



# 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



### Accessioning detective

Colin Woods' skills as a photographer makes him an invaluable member of the Aviation Heritage Museum team tracing and recording the history of every artefact in the collection.

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### Vale John Harris

Aviation Museum Branch President, John Harris, was one of the driving forces at the Museum and was held in high esteem by everyone who knew him.

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# Governor opens new Care Centre in the presence of Alice Ross-King's granddaughters

THE Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, officially opened RAAFA's state-of-the-art new Alice Ross-King Care Centre on 3 August.

Chief Executive Officer John Murray welcomed the Governor to the Care Centre, and escorted her on a special tour of the \$30million centre, including a visit to the baby chickens that residents have been watching grow over the past few weeks.

The Governor joined Beth Simpson and Maggie Johnson, to officially open the centre, and unveiled a plaque commemorating the event with John Murray.

"As an organisation, RAAFA is enormously proud to officially open the new 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 ageing people in our community," John said.

### Granddaughters visit

It was a special day on 2 August, when two of Alice Ross-King's granddaughters, Maggie Johnson and Beth Simpson, met with residents and toured the centre for the very first time.

Beth travelled from Sydney while Maggie and her husband Keith travelled from Melbourne to be at the care centre, ahead of the official opening the following day.

When Beth and Maggie were growing up they always knew their famously pioneering grandmother as just that – a loving grandma who doted on her family.

Their grandmother served with the Australian Army Nursing Service within the Australian Imperial Force during WWI, where she became one of only seven AANS nurses to be

awarded a Military Medal.

She met Dr Sydney Appleford on the voyage home to Australia after the war. After they married they settled in the small country town of Lang Lang in Victoria, where in addition to raising four children they immersed themselves in many aspects of the community.

"We knew bits and pieces about Grandma's story but didn't really appreciate it until more recent years. We knew she had won medals and had an amazing experience during the war," Beth said.

"I never remember her really talking about it. She was a lovely grandmother and she would always spoil us. First and foremost she was our grandmother, not a famous nurse. Our grandparents had a grand old house in Essendon, going there was always special.

"In the years since she's passed away we have learned a lot more about what she achieved during her career, in part because of the profuse diaries she kept. It would have taken a lot of strength and compassion, and she did what she thought was right at the time."

Alice Ross-King's service continued during WWII when she trained members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments and was commissioned as a Major of the Australian Army Medical Women's Service, of which she was a member until its disbandment in 1951.

"In a funny quirk, my husband's mother trained at the AAMWS when Grandma was in charge," Beth said.

Maggie formed a special attachment to her grandmother from a young age, when Alice Ross-King gave up her job in order to care for her young granddaughter.

"My mum served in New Guinea as a nurse during WWII, and afterwards she contracted tuberculosis when I was only a little baby.



*The Governor met many residents and staff following the official opening*

In 1951 my Grandma gave up her own job nursing to look after me and care for me while my mum was convalescing in quarantine for nine months. I don't know what she might have gone on to do if it wasn't for that. She was very family-minded," Maggie said.

"In her older age, Grandma moved in with my family, so we had a good few years with her.

"Only last year I found out that during my grandparents' time in Lang Lang they were great supporters of the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts. I always knew they were a big part of the community but I was surprised to learn Grandma was a District Commissioner for the Girl Guides and Grandpa was a District Commissioner for the Boy Scouts. They donated land and a building to the Boy Scouts almost 100 years ago, which helped bring scouting and guiding to the community.

"In some ways it's strange to reconcile the pictures and stories of her youth with how we knew her as just being our Grandma."

In 1949, Alice Ross-King was awarded the Florence Nightingale medal by the International Red Cross. The citation she received with this award read: "No one who came into contact with Major Appleford could fail to recognise her as a leader of

women. Her sense of duty, her sterling solidarity of character, her humanity, sincerity and kindness of heart set for others a very high example."

*Continued page 9*



*LtoR Beth Simpson and Maggie Johnson*

# On the tarmac



State President, David Peet

By David Peet

## RAAFA Branch visits

MOST RAAFA Branches have been holding their branch AGMs during the July/August period and I have had the great pleasure of attending many of them.

I attended the Meadow Springs Residents' Branch AGM with my wife and we were both delighted at the very warm reception we received from all members. Congratulations to the re-elected Committee members.

Both the State Secretary and myself attended the Erskine Grove Residents' Branch AGM and were delighted to see the huge turnout of residents. Their harmony and readiness to volunteer was outstanding.

The WRAAF Branch Christmas in July is always a pleasure to attend. This group of members really know how to enjoy themselves and my thanks to all those who organised this event.

I also attended the Cambrai Village and Merriwa Estate Residents' Branch AGMs.

## Battle of Delville Wood

On 20 July I attended the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Service for the Battle of Delville Wood at Kings Park Memorial and laid a wreath on RAAFA's behalf.

July 2016 marked the centenary of South Africa's equivalent of Gallipoli, the Battle of Delville Wood, a subsidiary of the Somme Offensive. It was one of the bloodiest battles of WWI, where the fighting qualities and tenacity of the Rhodesian and South African soldier were born.

It was a very moving ceremony and the first time I have seen it commemorated in Western Australia.

## Between the Dances book launch

I was privileged to be invited to the official launch of the book, *Between the Dances* by Jacqueline Dinan held at the Aviation Heritage Museum on 21 July.

The launch was attended by the Acting Premier, Lisa Harvey and other dignitaries.

WWII changed women's lives and their place in Australian society forever. Thousands of women ventured where few had gone before – into the services and workplaces previously considered the sole preserve of men.

In preparation for her book, Jacqueline interviewed over 300 women around Australia to collect the last first hand stories

from WWII. The stories revealed poignant and personal conversations, photographs and letters.

This book is a testament to real life during WWII and although I haven't had the chance to read all of the stories yet, it is on my to do list.

## Korean War Armistice Ceremony

On 27 July I attended and laid a wreath on behalf of RAAFA at Kings Park Memorial for the 63rd anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement, the truce that ended the war which claimed 339 Australian lives.

## Alice Ross-King Care Centre official opening

On 3 August more than 100 dignitaries and guests were on hand to see our Patron, the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, officially open the Alice Ross-King Care Centre.

Also in attendance was the RAAFA National President, Brent Espeland AM Air Vice Marshal Rtd.

This Centre was completed by RAAFA at a cost of \$30million and is an absolute winner in terms of provision of service to the aged in our community.

If you haven't seen this building yet, maybe have a cup of coffee in Café Dean on the ground floor. I'm sure you will be as impressed as I am.

## Rolling Thunder Vietnam

I attended the Rolling Thunder Vietnam

concert drama at Burswood Theatre to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, with a group of RAAFA veterans.

The concert combined personal stories of young Vietnam War soldiers with songs of the era. It portrayed both the lives of men on the battlefield and their loved ones at home.

The show certainly brought back vivid memories of the era to all attending. A loud but brilliant performance.

## RAAFA AGM update

Applications for nominations for the RAAFA Division Council have now closed and there is a larger than normal list of people vying for the available positions.

It is very pleasing to see that we have so many people interested in the running of RAAFA WA Division and who are prepared to stand for election.

Please read their CVs which have been sent out with your voting packs, make your selections and then return your vote.

## RAAFA Information Expo

At the RAAFA AGM on Saturday, 29 October, we will be hosting an Information Expo that will highlight the workings of our Aged Care Centres, Independent Living Units and what Home Care Services we have available for our members.

Please take the opportunity to find out what is now available to you as a Member of RAAFA at this new initiative.

## The Padre's Piece



Padre David

By Padre David

I HAVE still got that "earworm tune" in my head, although I must say I have had a very kind letter back from David Gray, Principal of the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools in Edinburgh and he has promised that his music department will be contacting me. I have found the hymn

verse that the children sang at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo last year which was the third verse of the hymn "Lord of the worlds unseen or seen" by EH Blakeney.

*"To all who, spurning earthly joys  
seek undismayed the trackless way  
high in the wide expanse of heaven,  
be Thou their help, by night and day;  
through fire, through cloud, o'er land, o'er wave,  
still be thy presence strong to save"*

At our local Uniting Church in Mandurah recently we had two hymns that were new to me and most of the congregation. As I looked around I could see that some were trying to pick up the tune but there were others who did not open their mouths. Maybe I ought to be generous and say they listened to the tune and read the new words.

