



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH

Newsletter



August/September 2023

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



We were sorry to hear of our member Margaret Chapman's recent fall resulting in a broken leg. Marg is a regular at our monthly social luncheons and reprises her career as a cook with monthly donations of preserves and hot food. Fortunately Marg is now at home and on the mend.

We are heading rapidly towards the end of the year with our last few events being planned. Following on from the success of our Christmas lunch held off site last year, we have planned again to have our lunch catered for us.

This year's event will be a Christmas extravaganza to be held at the North Ballarat Sports Club. Lunch will be preceded by a Christmas-themed musical concert, commencing at 10:30, and will include morning tea. Lunch will be in a private space and will comprise Christmas mixed roasts, vegetarian options and Christmas pudding. Our usual Christmas raffle will take place.

We look forward to attendance by members, members' families, guests and friends of BAFA.

Peter Dowling
President



IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

Social luncheons are held on the second Tuesday of each month

Hut 48. 11:45 for 12



Tuesday October 10

Lunch includes a commemoration of 1WAGS graduate FO Graetz followed by a tour of the Engineers' workshop.

Tuesday November 14

Pending.



Tuesday December 12

Christmas Concert & Luncheon

10:30-2:00, Ballarat North Sports Club

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS—TRANSPORTATION

If you have a medical condition preventing you from self-driving or accessing transport, please contact Peter Dowling on 0418281775 to arrange transportation assistance.

BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA BALL 2023

As part of the commemoration for the Battle for Australia, the annual Ball was held on Saturday 26 August at the Brown Hill hall.

Even bigger than last year, the hall was filled with dancers, would-be dancers and non-dancers, all having a wonderful night, replete with the performance of our guest “Elvis”.

The energy in the room was palpable and the night finished all too soon.

Acknowledgement and thanks go to Ms Ann Petty, without whose talents and planning the night would ever occur, and her team of volunteers.

Mark you calendars for next year’s event on Saturday 31 August!



Two naval officers at an RAAF Ball! Ballarat AFA President Peter Dowling and Rob Petty



President Peter Dowling thanks Ball organiser, Ann Petty



All in a whirl



The stage is set!





AN OUTING TO CRESSY AERODROME (¹www.cressyaerodrome.com.au)



Our President, Peter Dowling, took the opportunity to brush up on his flying skills on a recent trip to Cressy Airfield and a flight on “Millie”.

¹Built at Hatfield in the United Kingdom, Tiger Moth T5531 arrived in Australia as a part of a batch of thirty-four Tiger Moths for the RAAF. These were delivered, pre-Pacific war, between July and September 1940.

When the war ended, T5531 was offered for disposal in 1946, at Western Junction, Tasmania and was sold for £180.

T5531 would spend most of her life in NSW with various owners, and a few years in between in Qld, before being purchased in April 2021 by Perlam Aviation Pty Ltd.

Affectionately known as “Millie” she now calls the old WW2 RAAF base located at Cressy in Victoria, home.

Cressy Airfield became operational in July 1939 when the Armament Training Squadron moved there.

Later in 1942 the General Reconnaissance School from Point Cook moved to Cressy Airfield.

Discover CRESSY AERODROME

At the outbreak of World War II, an airfield was constructed beside the little town of Cressy, and was used by the RAAF until 1946, as a combat training base.

Today this quaint little rural town is seeing the old-World War Two RAAF base coming to life. A new hanger now sits on the site where one of the original WW2 Bellman Hangers once stood.

The Cressy Aerodrome is located right beside the Hamilton Highway and the railway line that runs from Geelong to Hamilton. It is 39km north of Colac and south-west of Ballarat in Victoria, making it a good location for a RAAF base.

Join us for a JOY FLIGHT!

To walk around the old WW2 RAAF base is just the beginning, but to fly in a WW2 era aircraft in the same airspace our WW2 men flew in, is very special and something that will stay with you forever.

Cressy Aerodrome is now home to two Tiger Moth aircraft, which are used for scenic flights over the surrounding area.

Scenic Commemorative Flight
Our scenic “Commemorative Flight” will enable you to take in the views of the old RAAF base and surrounding area, including the township of Cressy and the numerous lakes which are dotted throughout the landscape, including the largest inland lake in Victoria, Lake Corangamite.

Adrenaline Pumping Flight!
This flight will give you an idea on what it was like for a trainee fighter pilot of the day. With steep dives and “loop-the-loops” it will certainly leave you with a lasting memory.

Our flights are available by appointment for you to partake in, weather permitting.

Book your Tiger Moth flight today by calling the Cressy Aerodrome on 0481 327 587

Cressy Aerodrome, 175 Aerodrome Rd, Cressy VIC 3322
www.cressyaerodrome.com.au

The main reason for establishing a major training base so close to Melbourne was that both Laverton and Point Cook were fully occupied with the assembly of aircraft.

The training role of this base went through a few changes during the war. From the Number 1 Armament Training School, to General Reconnaissance School and then it was the Central Gunnery School.



