

The "Clipped Wings"

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - WELL DONE THAT MAN!



What else can you say about our newest VC winner that has not already been said about him? One small and interesting titbit appears to be that his father served in 176 AD Coy in Vietnam, I am still chasing up confirmation, but have been informed from several

sources including members of ADAA who served with Greg Donaldson in Vietnam. Anyway a happy new year to all, I hope this finds you well and enjoying life, best to make the most of it as there are enough misery spreaders out there at present, the economy is of course the major item in all the news these days with predictions of doom and gloom everywhere.

It seems to me to be feeding off itself and the mass media in press and TV is the prime culprit in pushing the dead cart. There is no doubt that the top end of town has had its pinkies in the cookie barrel a lot deeper than their efforts warranted and their greed has caused a lot of problems, however the reality is that there are still millions of people who want to work and to enjoy a good quality of life and are prepared to pay their way.

I believe that most people in the world with the possible single exception of the radical ratbag mob Al Qaeda & Co also want a better lifestyle. The end result will be that things will get better. It's just a matter of when, but I can guarantee you that despondency will not help or hasten the day.

On the brighter side pause for a moment and reflect on the fact that even the worst off Australians are still enjoying a better quality of life than 75% of the world's population. Think that might have a lot to do with those who have gone before and especially those who put their hand up when things needed to be done.

Things still need to be done and thank God there are still people like Mark Donaldson and his mates and that includes the servicewomen, who are prepared to do the necessary.

My best advice is look for opportunities, think positive, expect that things will improve. Get on with life and make the most of it, you pass this way but once.

Barry Gannon - President

QLD LOOK AT THE C17

At the end of 2008, a group of about 30 ADAA'ers visited the RAAF Base at Amberley in anticipation of being shown through the C17 - if it wasn't out on exercise! We were at the whim of the RAAF who were unable to guarantee that one would be available to inspect and as such it turned out there wasn't one to see through! We did however manage to see one in maintenance and a totally unexpected landing of a C17 directly overhead was an amazing sight as it came in to land.



REMEMBER THESE BLOKES?

They are your Committee!



Gary Cole
Vice President



Allan Dalton
Secretary



Kemm Baber
Treasurer



February 2009

AUSTRALIAN ARMY AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA 8248070 TROOPER MARK GREGOR DONALDSON



For most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action in a circumstance of great peril in Afghanistan as part of the Special Operations Task Group during Operation SLIPPER, Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

Trooper Mark Gregor Donaldson enlisted into the Australian Army on 18 June 2002. After completing Recruit and Initial and Employment Training he was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Having successfully completed the Special Air Service Selection Course in April 2004, Trooper Donaldson was posted to Special Air Service Regiment in May 2004.

On 2 September 2008, during the conduct of a fighting patrol, Trooper Donaldson was travelling in a combined Afghan, US and Australian vehicle convoy that was engaged by a numerically superior, entrenched and coordinated enemy ambush. The ambush was initiated by a high volume of sustained machine gun fire coupled with the effective use of rocket propelled grenades. Such was the effect of the initiation that the combined patrol suffered numerous casualties, completely lost the initiative and became immediately suppressed. It was over two hours before the convoy was able to establish a clean break and move to an

area free of enemy fire.

In the early stages of the ambush, Trooper Donaldson reacted spontaneously to regain the initiative. He moved rapidly between alternate positions of cover engaging the enemy with 66mm and 84mm anti-armour weapons as well as his M4 rifle. During an early stage of the enemy ambush, he deliberately exposed himself to enemy fire in order to draw attention to himself and thus away from wounded soldiers. This selfless act alone bought enough time for those wounded to be moved to relative safety.

