



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH



Newsletter March 2021

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Social Luncheon Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month commencing at 11.45 am (December meeting held closer to Christmas) **Committee Meetings** are held on the third Thursday of each month at 1 pm followed by a **General Business Meeting** at approx 2 pm to which all financial members are welcome to attend to ratify or otherwise the actions of the committee on that day and raise other matters.

SOCIAL OPENING OF ROOMS : With Covid-19 restrictions winding back, we will trial openings of our rooms to members each Thursday afternoon in April to gauge members' interest. We will have general camaraderie in the Committee Room,sit, chat, read... The library will be open for members to be able to sign out books on loan. Music will be played in the meeting/common room for members to exercise or dance to or watch other members doing that.

Members are invited to bring friends or family as guests.

To cover the cost of our continuous Coffee/Tea/Biscuits, members will pay \$2 to attend and Non-members \$5 each.

APRIL ROOMS OPENINGS

Thursday 1st April 2.30 to 5 pm
Thursday 8th April 2.30 to 5 pm
Thursday 15th April 2.30 to 5 pm
Thursday 22nd April 2.30 to 5 pm
Thursday 29th April 2.30 to 5 pm



Air Force 100 Commemorating 100 years of service

Tune in to **ABC on Monday 29 March, 9.30pm** for an hour news feature **AND...Tune in to ABC on Wednesday 31 March, from 10am** for live coverage of the **Queen's Colour Parade and the spectacular flypast in Canberra.**

Air Force 100 events/acknowledgements will continue throughout this year and our Branch will look at combining our end of August "Battle for Australia" event and the commemoration as "Battle for Australia/Air Force 100".

ANZAC DAY 2021 : Ballarat RSL President Alan Douglas has advised that approval has now been given for the 2021 **ANZAC DAY SERVICES TO BE HELD AT THE CENOTAPH IN STURT STREET.**

Timings are as follows :

5:45 AM DAWN SERVICE after which **GUNFIRE BREAKFAST** will be held at Midlands-Ballararat RSL Sports and Services Club. Buses will be provided from the Cenotaph to Midlands and then return for the **10:00 AM MARCH ASSEMBLY** in Lyons Street South. **MARCH MOVES OFF AT 10.30 AM** for the **10.45 AM SERVICE.** Refreshments and camaraderie will follow at Midlands - Ballarat RSL Sports and Services Club , with **TWO-UP AND CAMARADERIE TO COMMENCE AT 1 PM.**

QR CODE STATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED ALONG STURT STREET FOR REGISTRATION BY PHONE ... FOR MEMBERS TAKING PART, I WILL HAVE A LIST OF NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS TO MEET THAT COVID REQUIREMENT. MEMBERS IN MOTORISED BUGGIES FOR THE MARCH MUST WEAR A MASK AS WILL THE PROVIDED DRIVER. ALL OTHER MEMBERS, YOU MUST HAVE A MASK WITH YOU.

PLEASE ADVISE NOEL ASAP, (0439 929 322), IF YOU ARE ABLE TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO TAKING PART IN OUR GROUP ON ANZAC DAY..COME ON, WE NEED MORE NUMBERS.

VALE : MARGARET WOOD ~ 5 OCTOBER 1923 - 1 MARCH 2021

Long time member Margaret Wood passed away on 1st March. Margaret's funeral service was held on 11th March. Branch President Noel Hutchins and Branch Chaplain Rev Keith Lanyon presented an Air Force Association eulogy acknowledging Margaret's World War II service and her many years membership of the Air Force Association.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

APRIL SOCIAL LUNCHEON MEETING : The 6th April is the date for our Social Luncheon meeting so don't forget the date and **please arrive by 11.45 am**. With the passing of Margaret Wood I will re-present a 2019 presentation on the development of the LCVP landing craft, the D Day landing craft on which Margaret worked during her British Navy WWII Service. (NH, Pres)

MYSTERY EX RAAF WARRANT OFFICER ~ MINIATURE SERVICE MEDALS

A RAAF summer uniform jacket bearing the rank of Warrant Officer and together with a set of miniature Service Medals has ended up in a Ballarat region op-shop and the items are now in the possession of the President of the Buninyong RSL. With miniature service medals not inscribed with service details of the owner, it is not possible to identify from the medals who they belonged to.