The Australian Hymn Book was published in 1977 with the involvement of a number

of Churches - Anglican, our three Uniting Churches and also the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. One of our Uniting Church laymen, Lesley Milgate a retired English Professor from the ANU, in 1982 wrote a Companion to the Australia Hymn Book and in its very first chapter wrote about Congregational Singing. He pointed out that the singing of hymns has not been considered necessary at various times in the Church's history but he gives three reasons for its importance; Jesus himself took part in religious singing, it's got an instructional purpose, and most importantly, it develops a sense of oneness in the singing group. It develops an awareness of belonging together. You only have to think of the crowd of supporters singing at a football match, or those old wartime songs from WWI and WWII.

In August I took part, saying the prayers, at the 50th Anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Long Tan at the Mandurah War Memorial with the Murray Mandurah Vietnam Veterans. At the end we sang the National Anthems of New Zealand and of Australia and such was the sense of solidarity of the occasion that the New

Zealand Anthem was sung by all with the same sincerity as our Australia Anthem.

On Sunday, 9 October RAAFA buses from Bull Creek, Merriwa and Meadow Springs will convey members to Mokine where we will join with local RSL members and residents from Northam. I will conduct a memorial ceremony and wreath laying at the site where in 1942 four RAAF airmen were killed when their Avro Anson crashed.

I have been involved with this annual ceremony since 1995 and on each occasion we have sung a hymn. We will do so again this year, singing that great hymn: "Amazing Grace" and I am sure we will sing it too – not just mumble along – because it's part of our tribute. We are together as one in paying our respects and remembering the sacrifice of those four men and the sacrifice that thousands of others also made in the service of our nation.

Psalm 9 urges us "O come let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise".

Shalom.

# CEO's perspective



CEO, John Murray

By John Murray

## Head office

IN THE late 1960's there was a courageous step made by Division Council to identify an alternative site to the small office they occupied in Adelaide Terrace where many may remember seeing the Spitfire. When you reflect on the Division Council minutes of the time, there was a lot of questioning about the logic, with considerable concern about buying a mosquito infested block of land at the southern perimeter of Perth, at a place called Bull Creek.

Years later, the Division Council again started buying properties on the outer areas of the city, at Merriwa when there was nothing else there. I recall those within the aged care and retirement living sector questioning "why would you buy a block of land out in that barren space way north of the city?"

These courageous decisions have enabled RAAFA to be able to provide housing and aged care to not only the veteran members of the Association but also to the broader community. Today Division Council is continuing to look at how we can continue to support not only those we already have in our facilities but those who will be asking for housing and aged care in the future.

The average size of a retirement village in Australia is 63 units. RAAFA has 1,440 units across six sites and we are the largest provider of retirement villages in WA. Some of the major private for-profit retirement living providers have been visiting our sites with a desire to duplicate the models we have put in place in Bull Creek, Merriwa, Meadow

Springs and others.

I have outlined in previous editions and presentations at both Estate and Branch meetings, that RAAFA needs to look ahead to the requirements of an aging population with a projected additional demand of between 800 to 1,400 homes over the next 5 to 10 years.

Some of these homes could be added to existing sites, therefore reducing the potential costs for residents because of the contributions made from these additional residents. Further development enables RAAFA to improve the amenities on the existing site for current and future residents.

Division Council, along with senior management, have also been considering new sites that may potentially enable us to respond to some of the growth demand. We continue to explore opportunities as they arise to ensure that they will be appropriate to the needs of future residents and are in locations with good access to services off the estate.

The world of aged care, retirement living, and community based services, along with the models that support them are experiencing significant pressure to change. Many organisations are implementing changes to reflect these shifting needs, with the revitalisation and development of new methods of service delivery.

There is increasing pressure on government budgets which will ultimately shift the responsibility and capacity for services to be paid for by the individual. This is an unavoidable reality that the aging population and RAAFA has to face. We need to respond to this shift.

In addition, there is the elimination of what were known as "low band" or "hostel" type accommodation from the funding structures of aged care. This has placed additional pressure back on the community and those living within retirement estates. Unless you are now in the final stages of life or at risk to yourself or others because of dementia or other illnesses, you will not be able to take up a place within a residential aged care facility such as the new Alice Ross-King Care Centre.

As an organisation, we need to respond to our Membership by not only providing accommodation, but also a service model that will support people in their own homes for as long as possible, until there is no other option.

So what does this mean for RAAFA today? It means the Executive Leadership Team has been working to define what new service model will be required across all of our facilities. It also means our strategic planning process requires us to effectively move to increase our services, while trying to minimise the cost for individuals, making it a cost effective option to come to RAAFA in the first place.

The broad-acre retirement village will be under increasing pressure as costs increase and revenue declines. Our objective is to increase the efficiencies of our estates by managing the cost structures and increase the availability of services to our Members. By doing this we will also manage the underlying service fees that residents pay in the long term.

Change is a normal part of life, no matter your age, it doesn't cease. The hope is that we have had enough experience with change to realise it is an inevitability. It doesn't have to be something that creates a level of anxiety or concern that can't be managed with good consultation processes to understand what the changes are for and how they might help.

The aged care sector is going through significant change with the deregulation of community based services to "community directed care" where individuals will be funded and make decisions about the services they receive.

Aged care funding is being cut by the Federal Government as part of its budget management in excess of \$2B. The quality standards of our facilities have to continue to be improved to respond to the Government's accreditation requirements.

As a not-for-profit organisation we continue to advocate for those who are less wealthy to ensure they are not disadvantaged in this emerging user-pays environment.

The Executive Leadership Team and Division

Council are constantly thinking about how we can best respond to all of these things and I wish to reassure all our Members that any decisions or directions we take are primarily driven by the needs of the Members.

The Association, as a not-for-profit organisation, has developed its protocols through its Charitable Committee to support ex-service organisations and you will see more information coming out over the next six months. One example is where I visited the Meentena Veterans' Retreat, which is located 80km east of Marble Bar, whilst taking two weeks leave and saw what is possible for the younger veterans that RAAFA is endeavouring to support.

As you can see in the State President's report, our role as an ex-service organisation is still paramount despite the reality of the Western Australian Division running a \$56M per year aged care, retirement living and community based service.

We are also conscious of the future needs of the Aviation Heritage Museum as we contemplate how to engage the State and Commonwealth Governments to help us ensure the history and the artefacts within the Museum are protected and remain available for the broader community.

This year has been a significant year resolving and putting in place systems and processes to support this organisation and its business. The business is about supporting you as a Member and the people who live within our facilities in the same way that those original group of ex-servicemen supported our nation and put their lives on the line to look after their community. The same principles apply to everything we are endeavouring to do as we go forward.

I anticipate catching up with many of you at the RAAFA AGM on Saturday, 29 October and I thank all those who have considered putting their hand up to be on Division Council. I note that in some of the elections in the 1950's and 1960's there was up to 20 to 25 people putting their hand up to go on Division Council and it's great to see similar levels of interest in the future that lays ahead of us.

## Laurie receives appreciation

THE Cambrai Village Residents' Branch had no hesitation in recommending Laurie Hassett for a Certificate of Appreciation in acknowledgement of his volunteering contributions. David Peet had the pleasure of presenting the Certificate to him at the Branch AGM in August.

Laurie moved onto Cambrai Village in 2008. In 2011 he joined the Cambrai Village Residents' Branch Committee organising trips, functions and bus outings for the residents.

In 2014 Laurie's role changed to Chairperson of the Social and Activities subcommittee. He has been the coordinator

of the Genevieve (buggy) roster, as well as driving Genevieve for the benefit of the residents.

Since he moved onto the Village he has been part of the Paper Recycling Team, which is good for the environment and also brings in funds for the Village. But his volunteer efforts don't stop there. He is a member of the electricity meter reading team and assists in setting up the tables and chairs for club functions. Also, at Christmas time he organizes Genevieve for



Lto R David Peet and Laurie Hassett

the annual lights tour of the Village.

Laurie is still giving and we would like to say a big RAAFA thank you.

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See page 11 for submission deadlines

# Annual General Meeting Agenda Programme

The 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Australian Flying Corps & Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA Division) Inc. will be held in the Air Force Association Club, Air Force Memorial Estate, Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek at 9.30am on Saturday, 29 October 2016

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

## Chairman

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

## Programme

- 8.30am Enrolment commences (please enrol early)
- 9.25am Wreath laying
- 9.30am AGM commences
- 11.00am Question and answer session / morning tea / retirement living and aged care expo, Wings restaurant

## Agenda

1. Declare the 2016 AGM open
2. Fallen Comrades
3. Table the Notice of Meeting
4. Affirmation of Loyalty
5. Confirmation of Minutes

The State Executive confirmed the minutes of the 21st AGM held on 31 October 2015.

### 6. State President's Report

Mr David Peet, the State President, will deliver his report.

