

THE "CLIPPED WINGS"

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AIR DISPATCH ASSN. OF AUSTRALIA

June 2015



PRESIDENTS REPORT



Hello Everyone,

June, the first month of winter. This year in the Illawarra, it seems like we haven't had a summer. Since our last newsletter, we have had a number of new members added to our ranks, from NSW, QLD and WA. Our association is growing steadily and soundly but I must say

"The association is nothing without you, the members"

In April, we had our AGM with some of our long serving committee members standing down. Since our last AGM in 2014, apart from the sad passing of Chris Gill while in office, we have lost Kemm Baber, Brian Irving, he and Dianne are travelling around Australia caravanning for the next twelve months. Barry Gannon has also decided to go travelling with his wife Lyn. Gary Cole our Immediate Past President has decided to withdraw from the Management Committee after quite a few years of service. To our previous committee members, I would like to thank you for your time, efforts and energy you have put in during you time serving on the committee. Another member of our previous committee who is not on the current committee is Pat Slee. Pat stepped up to the plate when we were hurting for committee members and I also thank Pat for his valuable contributions. I believe all of you have left a solid base for the association to continue.

We welcome the following new committee members, Lou Heidenreich (Assistant Secretary), Grant Foster (Committee Member) and Geoff Cutts (Committee Member). Denis McCann has thankfully remained on as our Temporary Secretary and Treasurer. New faces for the State Reps are Glen Barton (QLD), Grant Foster (NSW) and Geoff Harris is our new Merchandising Officer.

This coming year the association needs to focus on the upcoming "Centenary of Airdrop and corresponding International Reunion" in Sydney in 2016, and the other big event on the horizon is the 75th Anniversary of airdrops on the Kokoda Trail (1942), in 2017. Major events have been planned for both and we hope to see as many members as possible.

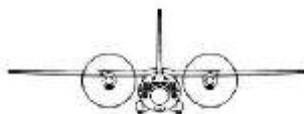
A big thank you to Trevor Worland for arranging the old Squadron Area at Penrith as a venue for our AGM. Also to those members who turned up for the meeting.

We are looking at making a few changes to our newsletter that will come into effect in this edition. We are spread all over this country and off shore in some cases. Trying to catch up with old mates is almost impossible unless they we know where people are. More to follow within the pages.

So far we have had a disappointing response to the survey. As we advised everyone in the previous edition, we were running a survey to find out what you want. Well for all our members, we got the grand total of 11 replies. There is still time. THIS IS YOUR CALL!!!

Our ANZAC Day Centenary, across the country was hailed as a success from the various organisations involved. Inside we have had some feedback and photos from some of our members. It seems, it doesn't matter where you are in the world, the Australian Air Dispatch fraternity is alive and strong. You and your mates who have served with Air Dispatch units are the people who can make it stronger. Give some thought to what you want and how we can make our association better

Cheers,
Nicko



Catch Up Corner

What's happened since the last edition?

Saturday 21 March 2015

RED ON STANDBY Dinner Emu Plains

Fozzie organised another dinner for everyone. Another good roll up but this time we did something different. Grant Foster, the man who organised all our RED ON Dinners was presented with a plaque from the Association in appreciation for the work he has done in getting these functions off the ground. Thanks Fozzie, keep up the great work.



Can anybody identify the masked man above?



Photos by Morgan Jaehne

Thursday 16 April 2015

Catch Up with some of the boys from Brisbane . Breakfast Creek Hotel

Glen Barton and Wayne Blackburn put together a quick get together at the Breakfast Creek Hotel in Brisbane. Members came from both the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast to catch up for a quiet drink and a feed.

From the left, Mick Ewer, Nick Nicolai, Tony Biggs, Wayne Blackburn, Glen Barton, Mark Swain, Stuart Hilsberg and Pat Slee. A good night for the first time. Stuart Hilsberg quote "The steak was good to"



Photo by some bloke in the bar

Thursday 7th May 2015

Catch up with some of the boys from Perth, Empire Bar Great Eastern Highway

Caught up with Ed Duffy and Cliff Williams at the Empire Bar. Shane Mitchell had put together a list of people to catch up with but due to the short notice and detachments, most had to decline. Ed and Willy both signed up as ADAA members. Been in contact with Kevin Pearks and a few others in WA will catch up with them next time I'm in Perth.



