



# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH

Newsletter October-November 2021



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## Newsletter

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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 2.15 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.



**WAKEY-WAKEY EVERYONE, IT'S TIME TO COME OUT OF HIBERNATION AND GET ACTIVE TO SHED THOSE COUPLE OF EXTRA KILO'S THAT HAVE CREPT ON WHILE WE HAVE BEEN LOCKED DOWN IN OUR CAVES.** Those very very cold days and nights are starting to be much less frequent now, the sun is shining much more often and, not only that, but we can now see the light at the end of that long Covid-19 tunnel.

It had looked as though we may have needed to have members required to "book" to attend our upcoming November Social Luncheon Meeting so as to control the numbers to a maximum of 30 attendees which is the maximum allowed for our rooms at the 70% phase of the Covid road map. However, with the State Government announcing our 80% double-dose easing of restrictions from 6pm on Friday 29 October, there will be no problem in being able to fit everybody in while meeting the DQ4 density requirements.

**BRING A FRIEND** : Some members may have friends or acquaintances that would be busting to get out and about and have somewhere different to go/something different to do. Why not invite them to attend one or two of our Social Luncheon Meetings as a guest? The Committee has looked at this and are OK for members to bring along others as guests for up to two meetings before needing to consider whether they are interested in joining. Guests would need to pay the \$5 contribution to meeting costs, the same as members do.

Our upcoming November meeting would be a good time to bring some friends or acquaintances along and then they can attend our Christmas Meeting on 14th December as well and then, if they would like to join us, they would get a full year 2022 membership for their joining fee. Remember that a person does not have to have had RAAF service or any Defence Force service to be a member of the Air Force Association.

**Our November meeting** will feature a Guest Speaker in the form of Mr Garry Snowden. If you have a look at Garry's short Bio in the box below you will see how much he has immersed himself in matters of Australian Military History.

**Bio ~ Mr Garry Snowden : A former school teacher and two year Australian Army National Serviceman with 4th Battalion Australian Army, Garry has very much involved himself in Australian Military History including:**

● Eighteen visits to Gallipoli including eleven Anzac Days as part of the organising team. ● Nine Western Front tours, six as tour leader. ● Walked Kokoda Track twice, once in each direction, and managed a conservation project at several Kokoda villages. ● Walked the Sandakan Death March track in Borneo. ● On behalf of the Ballarat Cemeteries Trust, researched and authored the book "They Answered Their County's Call". ● Selected, researched and documented the graves of the Ballarat Old Cemetery Anzac Trail. ● President of the Ballarat Arch of Victory/ Avenue of Honour Committee. ● Chairman of the 'Garden of the Grieving Mother' Project Committee.

**Don't forget your mask, your five dollars contribution and some extra cash for raffle tickets. Also, bring your own coffee/tea mug and take it home afterwards if you do not wish to drink out of single-use cardboard cups.**

# CAPE OTWAY RAAF RADAR INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITION DEDICATION CEREMONY

Members would be aware of the problems that Covid restrictions have had on the Radar Branch's efforts to conduct their Dedication Ceremony of the Cape Otway RAAF Radar Interpretive Exhibition.

**THEIR LAST CANCELLATION MEANT THAT WE HAD TO CANCEL OUR BUS TRIP TO CAPE OTWAY.**

We have been advised that there will now be both a **VIRTUAL ON-LINE CEREMONY** in November and the formal **IN PERSON/ON-SITE CEREMONY** in 2022 as follows:

## VIRTUAL ONLINE DEDICATION CEREMONY

The virtual online Dedication Ceremony is to occur at 2.30 pm. on **Sunday, 21 November 2021**. Members and their family are invited to participate. Using the following Zoom link around 2.20 to 2.25 pm on that day will give access to the 'virtual audience' for the Ceremony:

<https://foundationhouse.zoom.us/j/8203116309#success>

The ceremony presentations are anticipated to take approximately 30 minutes.

## ON SITE/IN PERSON DEDICATION CEREMONY AT CAPE OTWAY

The 'In-Person' Dedication Ceremony at Cape Otway has now been rescheduled to Saturday **19th February 2022**. With future Covid lockdowns to be restricted to very localised areas when needed, one would think that by that date it should be able to proceed & **WE CAN RE-ORGANISE OUR BUS TRIP FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND.**

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## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2021

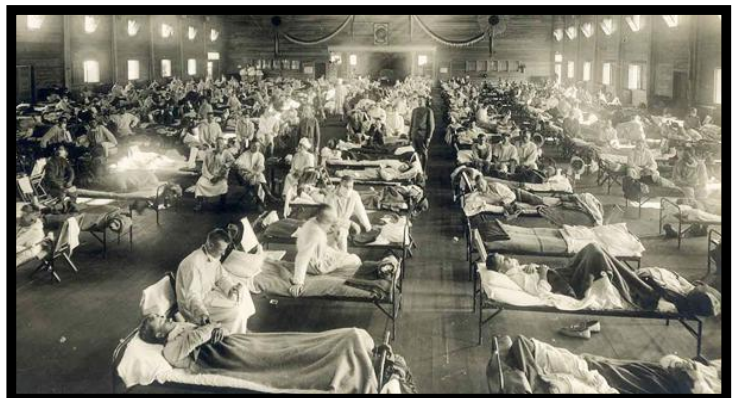
Remembrance Day this year falls on a Thursday and, at the time of writing, it is understood that a Remembrance Day service will be held in Ballarat as follows:

