



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH

Newsletter June/July 2022



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GENERAL
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Sue Alexander
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Newsletter
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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.

From the President : Firstly I would like to express my appreciation to Peter Dowling, Sue Alexander and Janet Bates for so very effectively looking after things during my time away interstate. I hear that our June Social Luncheon Meeting was very much enjoyed by those in attendance, including some Guests.

Most members would be aware that I have been undecided as to what I was going to do in respect of relocating from my out-of-town accommodation at Wallace sometime in the next 12/18 months with my options being to either move North to a "not so cold" location or alternatively find suitable accommodation in Ballarat that would put me close to shopping and medical facilities. It has been this uncertainty that has prompted me to indicate my likelihood of not continuing in my position as President of our Ballarat Branch.

However, I have been assisted in making my future accommodation decision a year earlier than anticipated by being offered perfectly located Ballarat accommodation, (due to Janet Bates's thoughtful assistance), and I am currently in the process of relocating to excellent, perfectly situated accommodation in Forest Street Wendouree, just off Howitt Street. With this move, coupled with Peter Dowling and Sue Alexander's work at taking some of the administrative tasks off my hands, you may have to put up with me hanging around a bit longer

In our April/May newsletter I suggested that members invite family/friends to attend our Monthly Social Luncheon Meetings as guests, and I know that Peter Dowling amplified that call for our June meeting which saw some people attend as "guests."

What a great meeting to invite family/friends/neighbours will our July meeting on Tuesday 12th July be where we will be screening, (on our 75 inch TV screen), that great movie **"The Glenn Miller Story**. This movie has several stories within it including how a budding musician went about getting the "sound in his head" into his music; how the Big Band Music era started to break down that White American/African American segregation; how this Big Band Leader joined the United States Air Force and entertained the WWII troops abroad. Of course there is the Love Story part of Glenn's life, and yes, there are some "tear Jerker" parts as well. Another interesting thing to note is that actor James Stewart, who portrays Glenn Miller in this movie, was in fact also a World War Two United States Air Force Officer, serving as a USAF pilot during the war. During the war, James Stewart formed a strong friendship with RAF Ace pilot Douglas (later Sir Douglas) Bader. **(DON'T MISS IT, BRING A GUEST, OR GUESTS)**

From Co-Editor Sue Alexander JUNE SOCIAL LUNCHEON

For our June social luncheon, we had the opportunity to welcome several guests. Those who joined us for lunch included Louise Humble from the Aero Club and Bob Brown from the Ballarat Aviation museum, Pat Stapylton a member who travelled up from Portland, and three guests of members.



Visitors Louise Humble and Bob Brown

First item on the agenda was a short eulogy from Secretary Peter Dowling for long-term member Stan White, who passed away earlier in the month.



Unfortunately, Victoria, from Integra, was unable to make it and our very own Janet Bates stepped in to present several of the posters.



The venue in the Common Room at Hut 48 was resplendent with a pictorial poster display, courtesy of Integra, the developer of the suburb of Lucas. Integra put together a display for the recent Ballarat Heritage week featuring the history of Lucas.





Integra has sponsored publication of a children’s story book featuring how Eleanor Lucas, her son Ted Price and Director of the garment manufacturing company E. Lucas and Co., Tilly Thomson, organised the Ballarat memorial avenue of three thousand, eight hundred and one planted and named trees in honour of those men and women who gave their service during the great war.

The book is available for purchase at \$20.



Janet also took the opportunity to speak to a couple of the posters lent by Integra that were on display around the common room. One of these posters featured the story of the same Tilly Thomson who went from travelling sales lady to director in her long career with E. Lucas and Co. and another was the story of two sets of brothers who gave their lives for their country in the great war.

This allowed the opportunity for a presentation and video on the creation and unveiling of the Grieving Mother statue.



The statue was commissioned from renowned Australian sculptor Peter Corlett OAM and is located in the Garden of the Grieving Mother, adjacent to the Arch of Victory.