As the enemy had employed the tactic of a rolling ambush, the patrol was forced to conduct numerous vehicle manoeuvres, under intense enemy fire, over a distance of approximately four kilometres to extract the convoy from the engagement area. Compounding the extraction was the fact that casualties had consumed all available space within the vehicles. Those who had not been wounded, including Trooper Donaldson, were left with no option but to run beside the vehicles throughout. During the conduct of this vehicle manoeuvre to extract the convoy from the engagement area, a severely wounded coalition force interpreter was inadvertently left behind. Of his own volition and displaying complete disregard for his own safety, Trooper Donaldson moved alone, on foot, across approximately 80 metres of exposed ground to recover the wounded interpreter. His movement, once identified by the enemy, drew intense and accurate machine gun fire from entrenched positions. Upon reaching the wounded coalition force interpreter, Trooper Donaldson picked him up and carried him back to the relative safety of the vehicles then provided immediate first aid before returning to the fight.

On subsequent occasions during the battle, Trooper Donaldson administered medical care to other wounded soldiers, whilst continually engaging the enemy. Trooper Donaldson's acts of exceptional gallantry in the face of accurate and sustained enemy fire ultimately saved the life of a coalition force interpreter and ensured the safety of the other members of the combined Afghan, US and Australian force. Trooper Donaldson's actions on this day displayed exceptional courage in circumstances of great peril. His actions are of the highest accord and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Special Operations Command, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force



Personal biography of Trooper Mark Gregor Strang Donaldson, VC

Mark Donaldson was born in Waratah, Newcastle, NSW on 2 April 1979. He spent his formative years in northern NSW where he graduated from high school in 1996.

Trooper Donaldson enlisted into the Australian Army on 18 June 2002 and entered recruit training at the Army Recruit Training Centre, Kapooka, NSW. He demonstrated an early aptitude for soldiering and was awarded the prizes for best shot and best at physical training in his platoon. Subsequently he was allocated to the Royal Australian infantry corps and posted to the school of infantry at Singleton, NSW, where he excelled in his initial employment training. At the completion of this training he was again awarded best shot and best at physical training, as well as the award for the most outstanding soldier in his platoon.

He was posted to 1st battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Townsville, QLD in November 2002. It was during this time that Trooper Donaldson decided to pursue his ambition to join the special air service regiment.

In February 2004, he successfully completed the Special Air Service Regiment selection course and was posted to the regiment in May 2004. He was then posted to I Troop, 3 Special Air Service Squadron. Since that time he has been deployed on operations to East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq.

On 12 August 2008, Trooper Donaldson was wounded in action whilst conducting nighttime operations in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan. He recovered from his minor wounds and continued on the deployment.

Trooper Donaldson was involved in an incident on 2 September 2008 in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan that resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia.

He was invested by her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia at Government House, Canberra on 16 January 2009.

Trooper Donaldson remains posted to the Special Air Service Regiment in Perth, WA.

Trooper Donaldson is married to Emma and has a daughter Kaylee. His parents are deceased. *Reprinted from the Australian Government, Department of Defence website*



SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2008



176 AD Sqn, Richmond

Denis McCann attended a BBQ lunch and presentations. About 8 diggers were presented with AD brevets having completed the basic AD Course and 12 months AD duties.

Denis Presented the Soldier of the Year award to Pte Daniel Gitsham. The perpetual shield was presented as well as a personal trophy.

WANDERING

A sustained run of 35C+ temperatures out West having added extra impetus to the business of stuffing a bag with some cold cans and heading off to one or other of the 'after-darker's' homes, I can report that the local contingent appears to remain in fairly good fettle, with due allowance made for the passage of time, and meeting the new year with a degree of optimism.

A turbulent year, nonetheless, with some major changes lining up for a few of us. Jenni and Dave Armstrong at this time of writing are awaiting the sale of their pleasant home and by the time of publication will doubtless be resident in NSW, fairly close to their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. By that time also we shall have surprised them with a farewell party and none shall be sadder to see the departure than me. I cannot claim to be Dave's oldest friend, but I reckon

that I'm his oldest Australian friend, dating from a first meeting at RAASC Centre in April 1962. More recent years have seen Dave knocked about a bit by Parkinson's, but he remains indomitably Dave and I shall miss him and the lovely Jenni.

Christine and Lee Walsh left their comfortable inner city suburb of Wembley a few months ago, having decided to demolish their house, build two new ones on the capacious block and occupy one. With some weeks yet ahead before completion, they have been clocking prodigious mileage with trips to Tasmania, visiting Kay and Frank Zuppar in South Australia and time also up north in Broome.

