value your friendship greatly.



Volunteers rewarded

TWO quiet gentlemen who give a generous amount of their time to help the residents on AFME Bull Creek were recognised for their efforts at the annual volunteers barbecue in December 2015.

Ivor Lyons joined RAAFA and moved onto AFME in April 2012.

Ivor travels on the shopping bus every Tuesday and Wednesday morning to assist the drivers. Many of the passengers now depend on "walkers" for their mobility and Ivor loads and unloads their walking frames. He also assists loading the residents' shopping and other items onto the bus and then helps get their shopping into their units.

Ivor regularly helps some of the visually impaired residents to do their shopping.

When Ivor initially moved onto the Estate, he drove the "Olds Mobile" and has been known to prepare simple meals for some residents who have been unwell.

Ivor also assists at some of the Commemoration Ceremonies held at AFME and mans the barbecue at the annual Children's Christmas Party.

Roger Miot, although not a member of RAAFA, is a very highly regarded volunteer, who gives up a generous proportion of his time to assist AFME residents.

Every Wednesday morning, Roger drives the Estate shopping bus and fills in on Tuesdays when the regular driver is unavailable.

On many occasions, he also drives the bus for outings for the residents of Gordon Lodge.

The shopping bus is a very welcome service for residents, especially those who no longer drive. It allows them to maintain their independence, with the ability to attend to their business safely.



LtoR Roger Miot and Ivor Lyons

Grand children's Christmas party

By Lillian Bridewell

WHAT a delight it was to be involved in this activity at Erskine Grove, the faces of the children made all the hard work well worth it.

Attractions for the 94 children who attended included a bouncy castle, animal farm and an appearance by Elsa from Frozen (played by John and Bette Schmidt's granddaughter Amy) which was a wonderful surprise for the children. There was also a balloon blower, face painting, ice creams and a sausage sizzle. All were very popular.



We also had a photo booth set up and many residents took the opportunity to have photos taken that included four or five generations. A wonderful memory for everyone to keep.

A wonderful afternoon was had by all and

the presents received were wonderful.

A very special big thank you must go to the residents, their families and friends who helped with this successful event.

Vivian Bullwinkel medals donated to the Australian War Memorial

Acknowledgement Australian War Memorial

THE medal group of Australia's most distinguished nurse, the late Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Statham (née Bullwinkel) AO MBE ARRC ED FNM, was presented on 18 December to the Australian War Memorial in a private handover ceremony.

On what would have been the nurse's 100th birthday, the Director of the Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson accepted the medal group from Lt-Col Bullwinkel's nephew Mr John Bullwinkel. Dr Nelson noted that all Australians would now be able to appreciate Lt-Col Bullwinkel's incredible achievements on display at the Memorial.

"We are truly grateful to the family for this selfless gesture. Lt-Col Bullwinkel exhibited remarkable bravery and fortitude as the sole survivor of the Banka Island massacre on 16 February 1942. Her medals will join the uniform she was wearing at the time and she kept throughout her captivity.

"From a generation that produced so many remarkable Australians, Vivian Bullwinkel was a giant among them. She was a leader and an inspiration, a woman who embodied

all that is good in us. She led from both position and principle.

"Her medals will be on display in the Second World War Galleries in the New Year," said Dr Nelson.

Vivian Bullwinkel was born in Kapunda, South Australia, and enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service, eventually being posted to Malaya with the 13th Australian General Hospital. Faced with the Japanese invasion of the Malay Peninsula, the hospital shifted her to Singapore Island in January 1942.

With the fall of Singapore imminent, Bullwinkel was among the last group of nurses, patients, women, and children evacuated to the SS Vyner Brooke. After Japanese bombers attacked and sank the ship, Bullwinkel drifted for hours clinging to a lifeboat before struggling ashore Banka Island with the other survivors.

The 22 nurses stayed on the beach to tend the wounded. When Japanese troops arrived, they gathered the nurses together and opened fire on them with machine-guns. Sister Bullwinkel was shot in the back and

badly wounded, falling unconscious into the water. She awoke to find herself the only survivor of the massacre.

Bullwinkel was the first female member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, serving from 1964 to 1969. She married Colonel Frank Statham in 1977, and died in July 2000 at the age of 84.

RAAFA named Vivian Bullwinkel Lodge in Meriwa after this distinguished Australian.



Painting hanging in the lodge of Vivian Bullwinkel

Erskine Grove residents serenaded

SOME of the wonderful festive people at Erskine Grove travelled around the village and sang Christmas carols to their fellow residents. It was a welcome injection of Christmas spirit that helped put everyone in the mood.

