

THE "CLIPPED WINGS"

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AIR DISPATCH ASSN. OF AUSTRALIA



PRESIDENTS REPORT



Hello Everyone,

This is my first Presidents Report, so please bear with me. Some of you may be aware I was elected President of the ADAA on ANZAC Day at the AGM in Brisbane, this year. This is a great honour for me and I shall do my utmost to ensure the association moves ahead and we build on the sound base forged by my predecessors. That said, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the immediate past President, Gary Cole. As with all previous presidents, Gary has done a lot to enhance the association and build stronger relationships with our brothers in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States and I thank him for his efforts.

One of the first moves we have initiated is the State/Territory Representatives having their own collective email address. The idea of this is so we, at committee level, can have better communications with the members across the continent and off shore. Also in the untimely passing of one of our members, each state will have a dedicated point of contact with access to the committee for advising of such events so it can be broadcast to other association members more effectively.

We have recruited some new members into the Reps positions so please check the back page of this edition to find out who your State Representative is. Again, I would like to thank the previous State Reps for their input and assistance to the association.

Our Secretary, Chris Gill, Treasurer, Denis McCann, and Barry Gannon have been hard at it and I must thank them for their assistance and giving their advice. Pat Slee has also handed over the reins of "Clipped Wings" Editor to Jim Piet who shall be compiling the newsletters from now on. Thanks Pat for your assistance. Another person behind the scenes is Brenda Baber also a big thanks.

One of the new ventures we have embarked on, in NSW, is a dinner/get together roughly three times a year. This is to give our association a more social/welfare oriented theme. Besides that, the only times we get together collectively is on ANZAC Day, the occasional reunion or one of our mates funerals. I for one want to enjoy the odd drink and reminisce with old mates. We will be posting the dates of these dinners on the website and Facebook and look forward to seeing you there.

So, looking towards the 100 year Anniversary of ANZAC, we are looking at holding the main association march in Sydney in 2015. The committee is underway planning for this event. The other major anniversary coming up in the future is the 100 year anniversary of airdrop from a powered military aircraft, more to follow.

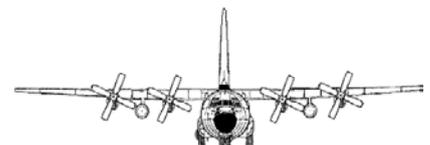
Our contingent has been formed for the **International Reunion USA 5th - 12th October 2014**.

Any members interested to join the reunion in South Carolina, contact Barry Gannon for information.

Contact number 07 3341 1796.

In closing, we are looking at a few different ways of doing things with a new outlook for the association and its members. Each time something is to be modified or amended, rest assured you will be notified accordingly. I hope to see more of you in the near future.

Cheers,
Nicko



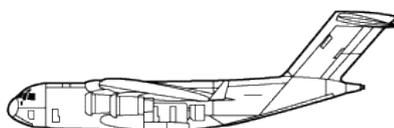
RED ON – STANDBY

Fozzie, you've done it again. 12 July we had our third "RED ON – STANDBY" and once it went off again without a hitch. Fozzie is becoming very proficient at organizing these functions. This night our ranks swelled from about 18 to 20, from the last two functions, to 40. It has been estimated next function, we will book out the whole room and we are looking at about 60.

The old and bold were there, Grant Foster "Fozzie" and Christine, Ron Blakely and Joy, Rusty Towers and Ros, Dave Jaehne and Lauren and Morgan, Geoff Harris and Kim, Mick Haumu and Lisa, Trevor Worland and Joanne, Peter Cassar, Anthony Eddie and Jim Piet.

New faces were Ian Morrison and Joanne, Al and Raylene Braid, Jerry and Kiwi Lieben, Paul Brealey and Karyn, Gary and Allison Wahlen, Will Cormack and his wife and Craig O'rielly and his lady, Margaret. We also had Jim Prien, Chris Gill and Denis McCann and if I've missed you out, sincere apologies. Notable MIA was Mark and Lisa Easthope, due to unforeseen issues.

One of the major problems we have is Air Dispatchers, both regular and reservists are spread all over the place and the tyranny of distance does take its toll. Please remember, one and all, the Squadron and AMTDU, everybody is welcome at these functions. The only thing we ask is that you notify me or Grant Foster so we can ensure we have plenty of seats.



