



# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH



Newsletter September 2020

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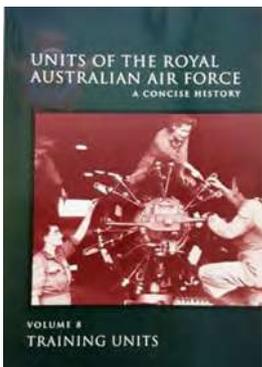
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## COVID-19 AND CONTINUING NEED FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS

AS PER THE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE DATED 2ND AUGUST 2020, ALL MEETING  
AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO BE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

## A \$22 OFFER GETS US A COPY OF VOLUME 8 ~ TRAINING UNITS



In 1995 a 10-Volume Publication "UNITS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ~ A CONCISE HISTORY" was published. It had been compiled by the RAAF Historical Records Section. A copy of "Volume 8 ~ Training Units" appeared for sale on ebay for \$29.90, ONO, with free postage from Queensland. An offer of \$22 was made and accepted. The book has now been despatched to us and when received will be handed to our Senior Librarian Stephen Brown for cataloguing and inclusion in our Tom Roberts Library. Included in this volume will of course be 1WAGS Ballarat. The history of other training units would be, I am sure, of interest to some of our members. (NH, Pres)

## MEMBERS IN UNIFORM

HERE ARE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOME MEMBERS WHEN THEY WERE MUCH YOUNGER AND IN UNIFORM

### Stan White



**At left :** During his Air Training Corps days with No 9 Squadron, Drum Unit.



**At Right :** In his RAAF Summer Shorts Uniform on leave in December 1945. Stan says that shorts were not allowed in Victoria.



**Far Right :** On leave in Winter 1945. Pictured in his RAAF Winter Uniform including Cap and "Great Coat". Pictured with Bruce Linklater

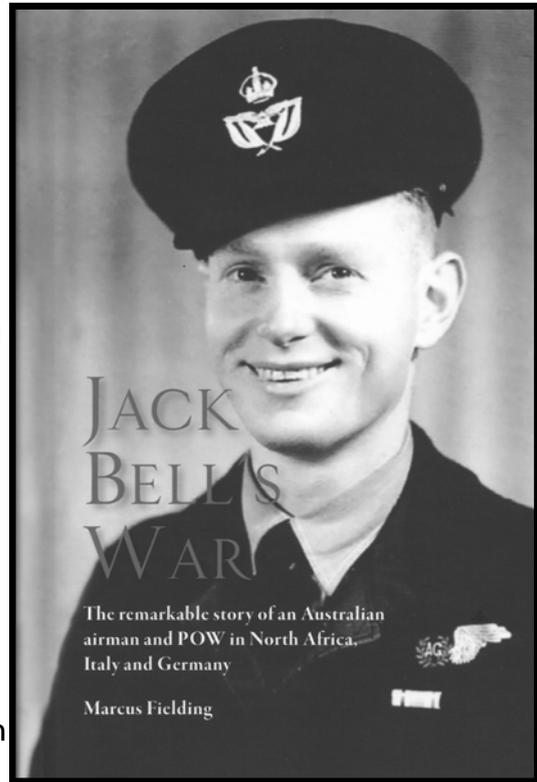
# Jack Bell



*Sergeant Jack Bell Cairo 1941*

Yes, he lives in Melbourne, but Jack Bell, who completed Course No 2 at 1WAGS Ballarat, is a proud member of our Branch of the Air Force Association. Both images are from the book "Jack Bell's War" by Marcus Fielding. The image at left of Jack as a young Sergeant in Cairo in 1941 appears on page 23 of the book and the image at right, as a Warrant Officer, as you can see, appears on the front cover.

Enlisting in the RAAF at age 22, Jack saw WW2 active service in North Africa during one of the great Allied offensives. Badly wounded when his aircraft was shot down, Jack survived for over three years in P.O.W camps. He was only 28 years of age when demobilised in 1946. Jack is heading for his 103rd birthday in less than 3 months on 20th December this year.