Special thanks go to the organisers and driver for allowing the less mobile residents the opportunity to still participate whilst enjoying the ride in "Grover".



Notes From Branches and Groups

Airfield Construction Squadrons Branch

Ron Lopaten

9535 7830 lopaten30@iprimus.com.au

2015 ended with 27 people enjoying Christmas Lunch on 17 December, but three thought it was a "free lunch" and forgot to pay and another five booked but forgot to turn up - old age!

Upcoming events

Thursday, 18 February, Annual ACS Picnic Lunch, North Dandalup Dam.

Cambrai Branch

Lindsay Lane

lindsaylane1543@hotmail.com

December 2015 was a very busy month with a regular movie afternoon plus our volunteers' Christmas party, Branch Christmas lunch and dinner, traditional Christmas dinner, and New Year's Eve celebrations. You can see we like to party!

Mandurah Branch

Diann Gibbs

rondigibbs@bigpond.com

Welcome to 2016. May this be a healthy, happy year for you all.

Christmas lunch in Middleton Hall on 10 December, 2015 was well attended. Guests enjoyed food, entertainment and happy company.

17 December, 2015 was the final General Meeting and meal for the year, which was well attended and enjoyed.

If you have any hidden talents or know of someone who has, Hugh Brett is the person to contact, he does auditions all the time!

Upcoming events

Thursday, 18 February, General Meeting and entertainment.

Thursday, 24 March, trip to Jarrahdale Hotel for lunch, details to be confirmed.

RAAFA Estates Bowls Challenge 2015

Meadow Springs vs Bull Creek

SUNDAY, 8 November saw 27 bowlers from Bull Creek AFA Bowling Club travel to Meadow Springs Bowling Club for the annual Bowls Challenge.

The Bull Creek teams were supplemented by Meadow Springs to make up six 4s and two 3s combinations.

What was a perfect day for bowling became a challenge in the true sense of the word as most teams were evenly matched, with close scores after 14 ends for the morning round. By lunch time, the increasing breezes were

MER Branch

Jim Carruthers

Upcoming events

Wednesday, 17 February, Dinner, Lion and Ribbon Dance, 5.30pm for 6.00pm start, entertainment commencing 7.00pm. \$30.00 per person, bring along relatives and friends for this fantastic event. Bookings M Bignell and J Carruthers

Merriwa Branch

Joyce Johnson

joycepjohnsson54@gmail.com

Our Mini Fair was held on 8 November 2015 and was smaller than previous years but was still successful and enjoyable.

A New Residents' Afternoon Tea was held on 10 November. This was an opportunity to become familiar with our facilities, clubs and activities as well as enjoy a social occasion with new neighbours.

The Residents' Committee Christmas Dinner was held on 4 December 2015 for 225 residents and on 9 December 2015 a luncheon was held for those unable to attend dinner, with a special appearance from the jolly red man! Everyone received a special Christmas present from the Committee.

Our Volunteers' Thank You Christmas Event was held on 8 December 2015. The volunteers were treated to a wonderful afternoon tea with entertainment from Kieran Aherne. It was a fun afternoon and much appreciated by the volunteers as it is always nice for this silent army that keeps the wheels turning to be recognised.

On 15 December 2015 our residents were treated to a special event when members of the Butler Primary School drama club came and entertained us with their take on The Night Before Christmas.

Upcoming events

The Committee is dedicated to bringing social experiences into the lives of our residents and with that in mind, have plans for some different events for 2016.

Monday, 8 February, Residents' bi-monthly meeting. To inform and update residents and provide a forum to voice their opinions.

Tuesday, 9 February, Movie Night. Free entry, tea and coffee supplied, BYO dinner/nibbles. Film starts at 6.00pm with 'shorts' from 5.00pm.

Wednesday, 10 February, Bingo. Eyes down at 7.30pm. Regular raffle, with all proceeds donated to local charities.

Wednesday, 24 February, Bingo. Eyes down at 7.30pm.

February/March, Travel Expo. We need your participation for this to be successful. Date TBC.

March, Lowes Men's Winter Fashion Event. Opportunity for the men to shop at home. Date TBC.

Tuesday, 8 March, Movie Night, 6.00pm.

Wednesday, 9 March, Bingo. Eyes down at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, 23 March, Bingo. Eyes down at 7.30pm.

Monday, 11 April, Residents' bi-monthly meeting.

WAAAF BRANCH

June Perry

june.r.perry@gmail.com

Upcoming events

Monday, 8 February, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 11.00am.