Trevor and Joanne Worland and Grant and Christine Foster getting into the tucker



Ian Morrison and his wife, Joanne were two new faces in our line up



Paul Brealey and Karyn came up from Canberra to attend



Jerry Lieben and Raylene Braid stopped talking for a photo



Denis McCann, Jim Piet, Chris Gill and Rusty Towers (Ron Blakely in background)



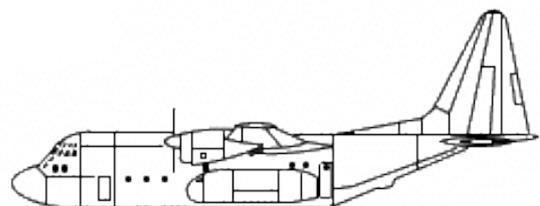
In the words of Rusty Towers "The tribal elders around the fireplace", Al Braid, Chris Gill and Nicko



Al Braid came down from the mountain and chats with Mick Haumu. Al, the old bugger, is getting younger. Meanwhile, Kiwi Lieben chats with Ros Towers

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Our next function is planned for **Saturday, 8 November**. We are hoping for 60 plus so please get in early.



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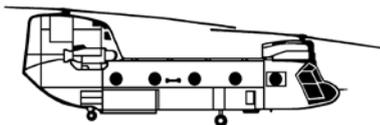
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Bill Hardman 02 9452 3116



Now we throw down the challenge to our interstate representatives. As part of getting the Association more socially active, this challenge, is like a State of Origin series in football and the score is

NSW 3 – The rest 0

So let's get the state/territory thing happening. It's not how many people turn up, its building the camaraderie amongst our current and new members and keeping the spirit of the Association alive.

It will be interesting to see how many of the states take up the challenge Finally, please remember, it's not them and us! Regulars, Nashos, Reservists, Malaya, Vietnam, Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan if you served with 36, 37, 38, 39 or 40 Air Dispatch Platoons, 176 Air Dispatch Coy/Sqn, 177 Air Dispatch Sqn, 2 Air Maintenance Platoon, 39 Air Maintenance Platoon, 1 AASO/ATSR or AMTDU, Air Dispatchers, Drivers, Riggers, Cooks, Q'ies, Clerks and RAEME members. If you served with us, come and join us for a meal and a beer (or two).

Looking forward to seeing everyone again at the next one in November.

Cheers

Nicko

SECRETARIES REPORT

Good news to start with

1. DVA has approved \$28,000 for the association to take recreational bus trips. So we need members to identify destinations for these trips!!!!!!

One is already planned to the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, date & time TBA

Each state will be able to access the funds, so State Reps hop to it.

2. To keep overheads to a minimum, we need members with an email address to send it to the secretary at secretary@adaa.net.au

I have some email addresses that I cannot identify the owner of.

3. Your executive including state reps is on the back page.
4. Everyone knows at least one other AD, so let's make contact with those we know and encourage them to join the Assn. If you don't wish to do it, send me their contact details and I will approach them.
5. Keep items coming to help the new Clipped Wings Editor on his way.
6. The date/time for a mid-year General Meeting in the Sydney area will be advised shortly.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Queensland Representative

Barry Gannon

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WA Representative

Doug Carpenter 08 9257

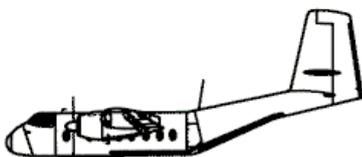
3713 dcarpenter@iinet.net.au

NT Representative

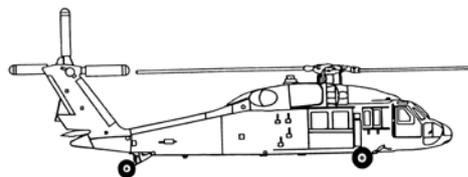
Bill Hayes

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bigbillau@yahoo.com



7. The planned bus trip to Canberra. The buses will pick up as they go from Victoria and Queensland
 - a. One will start in Qld and then stop-over in Sydney.
 - b. One will start in Victoria and pick up on the way to Canberra.
8. **ASKING MEMBERS WITH SPARE ROOMS TO OFFER**
BILLETING WHEN WE HAVE OUR GATHERINGS!!!!
9. After destinations and ideas for bus trips let's have them soon so trips can be planned.





What is the Long Ride?

The Long Ride is the brain child of former RAAF WOFF Chris Dunne. The first ride was in 2007 in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and upon entering Darwin had over 330 riders. That first event raised over \$50,000. In 2008, it travelled to Perth in support of The Prostate Cancer Foundation. In 2010, it became the largest event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere with over 450 motorcycles participating and raising \$209,000 for the PCFA. In the 5 Long Rides conducted so far, it has raised in excess of \$720,000.



Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia (PCFA)

All the funds the Long Ride raises go directly to the PCFA. This provides valuable funding for the PCFA to assist it in its research into the causes, detection, diagnosis and improved treatment of prostate cancer. It also provides support and counselling to those affected by the disease. To learn more about the PCFA go to their website <http://www.prostate.org.au/>.