# Margaret and Ernie Chapman



**Ernie**

**Margaret**



**Ernie**



**Margaret**

Members Margaret and Ernie met when they were on No 34 Cooks Course at RAAF Wagga. As you can see from the photo above, Margaret was the only female member on the course. It was in 1958 that Margaret was on leave visiting her family in Buninyong and she had Ernie, a boy from WA, with her and they went to Myer in Ballarat and had the portraits, at right, taken. They married in November 1958 and, as was required at that time, Margaret had to leave the service, but happily, she was immediately employed by the RAAF as a civilian cook.

# Noel Hutchins



**Above Left** : As a 17 yo, 1956, on Rookies Course at 1RTU Richmond NSW playing silly buggler with rifle and bayonet on rookie mate Kevin Hilliard. **Above Centre** : 1960, 21st Birthday portrait 5ACS Darwin. **Right** : 1965 at RAAF Butterworth, Malaysia Sergeants Mess Dining-In Night. As Sergeants' Mess Secretary, welcoming invited guests together with 18 year old wife Janet, not long after she gave birth to our first child, Kim, on Penang Island.

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## INTERESTING MILITARY PHOTOS FROM MEMBERS' SERVICE

**There must be plenty of interesting photos among collections of Branch members taken or obtained during their military service, so come on, have a look and get some to me for inclusion in our newsletters.**

**Rob Petty**, For those who don't already know, Secretary Rob Petty first served in the Royal Australian Navy as a Gunner before moving onto the RAAF as an Armament Fitter. Rob has kindly provided these photographs from his Navy days.



Hi Mum! Me and the boys taking a break at sea in HMAS Melbourne 1972. Yes, that's me on the left, a young 22 year old Rob Petty in my early Navy days.



At sea 1972 'UP TOP' (in South East Asia) on patrol during the Cold War. S2E Tracker anti-submarine aircraft 850 from VS 816 Sqn 'Fighting Tigers', set for catapult launch from HMAS Melbourne. Aircraft is armed with 2.75" rocket pods.



Rob Petty, in armorer's flight-deck colours pondering another day at sea 'Up Top' 1972. Wessex 31B helicopter is at Spot 1 on the forward area of the flight deck with steam coming from the catapult track.



S2E Tracker anti-submarine aircraft loaded with a MK 44 homing torpedo off Hawaii for RIMPAC 72 exercise. Our aircraft carried MK 44 torpedoes on wing stations and MK 46 torpedoes in the torpedo bay (like a bomb bay) inside the aircraft.

Thank you to all who provided photographs for this newsletter. **Would other members with military service please get some photos to me. If you are unable to email digital copies I can call and pick up photos and scan and return originals as I have done for Stan, Margaret & Ernie.**

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**THE 'HITS' ON THE [1wags.org.au](http://1wags.org.au) WEBSITE** continue to grow with the latest read showing that as of a couple of days ago the website has had 12,087 *Browsing* visitors and 65,575 *Spider* visitors. Spider visitors are automated programs that visit sites for many reasons, most commonly visiting in order to index pages for search engines such as Google. Six countries accounting for the most browsers are Australia, United States, Germany, Canada, U.K. and India, with browsers from many countries around the world including France, Netherlands, Russia, Malaysia, China, Italy, Singapore and more.

Our 1wags website co-ordinator Janet Bates continues her great work on the site continually updating as new information, photographs, course graduation certificates etc come to hand from the browsing public. Janet does regular updates of the "Feature Story" with each feature story remaining on the site for viewing .... **HAVE A LOOK.**

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**RELAUNCHED AFA NATIONAL WEBSITE** : Our National President Carl Schiller has relaunched an updated National Air Force Association website. It was intended to include an article from myself relating to the establishment of the 1wags website but I was a bit tardy in submitting my article to him, but this has now been done and it will be included after it has been restructured to suit the website. The site looks great ~ have a look : the url remains the old [raafa.org.au](http://raafa.org.au) ..... while your at it have a look at our State AFAVic website at : [afavic.org.au](http://afavic.org.au)

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**While Covid-19 numbers have come way down and restrictions eased, we are still not able to have internal gatherings, but we will get to do something again soon. In the meantime take care and care for each other.** (NH, Pres)