Sunday, 21 February, Bombing of Darwin Ceremony, 9.00am, AFME Bull Creek. Members please attend, Medals to be worn.

Monday, 14 March, 75th and final Annual Reunion Luncheon, 12noon, Langley Hall AFA Club. Carers, husbands, partners and friends welcome. \$30 per person, bookings essential. Tickets available from Treasurer, Rose Howard, 70 Harris House, AFME Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek or phone 9311 4270. We hope to make this a truly special occasion.

Cambrai volunteer expo a success

MORE than a hundred Cambrai Village residents turned out to attend the annual Cambrai Village Volunteer/Health Expo held in the Club recently.

Welfare Officer Vanessa Priestley said the Expo aimed to give residents an idea of the huge variety of volunteer opportunities, clubs and interest groups, and community services on offer at the Village to all of our residents.

"We're hoping the Expo will encourage residents to consider putting their names down to volunteer for different activities on the Village, as there are so many fantastic things happening here," Vanessa said.

"From assisting in the garden and grounds, to driving the Genevieve buggy, helping in the community garden, recycling of newspapers to helping in the library. There are many ways our residents can get involved with the day-to-day life at Cambrai."

"As well as volunteer opportunities, a variety of clubs exist at Cambrai Village, such as yoga, exercise classes and Mahjong".

"We also had a range of external service providers attend the Expo, to assist our residents in finding out more about the range of services they might be eligible to access," Vanessa said.

"This includes the City of Wanneroo's HACC services, DVA's Veterans Home Care Services, Veterans Counselling Service, Home Modifications and Health Services, as well as St John's community transport services, mobility product providers, as well as fitness, chiropractic, physiotherapy and podiatry services."

The morning ran smoothly and the residents enjoyed a delicious morning tea along with door prizes and free raffles.

A big thank you to all the residents and volunteer groups, as well as the Cambrai Village Resident's Branch and the invited service providers, who came together for the benefit of the Village. A good day was had by all!



Dawn Kelly and Rod Cunningham

shine through, genuine friendship is obvious at days like this, and we look forward to many more to come.



LtoR Frank Guilfoyle, Dawn Scougall, Marion Green from St John's, Pat Scudds and Pat Parker

Bull Creek AFA Club

Phone: 9311 4460

Trading Hours



Bar

Monday to Thursday, 11.00am to 6.00pm
Friday, 11.00am to 10.00pm
Saturday, 3.00pm to 6.00pm

Specials

Monday and Wednesday, Happy Hour Drinks, 4.00pm
Monday to Friday, morning coffee and afternoon tea with muffins and cakes, 9.30am to 5.30pm
Monday lunch, \$10.00 Roast of the Day
Monday, Chase the Ace, 4.00pm to 5.30pm
Tuesday lunch, \$10.00 Fish and Chips

Counter lunches

Monday to Friday, 11.30am to 1.30pm

Dinner dance

Friday, 5.30pm to 10.00pm

Events

All bookings at the bar.

Thursday, 4 February, Country and Western Night, 7.00pm, Langley Hall
Solaris Care fundraiser. Alan White is riding 1,000km. Tickets \$30 per person.

Wednesday, 17 February, Chinese New Year, 5.30pm for seating by 5.45pm
Chinese buffet and live entertainment. \$30 per person.

Sunday, 21 February, Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin morning tea and screening of "Legacy of the WWI Aviators" film, 9.00am

Wednesday, 24 February, A La Carte returns

Saturday, 16 April, RAAFA Annual Dinner, includes 2 course dinner and music. Tickets \$45 on sale 1 March from Estate Offices and Head Office.

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

Cambrai Club

Phone: 9304 5401

Trading Hours

Bar

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

Specials

Wednesday, Happy Hour, 4.00pm
Thursday, morning tea, 10.00am to 11.00am
Thursday, games night, Chase the Ace, 4.00pm to 6.00pm
Friday, Happy Hour, 4.00pm
Friday, dinner, Main Hall, 5.00pm to 9.00pm
Saturday, coffee and cake, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Counter lunches

Monday to Saturday, 12noon to 1.30pm

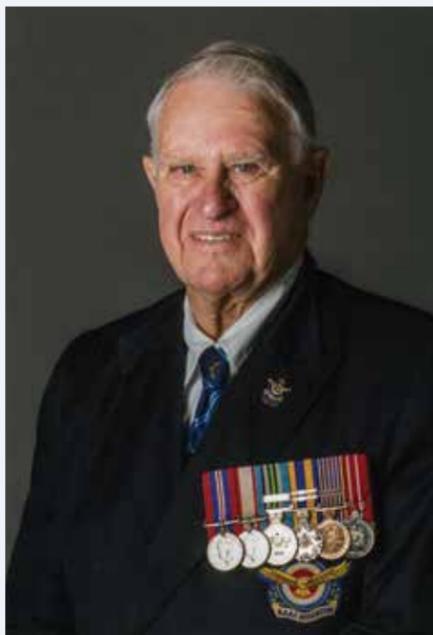
Photos received

LAST year many RAAFA Members took part in an Australia-wide project which aimed to document photographs of Australia's surviving WWII veterans. So far over 6,000 Australian WWII veterans have been photographed.