### 7. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr John Murray, the CEO, will deliver his report.

### 8. Financial Report and Statement

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

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

Due to the complexity of accounts, if members have any questions it would be appreciated if they could contact the Chief Financial Officer prior to the close of business on Friday, 21 October 2016 so that their questions may be researched adequately prior to the AGM.

### 9. Correspondence

A letter has been sent to Buckingham Palace acknowledging the Affirmation of Loyalty made at the last AGM, currently waiting on response.

### 10. Motion

There are no motions to be considered.

### 11. Declaration of the ballot for vacant Division Council positions

### 12. Close of AGM

### 13. Question and Answer Session / Retirement Living and Aged Care Expo

David Peet, State President

## DIVISION COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The following positions become vacant this year:

- State President
- State Vice President
- Three Division Councillors

## Voting Procedure

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

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

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

# Auspicious date for the Jones family

2 AUGUST is a particularly auspicious day for the family of RAAFA resident Joyce Jones.

Not only was 2 August the date that residents welcomed the granddaughters of the famed nurse Alice Ross-King to the Centre for the first time, but this year also marked Joyce's 96th birthday, as well as her eldest son Alan's birthday and her second son Tony's birthday.

Alan and his wife Christine joined their grandson Trystan Weir to celebrate Joyce's birthday at the residents' luncheon at the Care Centre on 2 August.

Joyce was born on 2 August, 1920 in England and her sons were born in 1942 and 1946 respectively.

"My father was away during the war with the British Army, but every time he came home on leave during the war it resulted in a baby. Me and my brother, their first two children, were both born on Mum's birthday, which is quite extraordinary," said Joyce.

The family moved to Australia in 1961, and were one of the first families to settle in the Wanneroo area, where they farmed on their five acre plot.

"There were no street names in those days – we were just 'I3 Mile Peg'," Alan said.

"Before they left the UK, Mum ran 'Tots to Teens' which was a clothing shop in Oxford. It was the first of its kind in the area. She was very ahead of her time.

"Then all of a sudden Dad made his mind up that we were moving to Australia. I've always thought it might have been my fault – I was about 19 at that point and was in the Merchant Navy. I was always rattling on about Australia, so maybe that's where the idea came from.



Joyce Jones with daughter-in-law Christine, great grandson Trystan Weir and son Alan

"They embraced living here. Mum and Dad travelled across the Nullarbor many times to see the rellies, and back in those days it was 800 miles of unsealed road.

"More than 15 years ago they moved to AFME into one of the little upstairs units, until Dad passed away in 2003. Mum has just moved into the Alice Ross-King Care Centre and she is really happy here."

The strong family tradition of military service continued in the Jones family, with Alan and his brother Tony both serving in the Vietnam War, and his two younger brothers Tim and David also serving in the army at different times.

"I was in the army for 20 years as a parachute rigger – I always tell people that that's why I'm so short, after all those jumps," Alan joked.

## RETIREMENT LIVING and AGED CARE EXPO

Saturday, 29 October 2016, 11.00am to 12.30pm at the conclusion of the RAAFA (WA Division) Inc. AGM  
Wings, AFA Club, Air Force Memorial Estate  
Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek

RAAFA invites you to meet with representatives from our estates, to gather information about making a move into a retirement village, aged care centre or how to stay in your own home longer by utilising our in-house services.

This Expo is an opportunity for you to ask questions about our retirement villages, aged care facilities and everything you need to know to make the move. Whether you are a baby boomer or senior exploring the idea of retirement villages with independent living, assisted, specialist or community care, or on behalf of a loved one, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Whether for yourself or a loved one, it's never too soon to start planning for the latter part of your life. We understand that many issues need careful consideration before decisions are made for example:

- Will I lose my pension.
- Is there any government support I can claim.
- Will I be able to afford the aged care facility of my choice.
- How can I make the transition from independent living to residential aged care.
- Are in-home services available for the wider community.

Regardless of whether you're on a pension, a self-funded retiree or still working part time, come along and speak to our friendly staff who have experience and insight into what is needed to help you make the transition to a wonderful retirement lifestyle.

To register your interest please email enquiries@raafawa.org.au.

# 100 candles for Bill at McNamara Lodge

STAFF, family and friends came together to mark a very special occasion at RAAFA's McNamara Lodge recently, when resident Bill Taylor celebrated his 100th birthday.

McNamara Lodge Facility Manager Kerry Rennison said the birthday celebrations were made all the more exciting with the Mayor of Mandurah, Marina Vergone, also attending to congratulate Bill on his birthday.

"We had a lovely morning tea for Bill with his close family and friends, where we cut the cake and sang happy birthday.

It was a great morning, then the celebrations kicked on, as Bill's extended family enjoyed a bigger celebration at the Club," Kerry said.

Born on 14 July, 1916, Bill's birthday celebrations mark 100 years of an extraordinary life, lived through two World Wars, the Space Race, and countless other life-changing global events.

Bill's daughter, Ann Lullfitz, says her dad enlisted in the Australian Army in 1940 as a 24-year-old, and was a member of the 2/11th Battalion, 6th Division C Company during WWII.

"Dad was serving in Greece when his Battalion was captured in Crete in 1941, very early on in the war. He ended up as a

German Prisoner of War at Stalag 18A for four years. Like most of them, he tried to escape several times, though he never got away," Ann said.

"They all endured some pretty rough treatment, the food was very scarce, and as dad said once to us, 'Anything that moved and could be eaten, would be caught and eaten'."

Bill survived four years as a POW at Stalag 18A, and then the war abruptly ended for the POWs.

"When the war finished, Dad told us that those in the camp just went their own different ways and had to find their own way out of the camp. It had all been bombed so much that there was a lot of confusion," Ann said.

Bill's wartime experiences were rarely spoken about in his family until 20 years ago.

"Dad never talked about what he'd been through for quite a long time, we never knew anything until only about 15 or 20 years ago," Ann said.

"After the war he did a carpentry course and married my mum. He always preferred working on farms and eventually they ended up at Pingelly which was both their home town anyway, and they were there until



Bill Taylor with his daughter Ann Lullfitz

Mum passed away from ovarian cancer in 1972.

So Dad decided to move down to Bremer Bay and met a lovely lady there, but sadly they only had ten years together until she also passed away from cancer.

"Following a fall, he decided he wanted to move up to be closer to my sister and me, so he has been at McNamara Lodge for the past two years, which is wonderful because there are a lot of country people who live in the Lodge so he's made lots of friends and

it's been really great."

As well as the celebrations at Meadow Springs, Bill and his family also travelled to Bremer Bay for the party to end all 100th birthday parties – which kicked off with Mr Taylor arriving in a three-wheel Harley Davidson at the Bremer Bay pub.

"All of Dad's Bremer Bay friends made a presentation to him and we eventually dragged him home at 9pm, it was a fantastic night."

## RAAFA's brand refresh

WE HAVE all been hearing that there will be a dramatic increase in demand for retirement and aged care services in the very near future and that there will be an increase in competition from providers.

So RAAFA has decided that now is the best time to undertake a refresh of its brand and image to best prepare itself for these changes in the industry.

We all know that RAAFA has a history unlike any other group that it shares the industry with and that RAAFA's differences are its strengths.

The brand refresh aims to capitalise on this. It will be designed, at a glance, to set RAAFA apart from the competition, as well as make potential customers realise the RAAFA brand stands for something more than just a purveyor of retirement services.

### We are tribal

People love to belong and the refresh for RAAFA is unashamedly about offering people a group to join. Not just a group that offers old people care, but one that is steeped in history, a history that time and time again shows how it puts the care and well-being of its members first and foremost.

That's why we are saying: don't move into a retirement home, join the Royal Australian Air Force Association.

### Above and beyond

Accommodating people's desires to belong is one thing, but we also need to appeal to their heads as well by showing off what members of RAAFA enjoy. The services, the facilities, the expertise that are above and beyond anything else on offer.

It is a rare opportunity when an existing brand's unique attributes perfectly dovetail into customers wants and desires and will be taken full advantage of in the refresh.

### Our approach

As such, the brand refresh is just that, a refresh, not a change. Rest assured the RAAFA name will not be changing.

The RAAFA crest that was created back in 1929 and modelled on crests used by the RAF and associations of the era will continue to be used.

What does this mean for you? Over the coming months we will be introducing a new logo with more consistency across all areas of our business.

This will include a gradual upgrade of signage on our estates and facilities with standard colours and typefaces to be used in all areas.

Behind the scenes we will also be working on ways to best target new and existing customers and continue to widen our promotion of RAAFA's unique services.

## Volunteer service acknowledged

THREE Erskine Grove residents were acknowledged for their volunteer services to the estate and their fellow residents at the Branch AGM in August. The Erskine Grove Residents' Branch had much pleasure in nominating each for a Certificate of Service.