We were able to view video footage of the unveiling of the statue on 25 February 2017, the 75th anniversary of the fall of Singapore. The ceremony included words from the sculptor Peter Corlett and the unveiling of the statue by the then Governor General Peter Cosgrove AK CVO MC.



The book and poster readings, presentation and video were well received and enjoyed by those present. Time flew by so quickly, there was no opportunity to watch the short video to commemorate D-Day and this was saved for another time.

For the July social luncheon, we plan to have “Lunch at the Movies” with a screening of the Glenn Miller story .

WELFARE : It has come to my notice that member Roger McLeod is currently in hospital. While it took a little bit of work “finding him”, I can advise that Roger is in **St. John of God Hospital Ballarat, Ward : 2 West, Room : 203.** St John’s are restricting patient’s to two visitors a day for a total of two hours. We do not want to take away those restricted visits from family members so, for those members who know Roger and are able to pay him a visit, please first call the hospital on 5320 2111 and ask to be put through to Roger’s room. Roger is able to take your call. I have spoken with Roger on the telephone and when this newsletter is completed I will be visiting Roger, together with our Chaplain, Rev. Keith Lanyon, and will deliver a copy of this newsletter to him.

GET WELL SOON ROGER.

(NH, PRES)

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**Vale ~ Arthur Stanley (Stan) White**

**19th February 1927 ~ 9th June 2022**

Sadly, we have farewelled a very special Ballarat Branch member in Stan White who passed away on 9th June. An Air Force Association Life Member and a Ballarat Branch member who gave many years of service to our Branch, including an incredible twenty-eight straight years as Branch Secretary from 1988 to 2016.

Following a Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Stan’s Life, conducted at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Wendouree, I delivered, on behalf of our Ballarat Branch of the Air Force Association, a Eulogy relating to Stan’s World War Two RAAF Service and his many years of service to our Branch of the Air Force Association. I am aware that there were some Branch members who were quiet upset at not being able to be in attendance on the day of Stan’s Service, so I will include below the wording of the eulogy that I presented on the day.

*(NH, Pres)*

**Air Force Association Ballarat Branch Eulogy delivered by Branch President Noel Hutchins :**

*“Good afternoon everyone, I am here today, together with fellow Australian Defence Force Veterans and members of the Air Force Association Ballarat Branch to acknowledge and pay tribute to Stan’s World War Two RAAF Service. But before I move on to Stan’s RAAF Service I would like to acknowledge Stan’s many years of service to the Ballarat Branch of the of the Air Force Association. Stan became a member of the Association in 1946 and served for many years on Committee. In fact, Stan at one stage served as Branch Secretary for an incredible twenty eight consecutive years. Stan’s service to the association was recognised with Life Membership many years ago before my time with the Association and more recently with a special plaque that you will see here today.*

*Stan enlisted in the RAAF on 5th June 1945 at just 18 years of age. His place of enlistment was at No 1 RAAF Recruit Centre which at this time of war was located in the Preston Motors Building in Melbourne. On that same day Stan was sent to the Reception Centre at RAAF Ransford.....Where was RAAF Ransford? you might ask.....it was at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Just two days later, on 7th June 1945, Stan was posted to No 2 RAAF Recruit Depot in Cootamundra NSW for basic training. With basic training under his belt Stan was posted, on 13th July 1945, to No 4 School of Technical Training which was located at the Adelaide Exhibition building.*

*On 15th August 1945 a now fully trained 18 year old Leading Aircraftman Stan White, Service Number 159895 was posted for duty at No 1 Personnel Depot, a posting which saw him back at the MCG for a period of a little over a month before his final and longest posting, effective from 17th September 1945, which was to Air Force Headquarters at Victoria Barracks, St Kilda Road Melbourne. Stan would serve at Air Force Headquarters right through until his discharge on 27th June 1946.*

*Stan’s Military Honours and Awards include : War Medal 1939-45, Australia Service Medal 1939-45 and the General Service Badge.*      **MAY HE REST IN PEACE ~ LEST WE FORGET**

I would just like to acknowledge the incredible assistance that I received from Stan White's cousin, Australian Army Reserve Warrant Office First Class John Franklin, OAM, in respect to putting together the 'Military' part of Stan White's Service.

