



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH



Newsletter June 2019

President : Noel Hutchins - 0439 929 322
Vice President : Leigh Harvey OAM
Junior Vice President : Peter Schoutens
Secretary : Rob Petty - 0407 891 281
Treasurer : Josie Reasons
Chaplain : Rev. Keith Lanyon - 0411 512 160

REGULAR
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Janet Bates
Stephen Brown
Michael Lake
Ken Marsh
Brian Reasons

ELDER STATESMEN
Dr Tom Roberts OAM
Gordon Jarvis
Tom Jobling
Keith Pitman
Stan White
Newsletter Editor
Noel Hutchins

MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETINGS

Our **Social Luncheon Meetings** are held on the **FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, (except January)**, with **Arrival time by 11.45 am for a 12 Noon commencement**. All meetings are held at our rooms at Airport Hut 48, Airport Drive, Mitchell Park (ie : Ballarat Aerodrome).

MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

Our **Business Meetings, open to all members**, are held at 3 pm on the second Monday of each month. These meetings immediately follow a monthly Committee meeting enabling members to be promptly aware of decisions taken by the committee, enabling members to ratify, or otherwise, decisions taken.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY COMMEMORATION ~ 6TH JUNE 2019 At the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat



A very personal and moving image of WWII Veteran and former British WREN Mrs Margaret Wood as she prepares to lay a wreath at our D Day 75th Anniversary Commemoration. Margaret was assisted by Rev John Furness and Mrs Janet Bates (pictured).
Image by Edwina Williams of the Times News Group

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY COMMEMORATION ~ 6TH JUNE 2019 At the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat

Our Branch of the Air Force Association was privileged to hold a service at the Australian Ex Prisoners of War Memorial at Ballarat to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D Day, to remember all those who lost their lives on that day and to acknowledge the service of all Allied Servicemen and Servicewomen who contributed to the planning, preparation of, or who took an active part in, the D Day Operations Overlord and Neptune.

While low cloud stopped our planned flyover by Branch member Stephen Carter in his WWII Vintage Ryan aircraft, the misty rain did not have much affect on the Service on the ground other than maybe keeping at home some of our members carrying adverse effects of the winter weather as well as some of the general public who may have attended with better weather conditions.

MC for the Day was Major Neil Leckie RFD (Ret'd), with guest speaker Group Captain Bob Bennett (Ret'd). Chaplain was Rev. Keith Lanyon.



Left : Chaplain, Rev. Keith Lanyon
Rear : MC, Major Neil Leckie RFD (Retd)
Right : President, Noel Hutchins

Wreaths were laid by : Dr Tom Roberts OAM on behalf of the Air Force Association, Ballarat Branch; Guest of Honour Ex British WWII Wren, Mrs Margaret Wood; Catherine King MP, Federal Member for Ballarat; Kallista Kaval, representing State Member for Wendouree, Juliana Addison; Mr Alan Douglass, President Ballarat RSL sub-Branch; City of Ballarat Deputy Mayor Cr Jim Rinaldi and Cr Amy Johnson on behalf of the Ballarat Mayor Samantha McIntosh (absent overseas); Mr Peter Dowling RFD Secretary Sunderland Branch Air Force Association NSW; and Mr John Dooley representing Ballarat Liberals.



Guest Speaker Group Captain (Retd) Bob Bennett
addresses the Service



Catherine King, MP Federal
Member for Ballarat

Among the formally invited guests attending were : Dr Tom Roberts OAM Immediate Past President Air Force Association Ballarat Branch; Guest of Honour WWII veteran and ex British Wren Margaret Wood; Catherine King MP, Federal Member for Ballarat; Kallista Kaval, Electorate Officer representing State Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison; City of Ballarat Deputy Mayor Cr Jim Rinaldi with Cr Grant Tillett and Cr Amy Johnson; Trustees of the Australian Ex Prisoners of War Memorial Bill Bahr, Reverend John Furness and Ray Mende; Alan Douglass, President Ballarat RSL who recited the Ode; Ronald Fleming, President Buninyong RSL with other executive members; Alan Morris President Creswick RSL with other executive members; John Clarkson, Board Member, representing the Air Force Association of Victoria; Captain Luke Quinn, Adjutant 8th/7th Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment and with him Sergeant Sean Fitton.



Margaret Wood is assisted by Reverend John Furness and Janet Bates



Flag Orderlies L to R : Tom Nunn, Lynne Redman, Keith Pitman & Peter Dowling

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Photographs used are by Edwina Williams from the Times News Group, Ken Marsh, AFA Ballarat member, And Ronald Fleming, President Buninyong RSL

Thanks go to the Trustees of the Australian Ex Prisoners of War Memorial; KC Major Neil Leckie RFD (Retd), Guest Speaker Group Captain Bob Bennett (Retd), Chaplain Rev Keith Lanyon, Audio man Peter Schoutens, Bugler Troy Cheesman, our four flag orderlies and other members who assisted me. Thank you to Ballarat RSL President Alan Douglass for reciting of the Ode, and for his guidance. Thanks to the Ballarat Media.. in particular the Times News Group, and WIN TV.

Thanks to Stephen Carter sitting in his aircraft hoping clouds would clear. (NH, Pres.)