### Thursday 11th November : Commencing at 10.30 am at the Cenotaph in Sturt Street

It would be nice to see a good number of members of our branch in attendance. (NH,Pres)



So do you think it has been a bit tough getting through Covid-19 restrictions and having to wear a mask? Here are a couple of photographs from 1918 at the time of the outbreak of the so-called 'Spanish' Flu pandemic. It is more appropriate to refer to that pandemic as 'The Great 1918 Influenza Pandemic' as the first recorded cases were nowhere near Spain.



Influenza affected United States Army soldiers at Camp Funston in Kansas USA in 1918 where the first case of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 was recorded.

The outbreak of that particular pandemic has a military connection, with the first recorded case being a US Army cook at Camp Funston in Kansas USA. This was recorded on 4th March 1918 and, within days, 522 men at the camp had reported sick. That pandemic which went on to kill many millions of people World-wide had four waves; two in 1918, one in 1919 and one in 1920. It was an Avian (bird) Flu.

A 1918 popular children's skipping-rope rhyme which was a metaphor for the transmissibility of influenza was :

I had a little bird,  
it's name was Enza.  
I opened the window,  
and in-flu-enza

With almost all Covid-19 related restrictions, including density limits, to be lifted when the 90% double-dose is reached on or about 24 November, we cannot consider that we have had to endure anything near what our ancestors did with The Great 1918-1920 Influenza Pandemic coming when they had been at War since 1914. (NH,Pres)



### OUR 1WAGS.ORG.AU WEBSITE CONTINUES TO ATTRACT WORLD-WIDE ATTENTION

Very nice to see our 1wags.org.au website appreciated by researchers connected with RAF Bomber Command history. A message posted to the website from the researcher read :

**“Just a note to say thank you to all involved in compiling the information for this monumental site. LEST WE FORGET.”**

Here is a Website update from Website Coordinator Janet Bates :

**1WAGS.ORG.AU WEBSITE REPORT:** Although we have been in lockdown the 1 WAGS website continues to have individual browsers from Australia and around the world. To date there have been 38,570 individual browsers with 40,000 due to be reached by Christmas 2021.

**The FEATURE STORY** at present is Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Littlejohn Dowling. Flight Lieutenant Dowling completed No. 6 WAGS Course at Ballarat and was posted to No. 10 Sqn RAAF in the UK where he flew 72 sorties in Sunderland Flying Boats. Ken Dowling is the father of our Secretary/ Treasurer Peter Dowling. **YOU CAN READ MORE** by logging onto 1wags.org.au

After being contacted by a researcher from Bomber Command in England a new Section in the MEMORIAL ROLL has been added – ‘BOMBER COMMAND SQUADRONS’. This section lists the names of 1 WAGS trainees who served in Bomber Command Squadrons. The 460 Squadron RAAF is currently underway with 69 airmen killed and 33 discharged. Names of 1 WAGS trainees who served in other Bomber Command Squadrons will be added over time. *(Janet Bates, Website Coordinator)*



### AIR FORCE SHOP FACE MASKS AVAILABLE



AIR FORCE 100 LOGO ON BLACK MASK



FAMILIAR WWII AIRCRAFT ‘SHARK FACE’



RED POPPIES ON BLACK MASK

There are various designs of face masks available from the Air Force Shop. But while the prices are very reasonable, to add the \$20 postage makes it a bit expensive. However, to spread the postage costs we have purchased some of the above designs and they will be available for members to purchase for just \$10 each on a ‘first-in-first-served’ basis at our upcoming November Social Luncheon Meeting on Melbourne Cup Day 2nd November.

**RESIGNATION OF BRANCH TREASURER** Our Branch Treasurer Brian Drennan and his wife Jan have been ‘stuck’ in Queensland for much of our recent periods of lockdowns and tight restrictions. Not a bad place to be ‘stuck’ if you are away from home. However, Brian and Jan have now escaped ‘paradise’ and are safely back home in Ballarat. Brian has made the decision to step down from his position as Branch Treasurer. On behalf of the Committee and all members, I thank Brian for his Service as Treasurer and his membership of our Branch. Branch Secretary Peter Dowling has accepted the responsibilities of Treasurer and he will now fill the position of Secretary/Treasurer. *(NH, Pres)*

**DATES TO ) ( 2 November Social Luncheon Meeting.) (11 November Remembrance Day) REMEMBER ) ( 4 December Air Force 100 Formal Ball) (Tuesday 14 December Christmas Meeting)**