A week ago Bev and John Liston arrived in Perth and we had a pub date in the city attended by (cont Pg 6)

DARYLL AINSWORTH HOME FROM HUMANITARIAN ASSIGNMENT IN MYANMAR

Air Dispatch Association of Australia member, Daryll Ainsworth, has recently returned from Myanmar where he worked with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to assist communities devastated by Cyclone Nargis. The tropical cyclone killed approximately 140,000 people and caused the worst natural disaster in the recorded history of Myanmar, in May this year.

Mr Ainsworth, a logistician, was deployed through RedR Australia, an emergency humanitarian aid organisation which aims to relieve suffering in disasters by selecting, training and providing effective relief personnel to humanitarian relief programmes worldwide.

Mr Ainsworth oversaw the operation of three Multi User Logistics Cluster hubs. Each Logistics Hub provided up to 10 mobile storage units (similar to large warehouses) to a number of United Nations agencies and Non Government Organisations (NGOs) working in Myanmar, allowing those agencies to concentrate on their humanitarian objectives. For three months, Mr Ainsworth worked to distribute hundreds of thousands of metric tonnes of supplies, often in challenging conditions. The supplies included food provisions and humanitarian stores - mosquito nets, tarpaulins, sterilisation tablets, water containers, latrine equipment, soap and cooking pots, which were needed by over 700,000 people in the delta area of the Irrawaddy river. In an early email from the field to the RedR Australia office he wrote, "the relief phase has coincided with the rainy season in Myanmar and we have just had four days of continuous rain. This adds to the misery of those left homeless by the crisis. We have had so much rain our local staff are fishing in the compound!"

Chief Executive Officer of RedR Australia, Alan McLean, notes Mr Ainsworth was one of more than 75 personnel on RedR Australia's register of engineers, logisticians, protection officers, sanitation specialists and others who had advised of their availability to join United Nations relief missions after the cyclone devastation. The Burmese authorities initially determined that international assistance was not needed, but after consultation, a large international relief effort was mobilised.

"Daryll is one the most experienced members of the RedR Australia register of personnel who have been prepared for international field assignments. He brings a great set of skills to the most complex operations and turns his hand willingly to anything that needs attention. We are most grateful for his flexibility and for the support of his family to enable him to undertake humanitarian relief missions," Alan McLean said.



Air Distribution - Bogalay

Fund, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and a number of NGOs.

Mr Ainsworth believes the most rewarding aspect of humanitarian work is helping people who are suffering. Between assignments he greatly values time with his family, including his grandchildren.

RedR Australia welcomes enquiries from specialists (including engineers, logisticians, protection officers and sanitation experts) regarding emergency relief assignments arising from natural disasters and conflict. Further information regarding RedR Australia may be found at: www.redr.org.au



Discussing food issues with a village Food Management Committee



ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH TAX ON YOUR SUPER??

This subject is *boring* but, for your own benefit, please persevere. Many superannuants for whom ComSuper is the 'authority' are paying too much income tax – this year, and if it is not fixed, for every year for the rest of their lives. The amount *may be* quite small.

Background

In 1983 the then Treasurer stopped the then existing facility to claim a deduction on tax returns of up to \$1200 for life insurance premiums and superannuation contributions.

If your total payment was over \$1200 you would have had "undeducted contributions" [now called 'excess contributions']. You may have had a sequence of tax returns up to 30Jun83 with gradually increasing "undeducted contributions". The total figure of these '**pre-1983 undeducted contributions**' is important, but ComSuper does NOT have a record of this figure. The Tax Office does.

Subsequent to 1 Jul 1983 all super contributions were "undeducted contributions". ComSuper does have a record of these, but the ATO does not.