WARNING PRIVACY

If you catch up with any old Squadron (Regular or Ares) or AMTDU Members tell us about it. Give us a story and a photo or two

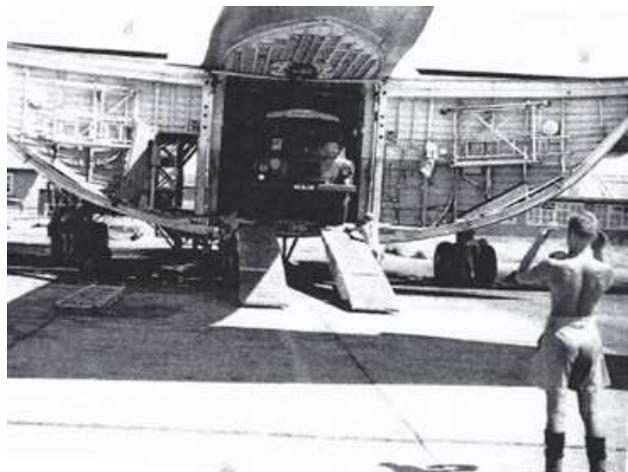
If you want to add to Catch Up Corner, email me on nick@janue.com.au or text me on 0407 942 904

CHRIS FELKIN – LIFE IN AUSSIE AND AIR DISPATCH

It's good to report on Air Dispatch and Aircraft, retired, current and those in the coming years as an example, the retirement of the Caribou and the arrival of the C-27J Spartan. Here we go?

My life with the Air Dispatchers started in England in 1959 at RAF Watchfield where we did air training for Air Dispatch and all training flights out of RAF Abington on Hasting aircraft dispatching SEAC PACKS (South East Asian Command Packs).

My first posting was to RAF Aden (Middle East).these postings meant we lived and ate with the RAF. The food was good compared with Army catering. In Aden, we mainly did air freight loading on Bristol Beverly aircraft (like a C17 but smaller and piston engines with a speed about 100 knots per hour). We would load Compo Rations (Composite Rations – the same as Australian Ration Packs) and dates plus Landrovers and trailers. It was a hard posting just sand and desert plus powdered milk, powdered eggs and powdered potatoes.



3 Ton Bedford Truck being loaded into a Beverly



Dispatching from the side door of a Bristol Beverly

When dispatching off the Beverly, we would have the rear doors replaced after the platform drops and start dispatching from the Port and Starboard doors. We would drop SEAC Packs using "R" Type and "GQ" parachutes. These loads could weigh up to 350 lbs. Kenya was a top posting

After a two year posting, I returned to the UK in 1963 and spent a year there before being posted to Singapore. This turned out to be an interesting posting. RAF Seletar, 55 Coy RASC. We had Bristol Beverly and Handley Page Hasting aircraft. The Hastings were fitted with roller conveyor and with 28 Basket Panniers, it was a hard load to restrain but the release was a lot easier.



Dispatching from a Valetta in Butterworth, Malaysia Mid 60's

The Valetta was an interesting aircraft because when loading, the aircraft had a spar opposite the wings two-thirds of the load had to go forward of the spar for the trim sheet to balance the aircraft for flight. Now the Number 4 crew member had to bring the supplies don to the despatch board area (that could be hard yakka).