**Jeanette Craig** moved onto Erskine Grove in April 2004 and has contributed to village life over a number of years in all aspects.



One of the special things she does is organise and run the "Morning Teases" with the help of Joy Helliwell, and the very successful cake stall at the village's Fete.

Jeanette also helps out by taking residents to their medical appointments and she helped on bus trips in the early years of her residency.

**Bob Smoothy** moved to Erskine Grove with his wife Hazel in February 2004.



He is a hard worker who freely gives his time and skills to any resident who wants things done. It

is difficult to enumerate the many little jobs he assists with, although helping with residents' gardens is one that comes to mind.

He is always a willing helper at functions such as Remembrance Day, ANZAC Day, Fete and with the herb gardens, as well as looking after the flags on our special occasions.

**Dave Crowdy** moved onto Erskine Grove with his wife Margaret in March 2005.



He has been a consistent contributor to village life and a willing worker in a variety of areas when his many talents are called upon.

Worthy of special mention is his dedication to the village Fete over the years. This year he is Chairman of the sub-committee organising the Fete which takes many hours to prepare all the stalls for an efficient and smooth running event.

In his spare time, Dave is also a member of the Erskine Grove Residents' Branch Committee

# Remembrance Day a chance to remember mates

## Mal Greenhalgh remembers Vietnam

AFTER enlisting in the Australian Army as a regular soldier when he was just 18 years old, RAAFA Amity Village Albany resident Mal Greenhalgh had little idea of the experience in store for him over the next six years.

After completing his initial training at Kapooka, Mal unsuccessfully worked on a radio course, which he “flunked out on”.

“I’d just flunked on a radio course when the boss called me and said ‘Well lad, do you want to go to Malay or Vietnam?’ and being a bit gung ho I wanted to go to Vietnam,” Mal says.

“They sent me to Canungra for jungle training and then to Brisbane, and I waited there for about four weeks when they said ‘right you’re off to Vietnam’.

“So I went on my pre-embarkation leave to Perth, and I was supposed to have a fortnight of leave so my fiancée and I decided to get married before I went. I was still 19 at that point, so we got married and had a three day honeymoon when the powers that be cut my leave short and called me back to Sydney. I had to wait for a few weeks, which I wasn’t too happy about.”

Mal spent the bulk of his 12 month deployment to Vietnam in Nui Dat, with short stints in Saigon.

“Our job was to run all communications centres for the Allies connecting communications between the Americans and Kiwis. We ran the comms centre which interconnected with Saigon and the Australian logistic support group,” Mal said.

“Shift work, picket and mess duty felt quite safe most of the time. It was only when we left the base that we had to really be on our guard. It was impossible to tell the local guerrilla force from the local village people as everybody wore Black Pyjamas as did the Viet Cong.

“I was in Saigon for about a month during a big operation, the Viet Cong hit there badly and I got caught in that.

“Fortunately my service in Vietnam went pretty well considering some of the hairy situations we got into at the time, though some of my other mates weren’t quite as lucky and that’s it.

“It’s always in hindsight you look back at these things and think really we should never have been there.”

Mal rounded out his army service with postings to Brisbane, Rockhampton and Canberra.

“By the time I was sent to Canberra I was still a poor little SIG, which is what they called signalmen and four months before my discharge they gave me a stripe, which meant an extra 50c each day, which in those days

when your take home pay was so low every cent counted,” he said.

After his six year term was up, Mal left the army and returned to Perth, where he had a difficult time trying to find a job.

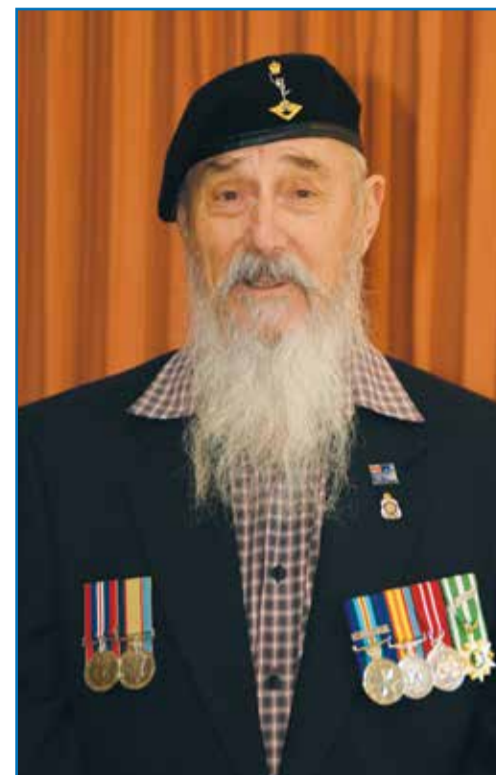
“No one wanted Vietnam vets because they thought we were all trouble,” Mal says.

“When returning to Australia we were advised to change into ‘civvies’ as soon as possible because the general population would not receive us well. I soon found out how true this was. We were verbally, and sometimes physically, abused – it didn’t matter whether you were a full time soldier like me or a National Serviceman, we were all tarred with the same brush.

“After several different jobs I decided to start my own business, so I did that for about 12 years and then I had a midlife crisis and wanted to go to the bush and build my own house. We sold the business and bought 18 acres in Kendenup and built our house and we still own the place.

“That was in 1990 and we still spend our weekdays there and then come to Amity Village for our weekends. I’m still married to wife number one, Pat, so life is pretty good.

“It is now 48 years since I returned from Vietnam and 44 years since my discharge from the Army. For a long time I was very



Mal Greenhalgh

angry, and mentally and physically unwell. It has taken a long time to be as well and calm as I am and I owe this to a very good wife of 49 years (she deserves the medals), and I also do a lot of Tai Chi.”

Mal has strong feelings regarding Australia’s role in conflicts over the past century.

“I think most of the wars Australia has been involved in have been a terrible waste of young lives and not necessary.

“If our politicians are willing to send our men and women into combat zones they should not ignore them and the problems they have when returning to Australia. The proper medical facilities should be freely available to them, whenever and wherever they are needed,” he said.

## Vietnam Veterans’ Day Service in Mandurah

A VERY proud Frank and Judy McCarthy attended the Vietnam Veterans’ Day Service in Mandurah to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan at the Mandurah War Memorial on 18 August.

The morning march and service commemorated the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans. The Vietnam War was Australia’s longest military engagement of the 20th century with almost 60,000 Australians fighting in the war with more than 500 losing their lives.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, where 108 brave young men from D Company 6RAR resisted an attack of 1,500-2,500 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops. It would become one of the most extraordinary chapters in Australia’s military history.



Frank and Judy McCarthy

The parade was escorted by the Naval Guard and accompanied by Scotch College Pipe and Drums Band with the service at the Mandurah War Memorial being accompanied by the Frederick Irwin College orchestra and Halls Head College Choir.

Judy laid a wreath on behalf of the Meadow Springs Residents Branch.

## Peter Rabbit visits

By Angeline Carlton

MEADOW Springs, McNamara Lodge and Erskine Grove residents who attend the Mavericks Group have welcomed Peter Rabbit to the group with open arms.

He brings great joy during cuddle time and lots of laughs watching him hop around, he is getting higher and faster.

Yes, there are even the obligatory stew jokes, but they are always said with a pat or cuddle at the end.

Everyone in the group looks forward to Peter’s attendance and he is a very welcome addition to the group.

Peter Rabbit has also made visits to the



residents at McNamara Lodge and has become a positive addition to the estates. He is a great conversation starter for residents and it is lovely to see their faces light up as they reminisce about the joy pets have brought to their lives.

# Remembrance Day an important day for Athol



Athol Stone shows off his Service medals

“AS I look through my life I think quite a few times I have been saved, for one reason or another,” says AFME resident Athol Stone, who was one of the very first RAAF Dental Service dentists to be posted overseas during WWII.

Born and raised in Busselton and now retired at RAAFA, 99-year-old Athol has had an incredible life and says he is above all, “a very fortunate person.”

“I was born at the Vasse Hotel. My father was a pharmacist, in the days when they would make the prescriptions themselves. At the age of five my mother would give me a fishing line and send me off with some bait to the jetty to catch dinner. So I’d walk to the end of the Busselton jetty and climb down the platform and catch herring for our dinner. I was allowed to do anything I wanted to do in those days,” Athol says.

Perhaps it was that free-spirited nature which lead to Athol’s later adventures in the RAAF.

At the age of 23 in 1939, he was recruited

for the RAAF’s Dental Service.