The fact that the items were dropped into a local op-shop does not necessarily mean that this ex RAAF member lived locally, but there is a good chance that he did.

With some of our Branch members having been members here for many years, maybe someone might have an idea of who it could be with the information from the medals showing that **he served in PNG and Vietnam**. His rank may well not have been Warrant Officer at the time that he served in those areas.

Let me know if you think that you may know who this Serviceman was. (NH, Pres)

REOA/ENGINEER BRANCH

members came on an excursion to Ballarat to visit the Aviation Museum and the Friends of the Anson Museum and they joined us for lunch at our rooms at Airport Hut 48. (Some, not all in photo at right). Photo by Ken Marsh.

1wags Website coordinator Janet Bates gave a talk on our 1WAGS research and on our 1wags.org.au website.

Thank you for that Janet and

thanks to the other committee members who attended, especially Stephen Brown and Bob McDonald for their work in the kitchen. (NH, Pres)



POSTPONED BUS TRIP : With the winding back of restrictions, the Committee will have look at re-organising our bus trip to the B24 Hangar at Werribee and the Werribee Mansion and Gardens.

Once we determine that the B24 Hangar is **fully** open for visitors and that the Werribee Mansion and gardens are **fully operating for visitors**, we will look at suitable dates before we head into the colder months. Of the twenty members who have already paid for the trip, one member has passed away. Looking at a 24 seater bus, there will be room for some more, so any other members who would like to be included in the trip, or members wishing to bring family or friend, please let me know. (NH, Pres)

COPS N' KIDS. What an interesting guest speaker we had for our March Social Luncheon Meeting in Retired Victorian Police Sergeant John Moloney, *(Photo at right)*. And what a wonderful initiative Cops N' Kids is that John Co-founded. Another good thing to come out of that meeting is that the passing around of our "Donations Basket" on the day saw members collectively give a total of \$262.20 for the Cops N' Kids program. As a lot of different members contributed to this donation, I think that members should see John's letter of appreciation, so here it is. *(NH, Pres)*



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March 3, 2021

Air Force Association Ballarat Branch
 Noel Hutchins
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Hello Noel and members

Well in these very strange times, with restrictions here, there and everywhere, can I say some things don't change and that being the absolute thrill of being able to give a talk to the members of the Air Force Association Ballarat Branch, whilst enjoying some lunch and then to receive marvellous donation that you all made to the "Cops'n'Kids" Program.

On behalf of everyone associated with the "Cops'n'Kids" Program, words cannot describe our gratitude and wholehearted appreciation for this incredibly generous donation. Please find attached a receipt for the Two Hundred and Sixty-Two Dollars and Twenty Cents that was so very kindly donated and be reassured your donation will assist us in financing the Ballarat Families Camp, which was held February 19, 20 and 21. I have attached a copy of the program for your information.

As I mentioned the 2020 "Cops'n'Kids" camp, was due to be held in November, but like everything else Covid-19 has changed our dreams and the hard decision was made to cancel our 2020 "Cops'n'Kids" camp. It most certainly wasn't a decision made lightly, and it was unquestionably a very painful one after 25 years. You would be more than aware that the health and safety of our team, the children and stakeholders are our priority and we know that when it is safe to do so.

As you would be aware, these camps don't run themselves and whilst we are extremely blessed with the dedicated group of individuals who pour their heart and time into making the camps perfect each year, the camps cannot run on love alone. This is where the "Cops'n'Kids" Program is very fortunate to have the enormous financial support and encouragement from organisations like yours.

Once again, on behalf of the children and everyone associated with the "Cops'n'Kids" Program, can I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this tremendous donation, along with your loyal support.

Yours sincerely,

John Moloney
 Co-founder
 "Cops'n'Kids" Program

"Many people will walk in and out of our lives, but only true friends and supporters will leave footprints in our heart"