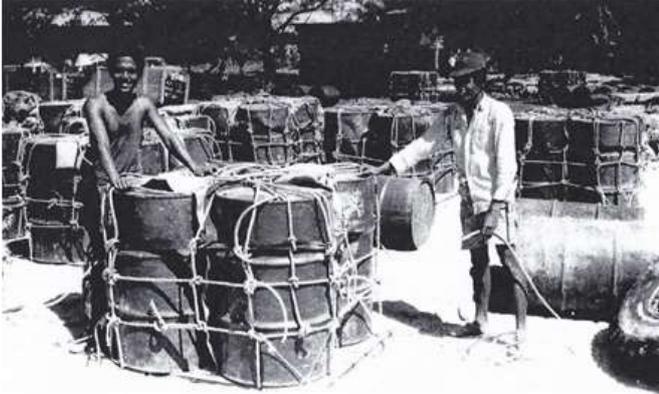
After one year in Aden I was due to go back to the UK but a posting came up for 2 years in Nairobi, Kenya. What a posting – it was like going to heaven, fresh milk and fruit and green grass – all good and a good posting. This was what Air Dispatch was all about. We had Beverly aircraft doing platform drops with 42 foot parachutes, we would drop AVGAS and Compo Rations for exercises. The dispatch was done on Dispatch Boards with a crew of four. We also had Scottish Aviation Twin Pioneer aircraft with a crew of two. These aircraft were used for flood relief in Malindi, Northern Mombasa. We would dispatch "Derby Sacks" (Like large potato sacks) filled with Posho (also known as Ugali – a maize/corn cob type of vegetable) and rice. Accommodation was at the local hotel and the food was very good.

While we were in Singapore, Air Dispatch introduced Category Checks. As a Crew Commander, you were tested on aircraft type, installing and breakdown of platforms and 1 ton containers. No Pass – No Fly. In the two years I had with 55 Coy I went to RAF Labuan twice on three month stays. I was also detached to RAF Kuching all operational sorties. Off to RAF Butterworth next, flying Vickers Valetta aircraft dropping supplies to the Gurkhas. We would pack the airdrop loads in the hangar one day then fly about a three hour sortie. We were issued with a pistol, 10 rounds of ammunition and a back pack parachute.



Vickers Valetta

While in Singapore, I spent time at RAF Changi, where I got the opportunity to do airdrops from a RNZAF Bristol Freighter. The aircraft had red and green lights and a bell would ring on Green Light On. A very easy aircraft to load.



After Singapore, I was posted back to the UK, 69 AD, RAF Tangmere. From there to RAF Lyneham where we had the C130 in 1968. After this I was posted to a small AD platoon in Bahrain for three months. We flew on Armstrong Whitworth Argosy aircraft where we were dropping 1 ton containers. The rear doors would open up for the dispatch a nice aircraft to fly in and work on.

In mid-1968, I boarded a RAF Vickers VC10, bound for RAF Lyneham where I demobbed after 9 years. As part of the demob program, I was offered a "Demob Suit" This suit was a Harris Tweed and a top hat all for the princely sum of £10.00 English Pounds. Guess what, I took the ten pounds.

The ten pounds was used 18 months later to pay for me to immigrate to Australia. The best ten pounds I ever spent.

I arrived in Perth in 1969, spent six months working in Wagin. A mate and myself got a VW Kombi van and we drove it across the Nullarbor and eventually got to Melbourne. I started work with QANTAS in Flight catering, I did three years with the then Air Niugini, then back to QANTAS. I transferred to TAA/Australian Airlines and in 1993 took a redundancy package as TAA/Australian had been taken over by QANTAS. I worked part time for Air Nauru then retired to the farm here in Maleny

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Gary Cole and Marie who tracked me down to join up with the Aussie Air Dispatch. A top team many thanks to all. A good group of diggers.

Chris Felkin

ANZAC Day 2015

The associations ANZAC Day commemoration services were held all over Australia and we have a few reports from some of our members. The ADAA.

The Sydney march had about thirty people attend. Some of our interstate members included Geoff Cutts and Graham Papworth from Melbourne, Steve Bleuel from Albury, Kemm Baber from Brisbane and Allan Dalton from the Sunshine Coast. We were originally going to march with two banners. The original banner that Logan McIntosh donated and the current banner. Unfortunately we did not have enough members to be able to have two banners so we marched under the current banner.

ANZAC Day 2015 march the end of an era. This was the last day the ANZAC Day parade will march down George Street in Sydney. The Sydney City Council in its wisdom is turning George Street into a pedestrian mall with a light rail (tram) system running through it.