“During WWI there were far more dental casualties than in the fighting – which is a little known fact. This was the war when they realised that dental health was vitally important, so the Navy put dentists on their ships and the Army and RAAF followed suit and set up dental sections to go away with the troops,” he said.

“They realised they had to check all the boys and give them a clean bill of health before going overseas. Remembering that dentistry back then was completely different to what it is now. At the beginning I didn’t have any of the knowledge I would have by the time I finished.”

Athol was initially posted to Canning Vale, where he was required to ensure RAAF recruits were dentally fit before being posted overseas. He was then transferred to Pearce Air Base.

“We had to examine up to 50 blokes a day. We had to check the whole mouth; there were lots of extractions, treating abscesses, and surgery. You wouldn’t do that these days... and we didn’t even have a dental nurse to help. It wasn’t easy work,” he said.

Gradually however the rush eased off at Pearce, allowing Athol time to consider other outlets – such as flying.

“I was looking after one of the pilots after he came to me for treatment and I said to him ‘Is there any chance of flying with you one night’, and in those days they were flying Wirraways. He said yes and we lined it up, but then the morning of the flight he came to say he couldn’t take me because he had a pilot from Melbourne who had just arrived who he needed to take on a trip,” Athol recalls.

“I’d just gotten engaged to my wife at that point, I said ‘right then I’m going to Perth I’m

sick of this place’, so I took off home for the night and had to make sure I was back on the 7am bus to get back to base by 8am.

“It was that morning I heard two pilots had been killed in a flight overnight – and it was my friend who was going to take me up and I should have been on that plane. That was one of the many occasions in my life where I think I have been looked after.

“Not long after that I was posted to Cunderdin, and I enjoyed that. On one occasion I got the opportunity to go up with one of the trainees on a trip. He was doing aerobatics in a Tiger moth and he started to do loops and we were at about 6000 feet high when he started this loop. We were still turning when we’d got to about 500 feet from the ground. I was thinking ‘Well this is it’ by that point – but he finally managed to pull the plane up out of the descent. Afterwards I turned to him and said ‘I didn’t know if we’d get out of that’ and he said ‘I didn’t either.’”

After his time in Cunderdin, Athol was posted overseas to the RAAF Hospital in Singapore.

“I was posted to the dental section of the hospital in Singapore and it was the life of pie at that point because the war hadn’t started with Japan,” he said.

“I enjoyed it there but then things started happening. We found out two British aircraft had been sunk, something we didn’t believe would happen and then the Japanese started bombing and flying over the island.

“We got the warning one morning at about 9am to head to the trenches, so myself and the head doctor – who was the best man at my wedding years later – jumped into these trenches and listened to the bombs whistling down. Six landed a few feet from our trench but somehow we were unscathed.”

In the aftermath of the bombing, Athol was reassigned duties as a Casualty Officer, with his role to collect and transport survivors.

Eventually he was sent to Sumatra, and when it was also invaded he escaped to the south island of Java and caught a train to Batavia (now Jakarta).

Athol and a group of friends made a makeshift transport out of a confiscated Japanese ship, using drums and bamboo supports to sail home through mine-infested waters.

“We were doing two knots an hour – you could walk that fast. It took us three weeks to get to Fremantle, and then I had to write a report of all my experiences,” Athol says.

“When I got home they told me I should have never accepted the job as a Casualty Officer – that was when it all went pear shaped.”

After returning home, Athol was promoted to Squadron Leader and then returned to Point Cook, where he was made Senior Dental Officer in charge of a team of 10 dentists.

But all was not smooth sailing when he arrived home – Athol was dismayed to discover many of his records were not kept by the RAAF, other than his departure and arrival dates.

“Most of my mates were dead, so there was nothing I could do about it,” he says.

After the war, Athol married his sweetheart Bernice, and set up a dental practice in Fremantle. At 99 years old, he believes he is now the oldest living qualified dentist in Australia.

“I go back a long way – a lot can happen in 99 years and all I can say is that I’ve been a very fortunate person.”

## AFA Care welcomes iCare

FOLLOWING the huge success of the iCare Health software across RAAFA’s aged care facilities, a new community care version of the system is set to be rolled out across RAAFA’s community care branch, AFA Care.

iCare Health is an all-in-one software which combines clinical and care management systems across the continuum of aged and community care.

AFA Care Manager, Barbara Wright said the AFA Care team are excited to begin transitioning to the iCare Home Care Manager system over the coming months.

“The new iCare software is excellent because it benefits our Registered Nurses (RN’s) the Nursing Support Staff (NSS) as well as our community care residents and clients,” she said.

“iCare is a fully paperless system – this will mean rostering, timesheets and invoicing will be fully electronic with communications

uploaded in real time which will benefit our staff, residents and clients. With the system being fully electronic, it means staff can spend much less time on administrative duties and devote more time to our residents and clients.

“We are in the process of transferring all AFA Care data from the previous software into iCare, running the two systems in tandem to ensure the data is precise until we go live in October.

AFA Care provides community care services including but not limited to housekeeping, transport, meal services, personal and clinical care, and in-home respite services to clients across RAAFA’s Estates and in the wider community across the Perth and Mandurah metropolitan area.

The community care service helps enable seniors to continue living independently in their own homes as long as possible, by providing a little bit of extra support as



AFA Care RN Julie Lawrence and Manager Barbara Wright with part of the paperless system

required.

For further information on any of the services provided contact Barbara Wright on 9311 4498.

## Laughter Yoga reaches Amity

LAUGHTER Yoga has reached Amity Village Albany in a loud way. Residents were introduced and joined in a session of Laughter Yoga on Tuesday in the Clubhouse with Jo-Anne Glenie.

The residents all thought it was a very enjoyable way to spend an hour exercising and laughing together.



# Why AFME?

MARGARET Murray has lived at Air Force Memorial Estate since June 1978, when she moved into the first self-funded units on the Estate with her late husband, Vic.

Margaret said they chose to move into AFME because, "Vic was retiring and we were looking for somewhere to downsize for our older years that would provide more security for me and ongoing care when needed.

"Back in those early days it was just a swampy rural area with sheep still grazing on the property. We lived in Rossmoyne and often came to the AFA Country Club for social gatherings, which is all that RAAFA was. So, the seed was planted back in the early 1970's when we would sit on our back veranda, where we could see the lights of the Club in the distance.

"We chose RAAFA because the concept of ongoing care appealed to us and was quite unique at the time. There were very few retirement villages and we especially liked the unique ex-service link. Also the beautiful natural bush surrounds and lake were a drawcard."

Margaret said about the early days, that "it

wasn't just a place to live, it was about creating the place to live, the community. Early volunteers did everything from creating the gardens to doing the plumbing. Things have changed so much".

As the wife of a RAAFA State President and Division Councillor in the early 1980's life was extremely busy with official engagements. Margaret and Vic were both involved in all sorts of fundraising for the Estate, especially the Aviation Heritage Museum, taking tours away under the RAAFA umbrella to numerous places including Australia, Thailand, New Zealand and Egypt. Margaret received Life Membership in 2001 in recognition of her volunteer efforts.

Margaret also spent many volunteer hours in the Museum, in charge of the Sunderland Squadron static display which held a special place in her heart because of the link with Vic's service history.

Sadly, Vic passed away in 2005 and Margaret's whole life changed. She was very grateful for the supportive network of

people on the Estate. Also the many facilities located on her doorstep and knowing that when things like the hot water system burst, she just had to pick up the phone.

Margaret is still a very active member of the AFME community and you wouldn't believe she is the age she is, with all of the activities she gets up to.

She is a Committee Member of the Club and was on the Sunderland Branch Committee until it closed in 2015. She still volunteers at the Museum, and attends computer classes which she says, helps with the exchange of ideas and information, and keeps her mind active. "I have an iPhone, iPad and PC and keep up with technology. Just because you are old doesn't mean you can't learn new things and this is a way to keep my mind active," said Margaret.



Margaret Murray

Among many other activities, Margaret also attends both tai chi and exercise classes on the estate and regularly uses the gym and pool so that she can stay fit enough to go overseas at least once a year.

It was a very proud moment for Margaret to attend the official opening of the Alice Ross-King Care Centre and visit the room named in honour of her late husband Vic.

## Care Centre Olympics

By Sophie Goddard

WHY should Rio get all the glory, thought three Therapy Assistants at the recently opened Alice Ross-King Care Centre. So they decided to put on their own Olympic event to firstly have fun, but also to provide an activity that would bring the new residents together so that they could get to know each other better.

The Games were organised by Therapy Assistants Paula Pisani, Sophie Goddard and Jess Beanham who put on a range of games that meant that everyone was able to participate in some way, whether that was by competing, spectating or helping make the decorations or torch. A special thanks to Faye Bell for hand painting the Australian themed invitations.