Super – from 1 Jul 2007

Early in July 2008 you would have received a letter from ComSuper (under the name of your Super Scheme) advising that your pension would increase by 2.3% on 3 July 2008. (cont Page 5)

(cont from Page 3) The letter showed a line item "Your new tax-free fortnightly component is: \$xx.xx"

Your Payment Summary (for Tax Return) was in the same envelope. A Fact Sheet was also included. Half way down the second column of the DFRDB Fact Sheet was a statement: "Before 1Jul07, persons being paid retirement pay claimed the undeducted purchase price (UPP) of their retirement pay, as a deductible amount in their tax return each year. From 1Jul07, the UPP is part of the tax free component. The old annual deductible amount will be converted to a tax free amount and taken into account each retirement pay

payment." **BUT**, for persons with 'pre-1983 undeducted contributions' ComSuper was unable to do this correctly.

People affected who need to take action to correct their 'tax free component' are those who:

- a. had 'pre-1983 undeducted contributions', **and**,
- b. had been claiming, up to 2007, a deduction for UPP (Tax Return p.3. Item D9), **and**
- c. had **not** elected to withdraw undeducted contributions.

Action Required.

1) Telephone the ATO Superannuation Hotline on 13 10 20 and ask for a letter stating the amount of your 'pre-1983 excess contributions'. You will need your tax file number.

2) When the ATO letter is received, post a copy to ComSuper, PO Box 22, Belconnen, ACT 2616, requesting re-calculation of the 'tax free component'.

3) ComSuper will then re-calculate your pension to increase the value of your Tax Free Component and will issue you with an amendment letter. [reducing your taxable amount]

4) You should then submit the ComSuper 'amendment letter' with your tax return, or if too late for that, with a letter requesting amendment of your return to ATO Amendments, GPO Box 5056, Sydney NSW 2001.

[It is anticipated that the actions (1) to (4) could take up to four months to complete.]

Conclusion.

If you are still with us – well done ! If you use a tax agent, show this to him/her – it is possible that a tax agent may not detect this problem. Action may result in just a handful of dollars in the resultant rebate from the Tax Office – **but it is your handful!** The author's 'tax free component' was **increased** by just over 150% by completing these actions.

David Clinch

11 November 2008

ACT Branch, DFWA

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE D DAY LANDINGS IN NORMANDY, FRANCE ON 5/6 JUNE 1944

June 4 - 8, 2009

4 June - Arrive and settle in under own arrangements having travelled from wherever or book with Tours International, the Official tour Operator for Airborne Forces. Coaches leave London London Portsmouth Ferry Terminal. Travel to France by Brittany Ferries

5 June am - Visit to different battlefield sites, lunch, then watch parachute drop @ 1400 using 5 Dakota aircraft, lunch visit to Memorial Pegasus Museum. Evening, supper @ hotel.

6 June - Ranville Commune for church Service and Service @ Ranville Commonwealth Graves Cemetry, Lunch, Visit to Merville Battery site and then on to Poute en Auge for 1800hrs ceremony at 13th Battalion graves. Supper in hotel.

7 June - Free day, Visit to Historic city/town of interest. Side trips can be arranged if requires to the D Day beaches. Farewell dinner @ Hotel

8 June - Dep on morning ferry to Portsmouth and coach to London or dispersal under own arrangements.

Initial enquires: Ron McCaffery (ron-mccaffery.freeserve.co.uk) 0044 1635 268 346 or (0) 7882 735 892 Mobile.



COLONEL COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

Col DJ Scanlan, CSM, RFD, ADC
Colonel Commandant
RACT - Northern Region

ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES 2008

I had the opportunity to see a number of association members when I attended the Army Transport Association Christmas Party, for a short time, on Friday 5 December and the Australian Water Transport Association AGM and luncheon on Sunday 7 December 2008. They were both happy events and it was good to share some time with you.

Thanks to respective Association Presidents, Ron Butcher and Leo Brown for their hospitality.

7th COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT BATTALION – PROMOTION PARADE

On Saturday 6 December 2008 I attended the 7th Combat Service Support Battalion – Promotion Parade as the Host Officer.

The parade was reviewed by Brigadier Stephen Day, DSC, ADC, Commander 7th Brigade.

Despite it being a very warm afternoon the soldier on parade performed to a very high standard. It was a fitting end to a very busy year for the battalion and the hard work of some was recognised with promotions and award presentations.