John is very much experienced and actively involved in respect to the conduct of Australian Defence Force funerals and has told me that our Ballarat Branch Air Force Association Eulogy and Service was precisely what they are trying to make Defence Force funerals to be.

Thanks also to Bugler Mr Keith Walker, OAM, who John Franklin arranged.

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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)

**JULY : Social Luncheon Meeting : Second Tuesday 12th July at 1145**

**Lunch and Movie ~ The Glenn Miller Story**

**Bring a Guest or Guests**

**Remember, Guests also need to pay \$10 to attend  
which includes their Lucky Number for the Raffles**

- 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 1030**  
                  **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**

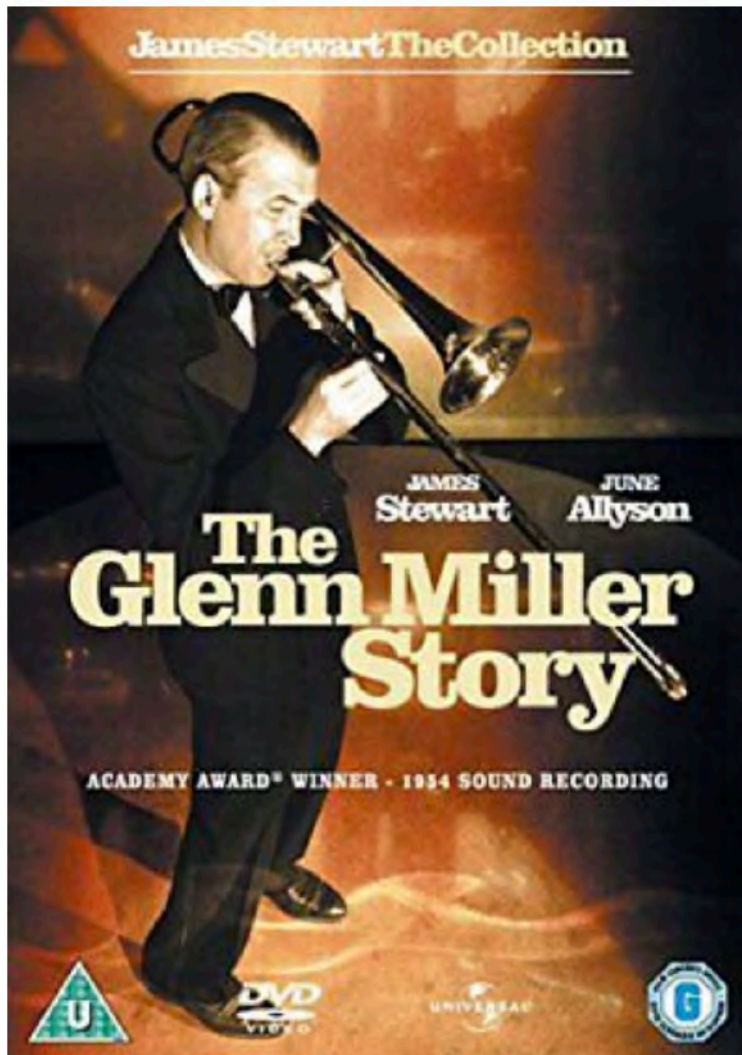
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ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AT OUR ROOMS

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?

The Airforce Association Ballarat Branch

Presents the screening of

‘ THE GLENN MILLER STORY ’



**Invite a friend to
enjoy the movie
and fellowship
in our warm
club rooms.**

When.....
Tuesday 12th July
2022

Where..... Hut 48 Ballarat Airport

Time..... 11.45

\$10 includes RAFFLE and hot pastries.