Throughout the day they held special events, including the National Anthem, torch

parade, shotput, discus, high throw and the egg and spoon race which included a staff event which Centre Manager Helen Falkiner and Care Services Coordinator Katie Borthwick won.

A medal presentation was held at the end of the day with the top three in each game receiving medals and vouchers to use at Café Dean.

The day went very well with over 30 residents coming to various events throughout the day. All gave positive feedback and said how much fun they had, and they were still talking about their Olympics the next day.

Staff also joined in the fun, dressing in either sports outfits or various Country tops and the kitchen made special Olympic ring donuts.



Discus game

## Loving living at home, with a helping hand

AT ALMOST 90 years of age, Ethel Hodgson remains able to live independently at Air Force Memorial Estate with a little helping hand from RAAFA's in-home community care arm - AFA Care.

Ethel, who moved into her home on the estate 28 years ago, back in 1988 with her late husband John, has been an active member of the community as well as a tireless volunteer, and she admits to loving where she lives.

Several months ago however, she felt she needed a little more support in her day-to-day life and, after having a good discussion with her daughter, reached out for some domestic support via AFA Care. As a result, Ethel now receives domestic assistance every week, which means her bathroom and toilet, as well as the floors and kitchen, are cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis.

"I have found AFA Care wonderful and the support staff who come to my home each week have been really lovely," says Ethel.

"My desire is to stay living in my own home for as long as possible, and gaining help with some domestic assistance every week just works perfectly for me," she says.

"If the heavy jobs get done I can manage the rest, and it means I have more time to continue my voluntary and charity works in the community and for my church, and also visit friends and other residents at Alice Ross-King Care Centre and Gordon Lodge."

Staying at home enables Ethel to act as an



Ethel Hodgson

ambassador to those entering the estate. She is known by many for sitting on her veranda in the sun, simply being a smiling friendly face and greeting everyone.

AFA Care was created in response to the growing demand for high quality in-home services, both on RAAFA estates and also in the wider Perth community.

AFA Care nurses and support staff work together to improve the ability of individuals to stay at home and, in doing so, prevent early admission to acute or residential homes. Anyone considering staying in their own home longer, with a helping hand, speak to your estate Welfare Officer and Barbara Wright from AFA Care, 9311 4491 or email [homecare@raafawa.org.au](mailto:homecare@raafawa.org.au).



# Detective role helps uncover histories of artefacts

HAVING lived at AFME for the past three and a half years with his wife Doris, Colin Woods now volunteers at the Aviation Heritage Museum, after Museum Manager John Park got wind of Colin's passion for photography.

As a volunteer in the Accessioning Department, Colin considers himself part-detective, part-photographer in his quest to painstakingly document each unique artefact that finds its way to his desk.

Working alongside team members Jo Naylor and Leonie Maley, Colin is responsible for photographing each and every artefact that is donated to the museum.

The role keeps Colin busy, with more than 80 items already donated to the Museum this year alone.

"Working in accessioning ends up being part detective work to be able to ensure the recently upgraded database carries the correct photo and record of each item, particularly for the older entries" Colin says.

"As a team the Accessioning Department traces the history of each object, and finds out as much as we can about the background. Some objects are mysteries, but most we can find out a lot about it."

When asked, Colin pointed at one artefact in particular which captured his attention.

"The artefact to which I feel I have quite a connection is a painting titled "Under The Bridge". This shows two Mosquito aircraft flying under the Sydney Harbour Bridge at the time of a celebration of VJ Day at the end of WWII. Not only is it a memorable image and record of a striking event (for which those involved were "sternly reprimanded") but even more memorable as it turns out that I actually met one of the pilots involved; the late Lyall Bell was also a resident at AFME and had volunteered at the Museum for many years.

"A major step in my photographic career happened on my 15th birthday when my father gave me a Zeiss Contaflex, which was a pretty respectable 35mm camera at the time. He must have seen something in me, a talent or deep interest way back then," Colin said.

"My passion has just grown from there – I



Colin Woods

went into processing, printing and enlarging black and white film, and since then I've been involved with photography much of my life, both as a hobby and while working in TAFE as a Lecturer.

For Colin, photography is a never-ending and exciting cycle of learning and discovery, especially in the move to digital. "I think what drives me is the allure of the chance that every now and then a stunner of an image will emerge from the camera," Colin said.

"Even when I am photographing artefacts for the Museum, I'm still aiming to create photographs that really describe and encapsulate the spirit of each artefact for what it is. It's an enjoyable continuous challenge and learning curve."

*Continued from page 1*

She passed away in 1968. Her many diaries are held at the Australia War Memorial in Canberra, and now her legacy of service is honoured and continued at RAAFA's Alice Ross-King Care Centre.

Beth and Maggie said they were both extremely impressed by the design of the new care centre, and were proud to see their grandmother honoured by RAAFA.

"It's a lovely environment to be in, lots of open wide spaces and natural light," Beth said.

Maggie said she and Beth were delighted to represent their family at the opening of the centre.

"We are very impressed with the lovely environment it provides, which together with the innovative resident based philosophy, creates a warm and caring home and workplace for residents and staff," Maggie said.

"Caring for others was how she lived her life. So, it was with great pleasure that Alice's grandchildren accepted the honour of naming this centre after our grandmother as it embodies the principles of care and support for others that were so important to her throughout her life," Maggie said.

## Youth Club

*By Alan Rye*

ARE you, someone you know or maybe your grandchild, interested in joining the Youth Club?

Youth Club membership is open to school-aged people. We teach a wide range of aviation knowledge without any formal testing and for those members who have been with us for some time, we also provide flying training instruction on our flight simulators.

Our Youth Club has recently been given a change of status. Although we have worked closely with the Aviation Heritage Museum in Bull Creek, the Club has not actually been a part of it.

It has now been decided to combine with the Museum, who will assist with administrative tasks.

If you are interested in joining the Youth Club or volunteering to assist the leader contact Alan to discuss on 9311 4353.



Allan Stewart and Sheena

## Moroccan night

*By Judy Band*

THEME nights are a big success at the AFA Club on AFME. On the fifth Friday of the month the regular dance nights make way for something a little different when residents and friends enjoy the opportunity to dress to a theme.

July's theme was Moroccan and the hall was decorated in gold and white, with a special area set up with floor cushions, lamps, coloured baskets and drapes to set the scene.

We enjoyed a delicious buffet of Moroccan lamb, chicken and other goodies, which the chef was careful not to spice too heavily for the more delicate palate.

Entertainment was by belly dancer Sheena. It was a big success and she had some of the audience up joining in a shimmy.

French will be the theme for September, so we expect to see a lot of red, white and blue and a possible can-can dancer!

# Notes From Branches and Groups

## AAFC Branch

*Richard Rust*

### Branch AGM

The AGM and luncheon was held at Glen Iris Country Club and our guest speaker The Right Hon Kevin Parker AC, RDF QC, FAAL gave an enlightening speech on the International Court of Justice System and his professional life.

The new Committee is as follows:

President - Peter White  
Vice President - Lou Puccinelli  
Secretary - Mike Hampson  
Treasurer - Sean Kinsella

### Upcoming events

Saturday, 15 October, Rifle Shoot, Mundaring Rifle Range, 9.30am. Social activity for members and family of both AAFC Branch and 7WG instructors. Followed by BBQ lunch and picnic 12.30pm. Contact Peter White 9456 4800 for details.  
24-27 October, Caravan Trip. Accommodation is available at Taunton Farm Caravan Park, Cowaramup. Contact Rex Kay 9330 5710 or Louis Puccinelli 9306 0343 for details and RSVP.

Saturday, 10 December, Christmas Luncheon, Wings Restaurant, AFME, 11.30am. All members invited, more details to follow.

## Airfield Construction Squadrons Branch

*Bob Henley*

### Branch AGM

On Thursday, 18 August we had our Branch AGM with 10 members attending.

It was doubtful as to whether the Branch would continue because of the lack of volunteers. However a few old diehards put their hands up and we survive another year. Nothing has changed, just the deck chairs have been moved around.

Committee members are as follows:

President - Ron Lopaten  
Vice President - Bob Henley  
Secretary/Treasurer - Janis Pervinscus  
Social Secretary - Bev Gilmour  
Floor Member - Ray Smith

### Upcoming events

Wednesday, 14 December, Christmas Lunch. Further details to follow.

## Aviation Museum Branch

*Jo Naylor*

### Vale John Harris

Members of the Aviation Museum Branch were devastated to learn of the sudden death of their popular Branch President, John Harris.

As John would have wished, Branch members will continue to strive to raise funds and to assist the Museum in any way possible.