SOCIAL LUNCHEON

AUGUST 8

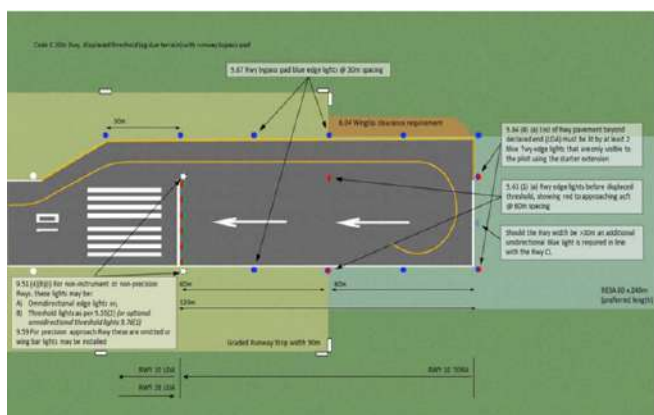


In August we had an informative presentation from Jonathan Wilsher, former Cathay Pacific pilot and commercial lawyer, who moved to Ballarat in 2015 and who has been appointed by the city to encourage investment in Ballarat Airport.



Jonathan is currently working on the Ballarat Airport Strategy and Master Plan to increase Ballarat's future capability.

As Stage 1 of this plan, the runway has been lengthened by 550 m to a total of 1800 m.



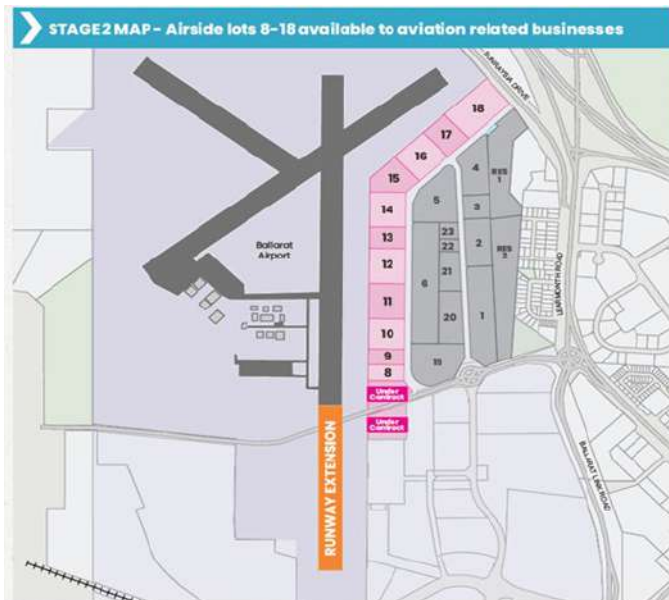
Stage 2 of the plan is the runway strengthening project, which enhances capability to accommodate the operation of large turboprop (DHC-8/ATR-72) and regional jet aircraft (Embraer E-190/Boeing 737/Airbus A220/A320).

The potential opportunities arising out of the runway strengthening project will be explored and tested in the Airport Master Plan.



Proposals under Stage 3 include construction of an apron and terminal/carpark area adjacent to the new Airport entrance.

BWEZ Airside lots



The City is working in partnership with Development Victoria to market airside lots to the aviation industry.

The STAMP (Ballarat Airport Strategy and Master Plan 2023) incorporates consultation with the community, commencing with a launch event at the airport in November 2023.

The vision is for a community run accessible and inclusive airport.

It is envisaged that the historical aspects of Ballarat Airport, including the current home of the Air Force Association Ballarat, Hut 48, will be incorporated into the plans for the airport site in the future.





1 WAGS REPORT

Sponsored by APCO Alfredton



SOCIAL LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 12



Janet Bates - 1WAGS Co-ordinator

A NOTE FROM THE PAST

Following the last Newsletter, I was contacted by BAFA member Kevin O'Reilly who took the credit for the photo of the airport in the 1940s, having risked life and limb climbing a tall pine tree to take the photo.



Kevin also supplied other photographic memorabilia, some of which is preserved on the 1WAGS website.



In this photo of No. 9 WAGS course 1940, only 3 of the 8 (including the photographer) survived the war.

Our September lunch focussed on anniversaries:

- 50 years since the withdrawal of Australian troupes from Vietnam
- 70 years since the cessation of hostilities in Korea and
- 100 years since the establishment of Legacy

We were proud to acknowledge two members of BAFA who received their Vietnam medal recently, Mr Peter Schoutens and Leigh Harvey AOM.



Mr Peter Schoutens with his 50 year recognition of service in Vietnam

We were honoured to be addressed by Mr Bill Bahr, Senior Vice President of Legacy, Ballarat. Bill outlined the history of Legacy over the past 100 years and imparted how Legacy is still so relevant today assisting serving personnel and family.

Legacy grew out of the ashes of World War I where, in the trenches of the Western Front during World War I, a soldier said to his dying mate "I'll look after the missus and kids". This became known as The Promise – and it is still kept today.

Legacy currently supports 40,000 individuals and families across Australia, supported by over 3,400 volunteer members, Legatees.