



# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH



Newsletter April/May 2022

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**Social Luncheon Meetings** are held on the second 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.

**WELCOME BACK ALL** With the lifting of Covid related restrictions imposed by Government and with Covid now presenting as more of an endemic, similar to our colds and flu, rather than a pandemic, any member or past member who have felt that they have been unable to attend our Air Force Association meetings or events due to Covid related restrictions and also those who have pulled back from attending due to their concerns with the severity of a Covid infection, please know that the Welcome Mat is out and we are hoping to very soon see you all back enjoying the camaraderie that our Branch of the Air Force Association offers.

And to all members who have maintained their membership over the last couple of years despite periods during which we weren't able to continue with all of our activities, Thank You. (NH, Pres)



**AIR FORCE CENTENARY MEMORIAL** : Branch President Noel Hutchins and Immediate Past President Tom Roberts OAM were honoured with invitations to attend the unveiling and dedication of the new Air Force Centenary Memorial at RAAF Base Point Cook on 30th March. (continued page 2)

For those wishing to visit the memorial, why not arrange a visit to the RAAF Museum and combine it with a walk to the parade ground where the new memorial is situated.



**Left :** A four member RAAF Roulettes team in RAAF modern trainer aircraft, the Pilatus PC\_21, did a flyover plus several aerobatic manoeuvres during the Service.

**Right :** Noel Hutchins and Tom Roberts pictured with Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld.



Those members who attended our April Social Luncheon Meeting were able to see a wider selection of photographs from the Service. A video covering the **design and construction** of the memorial may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19bdFperOyo> and a video of the **Dedication Service** may be viewed at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv-j-XHqy6w&t=101s>

## **CRESSY AERODROME**

Members at our April Social Luncheon meeting were treated to a most informative presentation on the history and current situation of the Cressy aerodrome. Owner of the aerodrome Paul Lamont talked about his personal purchase of the aerodrome property and his vision for it's future development and David McGuinness talked about the history of the site where the RAAF established airstrips and a Base there during World War Two. Thank you Paul and David.

## **ANZAC DAY 2022**

It was great to see an estimated more than 4,000 members of the public up early and attending the Ballarat Anzac Day Dawn Service at 5.45 am on Anzac Day. After the Dawn Service I headed to the L'espresso cafe for a good breakfast to get me through what was to be a long day. When I went to pay for my meal I was advised that a young couple had paid for my breakfast when they were leaving. That got me a little emotional. There are some lovely people around.

The more than 4,000 people at the Dawn Service was dwarfed by the massive numbers lining Sturt Street for the march and the following 11am Service. The large number of families with their young children among the crowds lining the street was especially heart warming.

Unfortunately, the photo of us lined up ready to march turned out unusable.

After the Anzac March and Service, several of us headed down to the Cressy aerodrome where we witnessed some great activity with some up close and personal opportunities with the Tiger moth aircraft and with members of the public able to go for flights around the district.

It was a very well organised afternoon with Paul Lamont and his Cressy aerodrome team supported by members of the Wartime Living History Association and Geelong Military Re-enactment Group, who assisted in ferrying 'joy-flighters' to and from the Tiger Moth's in a WWII military jeep.

We will keep a lookout for future events at the Cressy aerodrome that members may like to visit. Paul certainly has some exciting plans for the further development of the site. We wish him well.



**THANK YOU PETER SCHOUTENS** Well before I became involved with the Air Force Association our now Junior Vice-President, RAAF Vietnam veteran Peter Schoutens, was carrying his own audio-visual equipment, including the large sound speakers, to Ballarat Branch meetings each month, setting it all up, manning the system during the meetings and then packing it all up again to take home before doing it all again the next month.

And I have seen Peter continue to do that each month since I have been a member of our Branch of the Air Force Association back in April 2018. For how many years Peter had been doing this prior to my time I am not sure, but Peter can at last take a break from this as we establish our new audio-visual system.