### Special Branch Meeting

At a Special Meeting on 8 September, the following committee was elected:

President - Don Crane  
Vice President - Ken Pittman  
Treasurer - Don Crane  
Secretary - Jo Naylor

### Upcoming events

Thursday, 13 October, Branch Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.00pm.

Thursday, 10 November, Film Night, Meg Olive Room, 7.00pm.

## Cambrai Branch

*Lindsay Lane*

### Branch AGM

The new committee is as follows:

President - Lindsay Lane  
Vice President - Vacant  
Treasurer - Pat Szony  
Secretary - Sandra Livingston

### Upcoming events

Friday, 14 October, First Sundowner for the Season, with entertainment by our own Ukulele Band.

Thursday, 20 October, Cancer Council Afternoon Tea.

Friday, 28 October, Friday Buffet with guest singer, Les Ritchin.

Tuesday, 1 November, Melbourne Cup Luncheon.

Friday, 18 November, Sundowner with entertainment by the new Cambrai Choir.

Friday, 9 and Saturday 19 December, Branch Christmas Dinners.

Saturday, 31 December, Celebrate New Year's Eve, watch the notice board for details.

## Erskine Grove Branch

*Keith Evans*

### Branch AGM

Thank you to our outgoing Committee for all of their excellent work and achievements in the past year.

Our new committee is as follows:

President - Keith Evans  
Vice President - John Fowler  
Secretary - David Bell  
Treasurer - Alison DeGray

### Upcoming events

Wednesday, 5 October, Jackpot Dinner.

Tuesday, 1 November, Melbourne Cup Luncheon.

Saturday, 19 November, Chicken Dinner.

## Mandurah Branch

*Shirley Farmer*

### Branch AGM

The AGM was held on Thursday, 18 August and the new Committee is as follows:

President - Tony Farmer  
Vice President - Frank McCarthy  
Secretary - Shirley Farmer  
Treasurer - Norma Powell

### Upcoming events

Thursday, 20 October, General Meeting, Middleton Hall, 4.00pm, followed by a fish and chip meal.

Thursday, 15 December, General Meeting, Middleton Hall, 11.30am.

Thursday, 15 December, Christmas Lunch, 12noon. Cost will be advised at the October General Meeting, once the menu is finalised. Entertainment by Greg Clarke from Purple Haze.

## Meadow Springs Residents' Branch

*Fran Hewitt*

### Branch AGM

We welcome our new members to the Committee which is made up as follows:

President - Judy McCarthy  
Vice President - Judy Mather  
Secretary - Eileen Oxley  
Treasurer - Hilary Rose

### Peter Pan

We were privileged to be invited to the Mandurah Baptist College's dress rehearsal of their production, Peter Pan the musical. The very talented children were superb.

### Upcoming events

Tuesday, 4 October, Bus to Cockburn Central, 10.00am.

Sunday, 9 October, Mokine Memorial Service, 8.15am.

Tuesday, 18 October, Kings Park Fashion Parade, 10.00am.

Sunday, 23 October, Sunday Soiree, Garden of Serenity, 1.30 to 4.00pm.

Saturday, 29 October, RAAFA AGM, 8.15am.

Saturday, 6 November, Fete.

## MER Branch

*Judy Bland*

gjb41@bigpond.com

### Upcoming events

Monday, 14 November, Coach Trip to Garden Island, departing 9.00am. \$40 per person. Booking forms available in the Village Chatter.

Monday, 10 October, Wildflower Bus Trip to Wireless Hill, departing 10.00am. \$6 per person, includes morning tea. Bookings essential, Judy 9311 4401.

Friday, 11 November, Remembrance Day Ceremony, under the Spitfire, 10.45am. All welcome, lay a Poppy on the Wall of Remembrance.

## Merriwa Branch

*Joyce Johnson*

Joycepjohnsson54@gmail.com

### Branch AGM

The AGM resulted in same Committee as follows:

President - Joyce Johnson  
Vice President - Margaret Purchase  
Treasurer - Eric Couzens  
Secretary - Betty Titterton

### Upcoming events

Monday, 3 October, Resident Committee meeting.

Sunday, 9 October, Mokine Memorial, bus

will be supplied.

Monday, 10 October, Resident Committee Bi-Monthly, guest speaker Sabine Winton.

Tuesday, 11 October, Movie Night.

Sunday, 16 October, Sunday Roast.

Tuesday, 18 October, Theme Night in the Blue Gum.

Tuesday, 25 October, New Resident afternoon tea.

Saturday, 29 October, RAAFA AGM, bus will be supplied.

Tuesday, 1 November, Melbourne Cup Luncheon.

Monday, 7 November, Resident Committee Meeting.

Tuesday, 8 November, Movie Night.

Friday, 11 November, Remembrance Day morning tea.

Sunday, 13 November, Sunday Roast.

Tuesday, 15 November, Theme Night in the Blue Gum.

Friday, 2 December, Resident Committee Christmas Dinner.

## WAAAF Branch

*June Perry*

### Still going

We did have plans to disband the Branch by August 2016, but it is taking longer than we thought to do all that is necessary. We anticipate we will disband in December and continue to meet socially for lunch on the 2nd Monday of each month.

### Upcoming events

Monday, 10 October, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 11.00am. Lunch optional at the AFA Club after the meeting.

Friday, 11 November, Remembrance Day Ceremony, AFME under the Spitfire, 10.45am. Medals to be worn.

Monday, 14 November, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 11.00am. Lunch optional at the AFA Club after the meeting.

Monday, 12 December, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 11.00am. Lunch optional at the AFA Club after the meeting.

## WRAAF Branch

*Judy Bland*

gb41@bigpond.com

### 65th Anniversary WRAAF Lunch

This is the 65th Anniversary of the formation of WRAAF and we would like to celebrate in style. The lunch is open to all ex-WRAAF, family and friends.

Tickets \$40 per person available from Judy on 9311 4401 or gjb41@bigpond.com.

### Upcoming events

Tuesday, 4 October, General Meeting, Meg Olive Room, 7.00pm.

Sunday, 16 October, 65th Anniversary WRAAF Lunch, AFA Club Bull Creek, 12noon for 12.30pm, \$40 per person from Judy.

Tuesday, 1 November, Melbourne Cup Chicken and Champagne Supper and General Meeting, 6.30pm. Wear a hat, duck races and prizes for best hat.

## Cambrai Club

Phone: 9304 5401



### 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, either a Buffet or Sundowner. Book early as both events will be popular. Don't forget to invite family and friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

## SUBMISSIONS FOR AIR MAIL

**Deadlines are:**  
**4 November for**  
**December / January issue**  
**6 January**  
**February / March issue**

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

Please send articles electronically to [airmail@raafawa.org.au](mailto:airmail@raafawa.org.au) in the first instance or via snail mail to Julie Stearne, 2 Sleaford Road, APPECROSS WA 6153.

## Meadow Springs Club

Phone: 9582 5375



### 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, 11.45am to 1.30pm

### Events

Please contact the club for bookings. Our friendly staff are looking forward to having you join us.  
Tuesday, 18 October, Meadow Springs Residents Branch Fashion Parade, small cost at the door to cover morning tea, 10.00am.  
Friday, 21 October, Champagne Diva's are back to entertain you. Tickets \$22.00, includes a buffet meal and entertainment.  
Tuesday, 1 November, Melbourne Cup Day. Put on your best hat and join in the fun. Champagne on arrival and two course lunch. Hat Parades, raffles and good fun will be the order of the day.

### Motels

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

## Bull Creek AFA Club

Phone: 9311 4460



### 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 to 5.00pm  
Monday to Friday, morning coffee and afternoon tea with muffins and cakes, 9.30am to 5.30pm  
Monday, roast lunch, \$10.00  
Monday, Chase the Ace, 4.00pm to 5.30pm  
Tuesday, fish and chips lunch \$10.00  
Every 4th Wednesday, A la Carte dining night (bookings at bar)  
Every 2nd Thursday, lambs fry and bacon lunch \$13.00

### Counter lunches

Monday to Friday, 11.30am to 1.30pm

### Dinner dance

Friday, 5.30pm to 10.00pm

### Events

Please contact the club for bookings.  
Saturday, 1 October, AFL Grand Final Day, Pie and Chips \$10, Happy Hour drinks 12noon to 1.00pm  
Wear your team colours and watch the game on the big screen.  
Tuesday, 1 November, Melbourne Cup Day  
Glass of Champagne on arrival, two course meal, sweeps, \$35 per person.  
Residents requiring transport out of volunteer buggy hours, please contact the bar and we will organise pickup.