I would like to formally congratulate the award and promotion recipients.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the Commanding Officer, LTCOL Jim Evans, on his promotion to Colonel and his posting a Chief of Staff 17 CSS Bde and the Battalion's RSM WO1 Wayne Le Lieve on his appointment as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport and Army School of Transport in 2009.

RACT MEMBERS POSTED TO QUEENSLAND 2009

To serving RACT members posted into Queensland units in 2009 welcome. I know you will find your time in the Sunshine State both rewarding and enjoyable.

RACT CENTRAL FUND

Current serving and retired members of the Corps may contribute to the RACT Central Fund by sending a cheque, payable to "RACT Central Fund", to SO2 Corps or you can make a bank deposit as follows:

Bank: Defence Force Credit Union
BSB: 803205
Member Number: 87440
Account Number: 20587823
Account Name: RACT Central Fund

For more details and Corps Subscription Rates please refer to the RACT website at: www.defence.gov.au/army/ract/.

RACT CORPS BIRTHDAY DINING-IN-NIGHT – SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

I will again this year be hosting the RACT Corps Birthday Dining-In-Night on Friday 29 May 2009 at the United Service Club, Brisbane. Please keep this date free. The details of the dinner will be promulgated with my next newsletter.

Kind regards
Dennis Scanlan
Par Oneri 20 January 2009

(cont from pg 3) Di and Curly Nelson and Dave and me. Curl continues to look perennially youthful and I continue to wonder at the source of that. Perhaps it was the stuff they used to put in the tea?

Lin Hay has been travelling a bit and we hope to catch up with her soon, not having seen her in a while but she is reportedly in good shape.

Facing a major move also are the Foxleys, with a resumption of UK residence forecast for later this year. Following Xmas 2007 Joan dashed home when her mother was taken to hospital with pneumonia and, at 86, thought unlikely to survive. Survive she did, albeit needing care at home that Joan provided until the end of April. Joan then returned to England two months ahead of a planned September visit to provide more of the same, and we had hoped that Tegwen might be coping. As it happened, she was again rushed to hospital just two weeks after we came home and Joan again flew out. Whilst performing wonders for the frequent flyer points, this did rather less for the Pensioner Account down at the Commonwealth Bank and provoked considerable discussion when Joan got home. Although Joan has two brothers living locally to their mother, these and their wives remain fully employed and therefore of limited capacity to be on hand. We have therefore decided to go back and care for Tegwen.

I have mixed feelings about the return, having experienced a real sense of 'homecoming' 5 years ago, but no resentment attaches to this. I was unable to care for my own mother in her declining years, owing to the specialist needs imposed by Alzheimer's, but we can look after Tegwen and that is what we shall do.

What will replace my daily bike ride to the beach for a swim remains to be seen, but I doubt if the new routine will include a quick push to Blackpool for a dip. (I wonder if the charity shop still has my overcoat?).

Harry Foxley

An excerpt from Garry McGravie's book about to be published on the History of 176 AD

WARREN - NSW

In late September 1978 1 ATSR conducted a regimental exercise at Warren, Western NSW. The exercise was conducted over a number of weeks and involved 176 and 177 AD Sqns, HQ 1 ATSR and 39 Aerial Delivery Equipment (39 ADE), and had an array of mishaps and problems that made it unforgettable for a number of people. During the exercise and despite confirmation that the airfield could handle the landing, a C130 Hercules H model aircraft landed and became bogged. CAPT Taylor recalls: "I was standing behind the pilot as we landed and whilst still in high speed taxi mode, we could feel the aircraft baulking on the dirt strip. As the aircraft continued to taxi the Captain, FLTLT D. Harley, explained over the radio that he thought they were going to get bogged". It did and A97-001 can be seen below, and to make matters worse, this was the first time the new model had been used on a non-training task. At one stage the aircraft was that low that a 44 gallon drum, with filled sandbags, had to be placed under the wing to stop it from sinking, and was eventually pulled out by the local council by which time the left wing was less than a meter from the ground and caused a bit of amusement to the DHC4 Caribou crews who were reported to have had a chuckle at their brothers from RAAF Richmond. The aircraft returned to RAAF Richmond with the wheels down.