Defence Involvement in The Long Ride

Chris Dunne served with our current CDF, Air Chief Marshall Mark Binskin. His last posting being as WOFF Discipline AFHQ. Chris has had some personal health issues over the years and when he approached the then VCDF about the idea of the Long Ride, he was keen to support it. Of course, it had nothing to do with the fact that he also was a keen motorcyclist. For the first couple of Long Rides, a few senior ranking RAAFies supported the event.

In 2010, I gathered 13 riders together from HQJOC to support "The Sally's" annual Blanket Appeal and then their Toy Run later in the year. From that grew the Canberra Defence Riders group which supports a number of charity rides throughout the year.

Move forward to mid-2012 and I receive an email from the VCDF to 'drop over for a coffee'. No clues as to why..... I drag the suit out of the wardrobe, brush off the cobwebs and head over. "Mate," he says, "there's a bike ride to Cairns coming up, how'd you like to organize it for me?" I don't know anyone who would be game to say no to the No.2 man and I wasn't about to be the first. "Sure, I can do that". Then he added "not just for Canberra but for the ADF Australia Wide"..... I got back to my office and sat thinking "shit.... you've really bitten off more than you can chew this time, you idiot"



Over time I managed to bring together a small team of helpers and together we pulled it off. The ADF Long Ride team in Canberra consisted of 46 riders and all up it raised \$58,000. The national tally for the ADF teams was in excess of \$86,000 and we had over 120 riders from all around the country ride to Cairns.

Long Ride 2014

This September will see in excess of 200 ADF/APS riders ride from various bases as far afield as Cairns and Perth ride to Ayers Rock/Uluru.

The aim is not to just raise money for PCFA but to raise awareness of prostate cancer. This insidious disease takes more lives than breast cancer. In the city environs, around 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. In regional areas, it can go as high as 1 in 4. That is a very scary figure!!!

Why is it more deadly than breast cancer? It's not! However, you'll all be aware that Breast Cancer has had millions of dollars raised to promote awareness of the disease thus leading to more women being checked and detected much earlier which results in the loss of less lives.

That is our goal for this ride – to raise awareness. To that end I will be leading the ACT contingent from Canberra on 28th September down through military bases such as RAAF Sale, HMAS Cerberus, Watsonia, Laverton and Puckapunyal to talk to our ADF men and their families about ensuring that they get checked early. Prostate Cancer IS very curable if detected early.

Diseases like this have a huge impost not just on the bloke afflicted by the disease but it affects his family emotionally and financially. It also impacts on the ADF with absenteeism and the associated costs factors.

If we can save just a couple of lives by visiting these bases and regional towns along the way, then it's worth the effort.

Air Dispatch Involvement in The Long Ride

Last year, we had the current SSM of 176 AD SQN ride all the way to Cairns and back. I was meant to ride but blew an Achilles tendon 3 weeks out from the start playing squash.

This year, there is another old SQN member joining me.... Some fella named Red Barron. We also have a couple of young diggers currently serving at the SQN riding along with the Richmond contingent.

How Can You Help?

First and foremost, for your sake and that of your family, ensure that you get checked out by the doc, sooner rather than later, if you haven't already.

If you would like to donate to our fund raising efforts, you can come along to the Black Tie Gala Ball being held here in Canberra on Saturday 30th August. Contact me for details, or you can go to the Everyday Hero website and donate online. It will automatically generate a tax receipt back to you via email. The link is

<https://thelongride2014.everydayhero.com/au/ADF-Canberra>

If you would like more information about the Long Ride or contacting someone in the PCFA, feel free to contact me.

Cheers for now

Brealz

Paul Brealey

Paul.brealey@defence.gov.au

02 6265 1173

0408 00 38 39



Life and time of Barry Armstead (Baz)

- Left Army in 2005 after East Timor and a few extra years as a corporal Air Dispatch crew-commander, PJM, DZSO, Sub-unit PTI and finished as CCOY 4RAR Transport supervisor
- Re-married 11 years ago and had a second son, now two and a half
- Worked as a truckie in Canberra for a while, then Purchasing inventory manager of a multinational building company
- Became a professional photographer in 2010 conducting wedding photography, wildlife, real-estate, event and portrait gigs. www.barryarmsteadphotography.com
- Worked as a tree surgeon for the ACT government for two years
- Currently working for one of the national parks in Canberra



Engaged in some creative projects

- Built two space observatories in my front yard, the second one is a two-storey building that now hosts schools, families, youth groups and interested parties as a free community resource on a regular basis and is a Christian ministry with a weekly men's fellowship evening. The observatory has showcased in multiple media releases including Better Homes and Gardens TV show, Manspace TV and several newspapers and magazines. www.asignobservatoryii.com