Next year shall be interesting but the last heard is that the march would be down Elizabeth Street. We shall wait and see.



The ADAA marches down George Street Sydney ANZAC Day 2015



What an unruly bunch!



Cuttsy, Dolly and Bub (Geoff Cutts, Allan Dalton & Mark Whalen)



Mick Haumu and Geoff Harris (Men In Black)



Allan (Dolly) Dalton disrupting traffic



Father and Son Trevor Worland and Rhys
Rhys is currently in Kapooka undergoing basic training



Ian Baines and some of the old and bold
wander down George Street



The Wrap Up at Penrith RSL

Left to right Grant Foster, Jim Piet, Anthony Eddie (Standing) Bruce Wearing, Geoff Cutts, Steve Bleuel, Allan Dalton and Mark Wahlen

Thanks to Ian and Toni Baines, Bruce Wearing and Jade Erickson for the photos of the Sydney March

ANZAC Day 2015

AGNES WATERS, QLD

Supplied by Al Mason

Agnes Water/1770 RSL sub branch (central Queensland) boasts 46 members, out of a community of of around 2000.

Within that sub branch are three old Air Despatchers, Rob Tutt, Keith Gear and Al Mason.

These three obviously get together on Anzac Day and any other day that calls for telling stories (bullshitting), remembering events from the past and of course to partake in the occasional beer or red wine.

If you are ever up in that neck of the woods drop in and say g'day.



ANZAC Day 2015

SOUTHPORT, QLD

Supplied by Pat Slee



Pat Slee and grandson Ashton (left) and friends at the Dawn Service, ANZAC Park, Southport

ANZAC Day 2015

TOOWOOMBA, QLD

Supplied by Karl Hoppe

Good to see another Red Beret marching representing the AD fraternity



ANZAC Day 2015

GREENBANK, QLD

Supplied by Glen Barton



Greenbank RSL director Glen Barton with local member Leeanne Enoch at the ANZAC Day Service at Greenbank RSL. Approximately 12,000 people attended the Dawn Service and 10,000 attended the morning service after the local march.

ANZAC Day 2015

BOGAN GATE, NSW

Supplied by Rusty Towers

2015 saw Rosalyn and I head to the Central West community of Bogan Gate. Bogan Gate is located 336 kms west of my front gate in Cambridge Park NSW, or 100 kms east of Condobolin (Condo). ANZAC Day for us started before the sun came and before the wild life started to move around. We had a 36 km drive ahead of us from Parkes to Bogan Gate through forests and past wheat, sheep and cattle properties. Fortunately for us the roos, pigs and goats were still tucked away or lay wasted on the side of the road.

As we arrived there was a little movement of towns people and local cockies around the monument on the intersection of Lachlan Street and The Trundle road. By the time the service started there was 300 people gathered for the celebration. This included 9 mounted Light Horseman 2 of which were ladies, RFS (Rural Fire Service) Police, St Johns Ambulance, and Families.



Once the speeches were over the wreath laying began with 40 plus laid. The highlight of that for us was 4 of our nephews had the honor to lay a wreath for their Grand Father and Great Grandfather. Once the service had concluded, we proceeded to the Memorial Hall for breakfast. The town committee had also gathered information on those locals who had enlisted and went off to war, some never to return and had placed photos and stories around the inside walls.



The memorial hall also held fond memories for Rosalyn and I, as it had been 39 years since we had our wedding reception in that hall.

The rest of the day was spent at Rosalyn's brothers place and ANZAC day was again pretty significant for our family in that all my inlaws (Rosalyn's brothers and sisters) were all there, even though it was only for a short time.

Something else re Bogan Gate. When they celebrated 100 years of settlement of Bogan Gate, in 1997, there was a polo match played. The story of this match was that most of the locals enlisted into the Light Horse, now at that time, they were playing a polo match, but it never finished as they went off to war. So, the game was finished in 1997 during the 100 years of settlement of Bogan Gate.