It would appear from the beginning that this exercise was going to be interesting. It began with an air land of troops followed by a parachute insertion. The ground was tested to enable the aircraft to land; however, this task was completed by a Landrover. In hindsight, this task would have been better done



utilizing a Unimog. SGT Holden was the unfortunate marshaller.

This exercise was once again set to test the soldiers in conducting 24 hour operations, and CAPT Keane and 2 Troop were deployed forward to an airfield which was located on a large property. When it was time to eat, another problem arose, as the canned meat of a number of the 10 man ration packs were full of maggots. A friendly farmer (owner of the property) readily supplied the soldiers with gracious amounts of fresh water, fish and meat, which resulted in the troops dining better than anyone else on the exercise (of course nothing was reported about this).



Blakely modelling the new 'Shoot round corners' SLR

that his punishment wasn't worse as if he had have lost rank due to this incident he would not have been responsible for the safety of the forklift driver. He can be seen in the above photo shortly after the incident.

The local RSL kitchen was also destroyed by fire (which is apparently un-related to the exercise). The officers and SNCOs were accommodated in a 40 x 20 tent and on one particular night the SSM (WO2 Scott) was thirsty, so he raided the diggers and confiscated their illicit grog, which turned out to be quite a haul. The evidence was destroyed when it was consumed that night by the officers and SNCO. The diggers were compensated the next morning.

CPL Blakely decided to do something that is drummed into soldiers from day one of recruit training not to do, as he lent his weapon up against a gate post whilst unloading a DHC4 Caribou at night. The inevitable happened as a forklift drove over the stricken weapon, rendering it useless. He was charged and given a severe reprimand and had to pay for the damage to the rifle. To this day he was surprised

Contact Garry McGravie at garry176@optusnet.com.au for further information on his upcoming book.

The official newspaper of the Royal Australian Air Force can be viewed online at http://digital.realviewtechnologies.com/default.aspx?xml=defencenews_airforce.xml

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WISDOM - FROM THE MILITARY MANUAL

- If the enemy is in range, so are you. - *Infantry Journal*
- It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed. - *U.S. Air Force Manual*
- Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons. - *General MacArthur*
- You, you, and you ... Panic. The rest of you, come with me. - *U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.*
- Tracers work both ways. - *U.S. Army Ordnance*
- Five second fuses only last three seconds. - *Infantry Journal*
- Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.
- Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do. - *Unknown Marine Recruit*
- If you see a bomb technician running, keep up with him. - *USAF Ammo Troop*
- Though I Fly Through the Valley of Death , I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 80,000 Feet and Climbing.
- Youve never been lost until youve been lost at Mach 3.- *Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)*
- The only time you have too much fuel is when youre on fire.
- If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, its probably a helicopter — and therefore, unsafe.
- When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.
- Even with ammunition, the USAF is just another expensive flying club.
- What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; If ATC screws up, The pilot dies.
- Never trade luck for skill.
- The three most famous last words, in aviation are:
 - Why is it doing that?
 - Where are we?
 - and
 - Oh S...!
- Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight.
- Mankind has a perfect record in aviation; we never left one up there!

THE SACK LUNCHES

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat.

It was going to be a long flight. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read Perhaps I will get a short nap,' I thought.

Just before take-off, a line of soldiers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation. 'Where are you headed?' I asked the soldier seated nearest to me. The East Coast, We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan. After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that sack lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached the east, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time..

As I reached for my wallet, I overheard soldier ask his friend if he planned to buy lunch. 'No, that seems like a lot of money for just a sack lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to base ' His friend agreed.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar bill. 'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.' She grabbed my arms and

squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me. 'My son was a soldier in Iraq ; it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten sacks, she headed up the aisle to where the soldiers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked, 'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?' 'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked. She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class. 'This is your thanks.'

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. A man stopped me. 'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.' He handed me twenty-five dollars. Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Flight Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he was not looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand, and said, 'I want to shake your hand.' Quickly unfastening my seatbelt I stood and took the Captain's hand. With a booming voice he said, 'I was a soldier and I was a military pilot. Once, someone bought me a lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.' I was embarrassed when applause was

heard from all of the passengers.

Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A man who was seated about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm. When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to deplane. Waiting just inside the airplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to the base. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars. 'It will take you some time To reach the base. It will be about time for a sandwich. God Bless You.' Ten young men left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow travelers. As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers Were giving their all for our country. I could only give them a couple of meals..

It seemed so little...

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'My Country' for an amount of 'up to and including my life.'

That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.'

When a Veteran leaves the 'job' and retires to a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased, and others, who may have already retired, wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.

We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet.

We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life.

We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the 'job' and merely being allowed to leave 'active' duty.

So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into retirement, in your heart you never forget for one moment that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known.

NOW! Civilian Friends vs. Veteran Friends Comparisons

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will kick the crowd's ass that left you behind.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences...

VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, 'You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!' Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will knock them the hell out of them...for using your name in vain.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this.

VETERAN FRIENDS: Will forward this.

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, or reserve - is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank cheque made payable to "The Government of Australia for an amount of 'up to and including my life'... and military wives are as much veterans as their spouses.

From one Veteran to another, it's an honor to be in your company. Thank you Veterans.

MERCHANDISE ORDERS

Orders are made through the ADAA Treasurer Kemm Baber.

Forms can be downloaded at www.adaa.net.au

or

request an order form by contacting Kemm on (07) 3804 1365

MEMBERSHIP

You may check your membership status at any time by visiting the ADAA website and viewing the list of current members.

Memberships run from July to June each year.

New members? Membership forms are available for download via the website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

AUDITED END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS TO JUNE 30, 2008

AIR DESPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUTSRALIA INC

(ABN: 82 580 295 387)

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 30th June 2008

30/06/2007	INCOME	30/06/2008
\$ 3,060	Subscriptions	\$ 3,300
\$ 50	Sponsorship/Donations	\$ 40
\$ 70	Interest	\$ 77
\$ 1,086	Reunion Deposits	\$ 550
\$ -	Sundries	\$ -
	\$ 1,032 Merchandise Sales	\$ 966
	\$ 5,253 Opening Stock	\$ 4,610
	\$ 144 Purchases	\$ 455
	\$ 4,610 Closing Stock	\$ 4,181
\$ 245	\$ 787 COGS	\$ 884
		\$ 82
\$ 4,511		\$ 4,049
	LESS EXPENDITURE	
\$ 777	Newsletter	\$ -
\$ 46	Bank Fees	\$ 46
\$ 286	Printing/Post/Stationary	\$ 879
\$ -	Meetings/Functions	\$ 60
\$ 950	Insurance	\$ 950
\$ -	Telephone	\$ -
\$ -	Sundries	\$ 149
\$ 402	Sponsorship	\$ 300
\$ 2,472	Reunion Costs	\$ -
\$ -	Welfare	\$ 150
\$ 4,933		\$ 2,534
-\$ 422	Surplus/Deficiency for theYear	\$ 1,515

AIR DESPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUTSRALIA INC

(ABN: 82 580 295 387)

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2008

30/06/2007	ACCUMULATED FUNDS	30/06/2008
\$ 16,667	Opening Balance	\$ 16,245
-\$ 422	Add Surplus/Deficiency for Year	\$ 1,515
\$ -	Stock Adj	\$ -
\$ 16,245	Closing Balance	\$ 17,760
	REPRESENTED BY	
\$ 11,635	Cash at Bank	\$ 13,579
\$ 4,610	Stock on Hand	\$ 4,181
\$ 16,245		\$ 17,760

W H Hardman PNA MICM MAICD JP
Hon Auditor

JULY TO DEC 08 ACCOUNTS

Income

Subscriptions	\$1,480.00
Donations	\$10.00
Bank Interest	\$18.30
Merchandise Sales	\$261.00
Total Income	\$1,769.30

Expenses

Newsletter (2 editions)	\$434.90
Newsletter Postage	\$360.10
Meeting Representation	\$140.50
Bank Fees & Charges	\$13.16
Life Membership Costs	\$178.20
Total Expenses	\$1,126.86