- Working on several cosplay suits (Iron-Man MKIV armour) for the purposes of fundraising and cheering up hospital ward children. First suit was fiberglass, second cardboard and working on the third suit now which is in aluminium.
- Currently studying conservation and land management and knife-smithing and forging
- Still conducting wildlife photography on a limited basis
- Have kept up adventurous activities over the years, taking groups of keen folks camping, caving, canyoning, abseiling, kayaking and bushwalking





Merimbula

Jewel of the Sapphire Coast

Contribution from: John Whittaker

Merimbula with its great climate, pristine beaches and abundant natural beauty is an ideal location for your next holiday.

Bass and Flinders explored the Merimbula area in 1797 – and were the first of many ‘visitors to be struck by the beauty of its waterways, and surrounding forests.

While oysters are a popular and profitable industry today, the discovery of a large number of middens either side of the lake proves the original Aboriginal settlers were just as passionate about them!

Close by are some of Australia’s most significant national parks offering a range of nature experiences that draw visitors from all over the world.

Merimbula buzzes with special events year round – the annual jazz festival, orchid shows, fishing competitions or the Merimbula Malibu or Classic wave sailing, kitesurfing and SUPs (stand up paddle), and food festivals.

The Merimbula Boardwalk skirts the northern shores of the Top Lake section of Merimbula Lake and is a 3.5km stunning round trip, broken by a wildlife experiences on the way. Or if you’re feeling a little more energetic, try standup paddle boarding in the protected lake waters, a local favorite.

And, of course, there is wonderful seafood. Don’t miss out on award winning locally grown oysters and mussels.

Merimbula on the Sapphire Coast, it’s beautifully uncivilised.



Merimbula's Main Beach has five kilometers to surf, fish or stroll. Short Point and Tura Beach are pristine with tea trees forming an intricate web of growth among flowering heaths and banksia trees.

When the surf's up in Merimbula, the boards and the bodies are a sparkling blend of bronze and white water, whilst the seemingly endless beaches provide the perfect getaway on golden sands.

Bush, heathland and forest provide habitat for our precious native animals. The walking opportunities are endless ranging from short walks around the town to walks through the coastal bush land from beach to beach.

Fishing



Fishing on sand and gravel around the Bournda, Tura Beach, Merimbula Bay and the Pinnacles areas produces some of the best Flathead and Gummy Sharks on the NSW Coast.

The Local Reefs

Snapper, Morwong, Deep Sea Bream, Trevally, Nannygai, Leatherjacket, not to mention the many varieties of Wrasses and Gropers, are a bottom bouncer's picnic, so if you're looking for a special variety of table fish, be assured the Sapphire Coast has them. Available all year round.

Trolling Season

The trolling season runs mid-October to the end of June. The fish targeted are Yellow Fin Tuna, Albacore, Dolphin Fish, Wahoo and Marlin. Trolling with lures is one method used to hook these fish. Slow trolling with Slimy Mackerel, Cowan Young and Striped Tuna is another. The best live bait, slow trolling season for Marlin is February and March.

Live Bait Cubing Season

Drifting over the Tathra and Merimbula canyons with live bait and running a cube trail produce some of the best catches of Yellow Fin Tuna and Albacore on the eastern coast of Australia. Big Sharks, mainly Makos are another fish caught in burley trails during Tuna season.

Wide Reef

Some good reef peaks are located just 15 to 16 miles east of Merimbula and Eden. The rewards are excellent with Tasmanian Trumpeter up to 35lbs, although most fish are between 10 and 20lbs. Also caught are Morwong, rubber-lip and Deep Sea Ling, Ocean Perch and Snapper. On the edges of the reef large Tiger Flathead.

VETERANS HEALTH WEEK 2014

The ADAA is hosting a Veterans Health week

On

19th October 2014

The activity will be a family B-B-Q and family fun day

Contact your state rep or the secretary for locations

Join us for a family day

RSVP 10th October 2014

Notices

August 24 2014 Vale - LTCOL Bob Cooper, RAASC, RAAOC, RACT
August 10 2014 Vale - Bonnie D'Arcy
July 14 2014 Vale - Bren Helson (Curley)
July 14 2014 Vale - Jim Chisholm
June 10 2014 Vale - Bob Kelly



If we have missed anyone we do sincerely apologise as it has been some time since the last newsletter.

To receive the newsletter via email please provide your email address to piety@bigpond.com

We would like to make the Newsletter interesting so please help us expand with YOUR input