**ON BEHALF OF ALL MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT THANK YOU PETER FOR YOUR YEARS OF PROVIDING THIS SERVICE...VERY MUCH APPRECIATED** (NH, Pres)

**OUR NEW AUDIO-VISUAL SYSTEM**

Following **good work by Secretary/Treasurer Peter Dowling** in handling a Government Grant Application through the office of our local Federal Member of Parliament, the Hon Catherine King MP, our new audio-visual system is now in place ready for use at our upcoming **May Social Luncheon Meeting on Tuesday 10th May**.



The photograph at right shows the installation of our seventy-five inch television screen which is just one part of the system and which will act as the monitor for images etc (delivered from our new lap-top computer), during presentations rather than images projected onto the wall. The television set will also be able to be used for the viewing of movies or videos etc from YouTube and other Internet applications. So make sure that you get to the meeting on Tuesday 10th May to see some examples of just what we will be able to do with this new system.

**Thank you Katherine .....** It is expected that the Hon Catherine King will attend at our rooms at our May meeting subject to her busy election campaign activities allowing her the time. This will give Catherine the opportunity to view what the Grant has provided us with and will give us the opportunity to thank Catherine for her support. So please, don't dilly-dally, try to be there by no later that 11.45 am.

**ANNUAL BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA WEEKEND**

Arrangements for an annual **BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE** to be held in Ballarat have now been formalised with the '**Letter of Agreement**' having been signed off by both Ballarat Branch Air Force Association President Noel Hutchins and the City of Ballarat Events Manager Heidi Zukauskas. The Letter of Agreement states, inter alia, :

*"As agreed, City of Ballarat will support the AFA Ballarat Branch in the financial and operational organisation of the Battle for Australia event, the Commemorative Service itself is organised and is run by the Air Force Association Ballarat Branch"*

The agreement will be reviewed by both parties after three years. The Commemorative Service will be the major part of our annual Battle for Australia Weekend to be held on the last weekend of August with the Commemorative Service to be preceded by an Air Force Association formal Ball on the Saturday evening. For 2022 the weekend dates will be Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August.

Our 2021 Air Force Centenary Ball organiser Mrs Ann Petty has again offered her services as Ball Organiser for which we should be most grateful. We are looking at our 2022 Ball being billed as **"Air Force Association Pacific Ball"** with a Pacific theme tying in with the War in the Pacific part of the Battle for Australia.

**BRING A FRIEND** With plenty of room and spare seats at our Monthly Social Luncheon Meetings members are encouraged to invite friends or family members to come along with them.

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**JUST A GENTLE REMINDER**

**OUR MONTHLY SOCIAL LUNCHEON MEETINGS ARE HELD ON**

**THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**

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**THE REMAINDER OF YOUR 2022 CALENDAR :** (With additions as required each month)

- MAY :** Social Luncheon Meeting : Second Tuesday 10th May at 1145
- JUNE :** Social Luncheon Meeting : Second Tuesday 14th June at 1145
- JULY :** Social Luncheon Meeting : Second Tuesday 12th July at 1145
- AUGUST :** Social Luncheon Meeting : Second Tuesday 9th August at 1145  
 Air Force Association Ball : Saturday Night 27th August at 1930  
 Battle for Australia Commemorative Service : Sunday 28th at 1100  
 Battle for Australia Day activities & displays Airport Hut 48 at 1400
- SEPTEMBER :** Social Luncheon Meeting : Second Tuesday 13th September at 1145
- OCTOBER :** Social Luncheon Meeting : Second Tuesday 11th October at 1145
- NOVEMBER :** Social Luncheon Meeting : Second Tuesday 8th November at 1145
- DECEMBER :** Long Room Christmas Function : Tuesday 13th December at 1145

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**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AT OUR ROOMS**

Members are invited to put forward suggestions as to what other activities they would like to see us hold at our rooms over the coming winter months. Nice warm rooms for get-togethers. Movie afternoons or evenings? Card playing group? Exercise to music/video group?

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