Net Profit (Loss) \$642.44

BALANCE SHEET DEC 31, 2008

Assets

Bank of QLD	\$202.90
Westpac Cheque Account	\$13,403.69
Undeposited Funds	\$65.00
Stock on Hand	\$4,180.60
Total Assets	\$17,852.19

Liabilities \$0.00

Net Assets \$17,852.19

Accumulated Funds

Current Earnings	\$642.44
Historical Balancing Account	\$17,209.75
Total Accumulated Funds	\$17,852.19

2012 is the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of Air Delivery in Australia subsequent to WW 2. We may along with the relevant RAAF and Army units have a commemoration or such to recognise the anniversary. Thoughts? Send to thoughts@adaa.net.au

PAR ONERI DE CAELO

Par = Equal
Oneri = Task
de = From

Caelo = Heaven or Sky

(Equal to the Task from the Sky)

FIVE CANNIBALS

Five cannibals were employed by Army as scouts and translators during one of the island campaigns during World War II. When the Commanding Officer of ground forces welcomed the cannibals he said, "You're all part of our team now. We will compensate you well for your services, and you can eat any of the rations that the Soldiers are eating. But please don't indulge yourselves by eating a Soldier." The cannibals promised.

Four weeks later the CO returned and said, "You're all working very hard, and I'm very satisfied with all of you. However, one of our Master Sergeants has disappeared. Do any of you know what happened to him?"

The cannibals all shook their heads "no".

After the CO left, the leader of the cannibals turned to the others and said, "Which of you idiots ate the Master Sergeant?" A hand raised hesitantly, to which the leader of the cannibals replied, "You fool! For four weeks we've been eating Lieutenants, Captains, and Majors and no one noticed anything, then YOU had to go and eat an NCO!"

Best Wishes

On behalf of the ADAA Committee we ask that you all spare a moment of thought for Vice President Gary Cole and his wife Marie now having to face a sudden and major challenge to Marie's health. Gary has asked that we respect their privacy and not forward any ADAA concerns (or those pesky emails we all send!) that you might normally direct to him for the time being. Thank you.

WARNING ORDER

Our Annual General Meeting for 2009 will be held in June.

We hope to be able to hold the AGM at Amberley, Qld, using the facilities of 9 FSB. If we are able to obtain approval we hope to combine the meeting with a tour of both Army and RAAF assets.

We also ask for all members to consider nominating for the ADAA committee. Formal nominations are not required at this stage.

Further details will be posted in our next edition of "Clipped Wings", which will be before Anzac Day.

For those of you who haven't seen photos of our last visit to Amberley, go to our website (www.adaa.net.au) and click at the bottom of the left hand side.

OTHER CONTACTS

US Rigger Liaison Officer

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5 Ireland Ct
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Ph: (07)3264 5188

NSW/ACT State Representative

Queensland State Representative

Barry Gannon (President)
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ROCHEDALE STH QLD 4123
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Fax: 07 3841 3799

Vic/Tas State Representative

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Sth Australia State Representative

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ALDINGA BEACH SA 5173
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Western Australia State Representative

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2 Medford Crt
WOODVALE WA 6026
Ph: 08 9409 1252

Northern Territory Representative

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Biscuit Bomber Liaison Officer

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Committee Members

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NSW Mid Nth Coast

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Merchandise Officer

Paul Mulvay
56/4320 Nelson Bay Rd
ANNA BAY NSW 2316
Ph: 02 4982 1436
Mobile 0429 615 349

Honorary Barrister at Law

Mr. Allun Hill
Honorary Solicitor - Mr. Jim Isabella
Honorary Auditor - Mr. Bill Hardman

Contact with any of these honorary members should be made through the Secretary, Allan Dalton

The Air Dispatch Association of Australia Inc.

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Articles for the next edition of 'Clipped Wings'

("any time, anything . . . ")

clippedwings@adaa.net.au

Contact Us:

info@adaa.net.au

Check your membership status

www.adaa.net.au/html/membership.html