The AIPP and RSL Reflections Project will gift the portraits to the RSL and the Australian War Memorial as part of Australia's commemorations of WWII, in the special year recognising 100 years of the ANZAC spirit and 70 years since the end of WWII. These portraits will also be exhibited as part of a remembrance to honour the service given to all Australians.

Copies of the portraits taken to date were gifted to the participants and many were received in time for Christmas.

Profits from the sale of portraits will be donated to Legacy and the RSL Foundation, with the funds being used to support service men and women and their families.



Allan Stewart is part of the project

Meadow Springs Club

Phone: 9582 5375

Trading Hours



Bar

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

Specials

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

Counter lunches

Monday to Friday, 12noon to 1.30pm
Please contact the Club for bookings. Our friendly staff are looking forward to having you join us.

Motels

Time for a getaway? You can book a stay in one of our motel units for just \$75 per night (including continental breakfast). Bookings essential on 9582 5375.

Merriwa Club

Phone: Club 9400 3640

Kitchen 9400 3642

Trading Hours

Bar

Tuesday and Wednesday, 4.00pm to 8.00pm
Friday, 12noon to 2.00pm
Friday night opening times may vary, contact Club for details
2nd and 4th Friday, 5.00pm to 8.00pm

Specials

Tuesday and Wednesday, Happy Hour, 4.00pm
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, we will organise 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

Deadlines are:

4 March for April/May issue

6 May for June/July issue

1 July for August/September issue

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

Please send articles electronically to airmail@raafawa.org.au in the first instance or via snail mail to Julie Stearne, AFME, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149.

RAAF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, 16 April 2016

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

Saturday, 16 April 2016 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm,

Langley Hall, AFA Club, Bull Creek.

Tickets \$45 per head

Includes pre-dinner drink, 2 course dinner, 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 from Tuesday 1 March until Friday 1 April from Estate Offices and Head Office. Call 9311 4444 for details.

Estate buses will be provided.

Fostering relations

RELATIONS between Australia and Japan are strong today, but there was a time when this was not so.

The Consul-General of Japan in Perth visited the Aviation Heritage Museum in December, to see an historic artefact that dates back to the beginnings of reconciliation between Japan and Australia following World War II.

The Flag of Peace, which is displayed at the Aviation Heritage Museum, contains the Kanji script signatures of 11 Japanese officers who were held as Prisoners of War in Timor following the conclusion of the war.

Where, when, why and how the flag came to be signed and donated to the museum was a mystery for many years, until 94-year-old RAAFA resident Charles Cugley, who served with the Air Force during the war, began researching its obscure origins in the 1990s.

Consul-General Masanobu Yoshii met with Charles, State President David Peet and State Secretary Ron Onions to see the flag and hear the extraordinary story of its origins.

After two years painstakingly piecing together the origins of the flag, Charles discovered the signatures were those of 11 Japanese officers from the 48th Battalion Cavalry Division of the Japanese Army, who

were held as Prisoners of War in Timor in October 1945 while awaiting repatriation to Japan.

“The Red Cross flag would have been flying in these camps at some stage, and it is believed the officers, who included Major General Tanaka and Lieutenant Yamada, wrote their names on the flag in appreciation of the work of the Red Cross and the fair treatment given to Japanese prisoners,” Charles said.

“We believe the Flag of Peace could be one of the first gestures of reconciliation between Australia and Japan in the Pacific.”

With the assistance of a Japanese professor based in Sydney, Charles reached out to the surviving families of the 11 prisoners of war, of whom three families were happy to share their stories.

Chasing up the Australian side of the story was a bit harder than expected though.

“I discovered that the flag came into possession of RAAF Flight Lieutenant Rex Cormie, who served in Timor and Darwin and eventually retired as Wing Commander Cormie OBE. His daughter married a young RAAF officer, Allan Gilbert, and it was during his time as Wing Commander of the Base Squadron at Pearce that the flag was donated to the RAAFA Aviation Heritage Museum,” Charles explained.