## Merriwa Club

Phone: Club 9400 3640  
Kitchen 9400 3642



### Bar

Tuesday, 11.00am to 2.00pm  
Wednesday and Saturday, 11.00am to 6.00pm  
Thursday, 10.00am to 6.00pm  
Friday, 11.00am to 9.00pm  
Closed Sundays and Mondays

### Specials

Wednesday, Happy Hour, 4.00pm to 5.00pm  
Thursday, morning tea, 10.00am to 11.00am  
Thursday, games night, Chase the Ace, 4.00pm to 6.00pm  
Friday, Happy Hour, 4.00pm to 5.00pm  
Friday, Dinner, Main Hall, 5.00pm to 9.00pm  
Saturday, coffee and cake, 2.00pm to 3.00pm  
Saturday, fish lunch \$9.00, 12noon to 1.30pm

### Lunches

Tuesday to Saturday, 12noon to 1.30pm

### Events

3rd Tuesday of the month, Themed Dinner  
4th Wednesday of the Month, Offal Lunch  
Bookings now being taken for Christmas Day Lunch at the Bar.



## Children's Christmas Party 2016

Sunday, 4 December at 12noon  
AFA Club, AFME Bull Creek

Cost \$22 per child  
Sausage sizzle 12noon - 1.30pm • Father Christmas • face painting • crafts  
animal farm • balloon fun • tea and coffee • full bar service (no BYO)  
For further information contact Judy Bland 9311 4401

Complete the registration form and return (along with \$22 per child) to AFME Estate Office or AFA Club by Friday, 18 November 2016.

### 2016 Children's Christmas Party Registration Form

Parent/Grandparent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Vale John Harris

By Jo Naylor

MEMBERS of the Aviation Museum Branch were devastated to learn of the sudden death of their popular Branch President, John Harris.

A RAAFA member for more than 40 years, John started as a museum volunteer even before there was a museum. He was the leader and driving force in the restoration of the Lancaster Bomber, the Percival Proctor and Canberra Bomber, along with Don Crane (Branch Vice President) who joined him in 1985.

John's volunteering continued as Team Leader of volunteers with the ongoing task of maintaining all of the museum's aircraft. His wife, Wendy, also proved her skills when she worked alongside John replacing rivets in the Lancaster in the early 1980's. Their partnership proved invaluable when it came to fund-raising for the museum.

Held in the highest esteem by everyone

who came into contact with him, John will be sorely missed. Members like him are irreplaceable.

Wendy has asked that I take this opportunity to thank everyone on her behalf for their kind condolences and attendance at John's funeral.



# Sense of duty called

PAT Treasure followed in the footsteps of her two brothers and her sister when she made the decision to join the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force in 1943.

After celebrating her 21st birthday at home, the strong sense of duty in Pat's family prompted her to do what she could in service of Australia during WWII.

"My three siblings had already joined – my two brothers were in the Air Force and my sister was in the WAAAF too, so it was about time that I joined up as well," Pat says.

"My brother disappeared in action and much later it transpired he had been buried in a mass grave, which was utterly devastating and terrible for my parents."

Pat was initially sent to Point Cook in Victoria to train as a cypher clerk.

"To this day I can't for the life of me understand why they put me in cypher. I managed to type 60 words per minute and then I was sent to Frognall, a grand old mansion that was being used by the WAAAF in Melbourne. They blocked off all the treasured parts of the building and the stained glass windows were covered with three-ply boards to preserve them," Pat

recalls.

"It was quite a spectacular place to work; some years back I saw an article saying the building had been sold for \$6 million.

"They had an acre of land on the property where there was room for a row of huts, which is where the girls were all housed. Gee they were cheerless those huts. We each had to sleep on a stretcher bed and make our own palliasse, a hessian mattress which we had to stuff with hay. One of the girls I knew filled up her palliasse in a rush and dumped it on her bed, and it wasn't until the next morning she realised she'd somehow put her hat in the palliasse and slept on it.

"We had two blankets and no sheets or pillows. I hated those blankets – they weren't cuddly at all."

Despite the austere living quarters, Pat loved her time at Frognall.

As part of the cypher team her role was to code and decode messages, which she says became an automatic task.

"I loved it. I worked shift work and every so often we got four days off so we'd go to the beach or the hills. There was always a lot

of nonsense in the huts all the time; it was a lot of fun, it really was. But we worked hard and we played hard," Pat said.

"We always made the most of our time off because it was a job we weren't supposed to talk about. As far as I'm concerned, it was all automatic and it didn't really register with me what we were coding or decoding – we just did the job and got on with it."

Pat was in Melbourne at the time the victory message came through, and got to experience the incredible celebrations that came with it.

"When the victory message came through I went into the city and was there for all the revelry – it really was quite an experience I've never forgotten," Pat said.

The 93 year old RAAFA Member, who lives at Rowethorpe Retirement Village, has been part of the WAAAF WA Branch for many years, and enjoys catching up with other former WAAAF servicewomen.



Pat Treasure

After the war, she married her sweetheart, who served in the Pacific in the Australian Army during the war, and had six daughters.

"I was reading all our letters the other day, because we wrote to each other throughout the war, and I thought to myself 'what silly little things we wrote about'.

## RAAFA Welfare Team

### Cambrai Village

Vanessa Priestley 9304 5280

### RAAFA Estate Merriwa

Suzanne Free 9400 3778

### AFME

Carena Slattery 9311 4562

### Erskine Grove

Angeline Carleton 9586 4309

### RAAFA Estate Meadow

### Springs

Tracey Lockett 9582 5369

### RAAFA Amity Village

### Albany

Irene Smith 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, 9.30am – Laughter Group, Orion Function Room**

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

**Mondays, 11.15am – Falls Prevention Clinic with a Professional Physio, Orion Function Room**

Fees apply, rebates available. Home visits available.

**Mondays, 2.00pm – Meditation Group, Village Hall**

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

#### October

**Tuesday, 4 October, 10.00am – Memoir Writing Workshop with Caitlin, Village Hall**  
Swap ideas on how we can get some of our adventures onto paper.

**Friday, 14 October, 10.30am - Brain Training, Orion Function Room**  
Caitlin will conduct BRAIN GYM every month into 2017. If you keep your body fit, why not give your brain every opportunity to join in the fun! Contact Carena for future dates.

**Tuesday, 11 October, 10.00am – Your Brain Matters, Alice Ross-King Care Centre**  
Caitlin will give us hints on how to help keep our brain healthy. Diet, sleep, exercise, fun and laughter all contribute.

**Thursday, 20 October, 10.00am – RAC Part 1, Orion Function Room**  
If you drive a car or have grandchildren about to start driving, don't miss this. The roads are changing and so is driver behaviour. Do you know all of the current road rules?

**Thursday, 27 October, 10.00am – RAC Part 2, Orion Function Room**

#### November

**Thursday, 10 November, 10.00am – Falls Prevention, Orion Function Room**  
Ally White will talk us through STAYING ON OUR FEET.

**Thursday, 17 November, 1.00pm - The Amazing Dementia Choir, Alice Ross-King Care Centre**  
Having dementia doesn't limit you, it changes you. As changes come, music is one of the last things to slip away. Enjoy an afternoon of music.

**Tuesday, 22 November, 2.00pm – Parkwood Pharmacy Fair, Alice Ross-King Care Centre**  
Ask about medications, vitamins and pain relief. Trained Pharmacist, lots of free samples and unique gifts.

#### Meadow Springs

**Every Tuesday, 10.00am – Mavericks Social Club for Members Living with Memory Loss, Erskine Grove Clubhouse**  
Bus available. Contact Angeline or Tracey for more information.

#### Erskine Grove

**Every Tuesday, 10.00am – Mavericks Social Club for Members Living with Memory Loss, Erskine Grove Clubhouse**  
Bus available. Contact Angeline for more information.

#### 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.

**Monday, 17 October, 10.00am to 12.00pm - St John for Seniors, Meeting Room**

Learn the latest information from St Johns First Aid for Seniors. A nominal fee applies.

**Monday, 24 October, 1.00pm to 2.00pm - IGA Home Delivery presentation, Meeting Room**

Special home delivery through the local IGA. Find out options available to you, including on-line ordering and free home delivery. Computer Club members available to help show you how.

**Monday, 21 November, Citizens Advice Bureau**

Principal Solicitor Selva Stenross provides information on probates and wills and the services offered through the Citizens Advice Bureau. Contact Suzanne for details.

#### Cambrai Village

**Every Wednesday 10.00am to 11.00am – Group Functional Fitness, Cambrai Gym and poolside**

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 Wednesday and Sunday, Physiotherapist Julie Pham**  
Available for appointments. Appointment book located in the Cambrai Foyer.

**First 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.