Bogan Gate for all you people who have never ventured past Penrith is not where Bogans come from. Bogan Gate is in fact, The Gate to the West.

Regards Rusty

ANZAC Day 2015

WASHINGTON DC, USA

Supplied by Matt Kitchin

This year in Washington DC the ANZAC Day Dawn Service was held on the National Mall at the Korean War Veterans Memorial



At our last ANZAC Day celebrations, one of our members mentioned “We need a notice board to tell people – What’s on, where people are going and where people have been. So this lets try this. I am also looking at getting something similar on the Web Site realising Facebook basically does this now

RED ON – Standby Dinner

Date: Saturday 27 June 2015

Location: Ulladulla RSL, Ulladulla, NSW

Time: 1800 hr 1830 hr

Contact Details: Paul Brealey on paul.brealey@defence.gov.au or pbrealey1@bigpond.com or give Nicko a call on 0407 942 904.

This is our first dinner in this area. Come and join us for another great evening catching up with the old and bold. Rumour has it Ned Miller and Claire and Kel Hales and Faye will be coming as well as quite a few others

RED ON – Standby Dinner

Date: Saturday 26 July 2015

Location: O’Donahues Pub, Emu Plains, NSW

Time: 1900 hr 1930 hr

Contact Details: Grant Foster on 0413 190 541 or by email on gaf176@optusnet.com.au

Our old stomping ground. This is our second dinner at Emu Plains this year.

Brian and Dianne Irving Travels

Brian and Dianne are travelling around Australia. They are currently in South Australia and heading north their rough itinerary is below. If you want to catch up with Brian and Di, They can be contacted on mobile 0420353838

Broad Itinerary for Brian and Dianne Irving.
 Presently in Adelaide and leave for Flinders Ranges on 12 May 15
 Wilpena Pound for two weeks – approx. – 14 May to 30 May.
 Coober Pedy, Alice Springs, Uluru, Macdonald Ranges - June 15
 Darwin—early July.
 Kununurra, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Broome --- rest of July
 Down the West Coast till November.
 Perth first half of November.
 Back in Adelaide December, South East of SA after Christmas.
 Through Victoria to Port Macquarie by Feb/March.

April 2016

The International Reunion Celebrating 100 Years of Military Airdrop

The City Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

The Venue We are looking at the Panthers Resort, Penrith

The Program A number of events have been planned for our centenary celebrations and the committee is working towards one of the best reunions yet. Our international counterparts were advised at last years reunion in Charleston of our centenary reunion and the city and we have had a number attendance confirmations from them already.

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Vale



817966 PRIVATE LEWIS

George Francis William

J-Force. K-Force.

33871 SSGT LEWIS George Francis William BEM. MSM.

19/12/1951 Married Phyllis Lavinia Sinclair

1968 Thailand, Saigon Vietnam

1969-1978 until retirement 1AASO

1973-78 Operation Deep Freeze Antarctic.

Life Member NZADA. Patron and Life Member Waitara RSA
AD Brevet (64drops)

It is with huge regret that I inform you, Pancho Lewis
passed away 0130hrs Saturday morning, 9 May 2015.

He is survived by his wife Mrs Phyllis Lewis, daughters
Judith and Barbara

His send off was at the Waitara RSA, New Plymouth on 15th
May 2015 at 1100hrs.

WARNING PRIVACY

In regards to Privacy concerns, if you don't want to let people know your contact details, think seriously about what you post. Your contact details will only be added to the "Blurt" if you say so.

If you want to add to the "Blurt", email me on nick@janue.com.au or text me on 0407 942 904

The secretary and treasures report was not received in time to be published

Apologies for not publishing any articles received prior to this edition. They will be included in the next one

Editor

DISCLAIMER

All items submitted for publication in this Newsletter are published at the discretion of the Editor and the Management Committee. Comments and views expressed in this Newsletter by individuals are not necessarily the views of the Air Dispatch Association of Australia (Inc), Management Committee nor the Editor. Information provided should, if to be acted upon, be checked to the reader's complete satisfaction.