It was **Ballarat Heritage Weekend** on 25 & 26 May and we opened our new rooms to the public. Supporting the opening was a display of Vintage and Classic cars, military vehicles, sausage sizzle by the Military Brotherhood and, on the Sunday, 54 members of the "Sing Australia Choir", situated in the former Dining Hall, entertained the crowd singing WWII/1940's songs. Volunteer ladies were kept busy serving tea/coffee and biscuits to the public for \$2.50 a pop. *(Sorry, no photos of the ladies at work ??)*

The success of the weekend far exceeded my expectations for the first year. It was very pleasing to see members of the public turn up to seek more information about ancestors who did training at No 1 Wireless Air Gunners School Ballarat and this has resulted in two-way benefits with people providing information and photographs to our Senior 1WAGS Researcher Peter Schoutens and Website Coordinator Janet Bates as we now proceed with the development of the 1WAGS Memorial Website. Next year should be an even bigger and more successful event. Our Secretary Rob Petty, currently cruising and travelling the Northern hemisphere with wife Ann, laid a lot of the groundwork before he left but was not here to enjoy the results. Rob and Ann return to Ballarat on 31st July after a full 3 months away. They are getting some great photographs. *(NH, Pres)*



Member Tom Jobling brought along his large Spitfire model for display. It drew a lot of attention. Thanks Tom.





Kenneth Marsh



Kenneth Marsh

So many people to thank for the success of the heritage weekend : Secretary Rob Petty for laying the groundwork before leaving on holiday. Our neighbours the Ballarat Engine & Machinery Preservation Group who had a display of their own, The Ballarat Morris Minor Club, the Scuderia Ballarat Sports Car Club and the private car owners who exhibited their cars. The Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club with their Bar-B-Q trailer. The volunteer ladies who served tea/coffee and biscuits and looked after the 'takings'. The military re-enactment group that turned up with their vintage military motor bikes, Chris Nicholls and others that loaned and positioned the military vehicles there. Our members who turned up to interact with our visitors and those who assisted in the lead up and on the day. And of course, Carolyn Priddle and the wonderful Sing Australia Choir. They were absolutely brilliant. Some of those songs had a lot of people getting a little bit emotional yes, me too. We must get them to one of our social meetings, maybe in the warmer weather when we can have it in the 'long room'. No heating in there for winter. *(NH, Pres.)*

FROM THE PRESIDENT ~~~~~
Myself and your management committee have been very busy over the past couple of months with the Heritage Weekend opening and the D Day Commemoration. The development of the 1WAGS Memorial Website is progressing with Janet Bates and Peter Schoutens working with the UBC Web Design people. We have sourced two excellent metal filing cabinets at bargain prices, \$80 and \$50. We will need a lot of storage space for 1WAGS records. Senior librarian Stephen Brown has been very active in formulating a Library Development Policy which the Committee will discuss and formalise at the July committee meeting. *(NH, Pres.)*

PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY : MEET-A-MATE EVENT – POINT COOK ~ MIDDAY FRIDAY 16TH AUGUST 2019
Air Force Association Victoria will host a 'Meet-a-Mate' event to be held at the former Officers' Mess at RAAF Base Point Cook on Friday August 16th, 2019 commencing at midday. Keynote Speaker will be Wing Commander (Retd) Sharon Bown who will speak about her deployment experiences in Timor-Leste and Afghanistan. Sharon's presentation will be followed by a light lunch, tea/coffee, and soft beverages. There is no charge for attendance.

Sharon, who served in the RAAF as a nursing officer and saw service in Timor-Leste and Afghanistan, is a highly regarded motivational military speaker who was appointed in 2016 for a three-year term to the Council of the Australian War Memorial. She is the author of the book, "One Woman's War and Peace... a nurse's journey through the Royal Australian Air Force". Sharon is a member of the Air Force Association and is its Representative at the Female Veterans and Families' Forum.

Air Force Band Wind Quartet will provide background music during lunch.

As well as members of the Air Force Association and their partners, also invited to this event will be serving uniformed members, and Defence APS staff.

RAAF Base Point Cook is a controlled entry facility; therefore, for entry to the base and catering purposes you are required to advise Barb Stallard at office@afavic.org.au or (03) 9813 4600 **no later than Wednesday July 24th, 2019** of your attendance and the name of any person accompanying you. **LATE NOTIFICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Anyone wishing to attend and would like transport, or is able to provide transport for others, please advise details to me asap (0439 929 322) and I will submit details to Barb as a Ballarat Branch group. I will be able to provide transport for two additional people as I will be driving to and from the event.** *(NH, Pres)*

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**SOCIAL TRIP TO NHILL :** On Saturday 2nd November Nhill will be holding its **100th Annual Air Show** and it is planned to arrange an overnight stay trip there leaving early Saturday morning (2nd ), travel time approx 3 hours, spend Saturday at the Air Show and the Aviation Heritage Centre, stay overnight Saturday 2nd (night out at the local RSL or other), touring and travel home on Sunday 3rd. Yes, November 2nd might be a while yet, but if interested members do not make accommodation bookings very soon, everything for that weekend will be booked out.... A lot more than an Air Show with lots of activity (Our member Stephen Carter's vintage Ryan aircraft will be on display at the show). **More info very soon, but please advise me asap if interested.** If we have a total of 12 people we can consider hiring a 12 person (including driver )mini-bus for the trip or, if not, just a few cars to take interested members there and back. We have drivers qualified to drive a larger bus if needed.

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**Tuesday 2nd July ~ Monthly Social Luncheon Meeting, Arrive by 11.45 for 12 noon start
Advise Noel 24 hours prior if taxi required (0439 929 322)**

Monday 8th July ~ 2 pm Committee Meeting (For Committee Members)

Monday 8th July ~ 3 pm Monthly Business Meeting (Open to All Members)