LtoR State Secretary Ron Onions, State President David Peet, Consul-General Masanobu Yoshii, Charles Cugley and Assistant to the Consul Richard Talbot

The Consulate General of Japan in Perth has previously acknowledged Charles' remarkable contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Australia.

“I feel as though I've done something towards friendship between our countries, but likewise the Japanese have been very good to me and greatly assisted me in helping understand the history of the flag. I'm very pleased to have the Consul-General visit the museum,” Charles said.

RAAFA CEO John Murray said the Aviation Heritage Museum is home to thousands of unique artefacts telling the story of Australia's civil and military aviation history.

“The Flag of Peace is an extraordinary artefact in itself, but the postscript of how Charles put his heart and soul into uncovering its origins, and his role in promoting friendship between Japan and Australia is just as remarkable,” he said.

RAAFA Welfare Team

NORTH

Vanessa Priestley **9304 5280**
/ 9400 3778

Cambrai Village and RAAFA Merriwa Estate

CENTRAL

Carena Slattery **9311 4562**
AFME Bull Creek

SOUTH

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

SOUTH WEST

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

The Welfare Service aims to:

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

EVENTS

AFME Bull Creek

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

Weekly - Orion Function Room

Monday, 11.30am - Falls Prevention Clinic with a Professional Physio.
Fees apply, rebates available. David is working wonders. Home visits available.

Wednesday, 10.00am - Gentle Gym with Professional Exercise Physiologist.
Let Emma help you retain your fitness in 2016.

Friday, 10.00am - Seated Yoga with Professional Fitness Instructor. Funded by City of Melville. \$6.00 per session.

February

Monday, 8 February, 10.00am - Meet the Physio Over Morning Tea. Orion Function Room.
Meet Falls Prevention Physio, David. Find out how to access onsite services easily and see equipment used. Family and friends welcome.

Tuesday, 16 February, 10.00am - Healthy Eating. Village Hall.
We welcome back Caitlin. There is very little this woman doesn't know about keeping healthy. Informal presentation about good eating. Family and friends welcome.

Tuesday, 23 February, 2.00pm - Gems Ladies Group. Village Hall.
Who are the SOROPTOMISTS? They may sound like an old fashioned group but they aren't! A wonderful afternoon exploring the meaning of sisterhood.

Thursday, 25 February, 10.00am - Centrelink Financial Information Services. Orion Function Room.
Financial assistance presentation. Don't

miss out on crucial information about aged care without waiting on the phone to Centrelink.

Friday, 26 February, 10.30am - Brain Training. Orion Function Room.
Join Caitlin for fresh puzzles, teasers and mind benders.

March

Tuesday, 22 March, 10.00am - Western Australian Herb Society. Village Hall.
Herbs are Regina's life! Eat, stew and create. Herbs are an essential for both gardeners and cooks. Learn something new.

Thursday, 24 March, 10.00am - Mindful Eating. Orion Function Room.
Continuing our healthy eating series, Caitlin explains how to manage stress without compromising what and how we eat. If you're stressed, your body can't digest efficiently. Be fair on your body by staying informed.

Erskine Grove/Meadow Springs

Every Tuesday, 10.00am - Social Club for Members Living with Memory Loss. Erskine Grove Clubhouse.
Run by Alzheimer's Australia WA. Bus transportation available for Members not living on the Estate. For those already accessing services through Alzheimer's Australia WA, details can be obtained from their Mandurah office on 9535 8772 to check eligibility.
Please contact Angeline for more information on 9582 5369.

Merriwa Estate

Every Thursday, 10.00am - Group Functional Fitness. Meeting Room

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

Every Tuesday, 9.00am - Australian Hearing.
Please phone 9204 9200 for an appointment. A qualified Audiologist will perform full hearing tests, fitting of hearing aids, new batteries, etc.

Cambrai Village

Every Wednesday, 8.00am - Group Functional Fitness. Cambrai Club.
Fitness Instructor/Personal Trainer to the senior age group, Craig provides low impact fitness sessions on living a healthier happy lifestyle and nutritional advice.

Every second Thursday, 9.00am - Australian Hearing.
Please phone 9204 9200 for an appointment. A qualified Audiologist will perform full hearing tests, fitting of hearing aids, new batteries, etc.

RAAFA Amity Village Albany

Thursday, 11 February, 9.30am - Advanced Health Directives.
This is something we all need to know about, regardless of age or health. Have you got one? If not, come and meet Vanessa from the Albany Community Legal Centre (ACLC) to learn what they are and what you need to do. Denise Kaye will talk about the IDAS service.