

THE CLIPPED WINGS



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

JUNE 2017

President's Report



Hello Everyone, welcome to winter,

Well another successful ANZAC day/week reunion went off very well for an off-year International Reunion. We had people from every state in Australia as well as two American guests and again, a great time was had by all. Next year, it was decided through the AGM, there would be no formal reunion in Australia as we have the International Reunion in Scotland and Ireland in August, so any get-togethers would be arranged by individuals. That said, Dolly Dalton from the QLD Sunshine Coast, expressed an interest in holding a reunion up his way (more to follow).

Our association is slowly moving ahead and although we have missed out in some areas (The Kokoda Track venture), we are moving ahead in others and our fund-raising activities are supporting various activities including our next "Myola Ball" to be held at Panthers in August.

Our membership is still fairly constant and although a lot of the older Ex Vietnam members have not bothered to attend many of our functions, that gap has been filled by others. This lack of interest or lack of support is not a new trait or peculiar to our association, not by any stretch of the imagination. A number of ex-military associations have folded because of lack of numbers and involvement. This can be attributed to many causes, such as travel distances and internal politics with bad health being the most common.

Recruiting members from current serving units is also a major issue facing ex-military organisations. I have discussed this with the presidents of the NZ and UK associations and various members of the US Red Hat Chapter of the Association of Quartermasters and we all have the same problem. "How do we get new people in to our associations?" None of us have the answer and the general consensus is we wait till those people get into their 40's, 50's and 60's before they come searching for old mates they served with, but until that time, we must keep functioning.

Since our last newsletter, we have had contact from the daughter of another departed "Biscuit Bomber", in QLD. Carole Plant contacted us. Prior to her father passing away, her two sons used to carry the banner for 141 General Transport Company of which 1, 2 and 3 Air Maintenance Platoons were part of. She wanted the tradition to continue and also wanted the banner to be placed in a secure

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place. It was decided the 141 Gen Tpt Coy banner would be marched with our ADAA banner this year in Melbourne and hopefully we can continue to march with both banners as a mark of respect to our predecessors.

During the reunion week, we had a visit to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum in Phillip Island, Victoria and although an impressive display, there was little or no mention of Air Dispatch, with the exception of a video showing some AD's doing a gun hook-up under a US Army Chinook. This prompted some of those present to ask why we were not represented and this came down to the fact we were under command of 1 ALSG. After speaking with one of the volunteers at the museum, I have been given some contact details and will contact them about having a section dedicated to 176 AD Coy Det.

We have also had contact from 22 Platoon, 1 RTB, Kapooka about obtaining some memorabilia for their lines. Any offers will be greatly appreciated.

We are currently acquitting our bus grants from DVA and are due to apply for a few more to enable our members to be more mobile and get to partake in various activities away from the normal living areas. We are also applying for other grants for computers and equipment which is outside our fundraising activities area.

As previously mentioned, we had our AGM on Monday 24 April at RSL House in Melbourne. This was arranged by Graham Papworth and our thanks goes to him for arranging the venue. One of the changes that occurred at the AGM was Lou Heidenreich stepped down as Secretary and Ned Miller stepped up to the plate. You may recall Lou was our Assistant Secretary and with the passing of Jim Piet, Lou filled the vacant position. Our thanks go to Lou for a job well done as he returns to the Assistant Sec's role again. I would also like to wish Ned all the best in his new position and I am sure the association is in good hands.

I am still trying to clarify the position of the UK ADA in regard to next years International Reunion and although Ron McCaffery has a brilliant trip planned through Ireland and Scotland, we still need to find out what our Brit counterparts have planned and if they wish to continue with these international meetings and get together. The numbers of UK members who attend overseas reunions is historically quite small and with the exception of people like Ron McCaffery, Bill Campbell (when he was able) and Reg Hollins, very few have attended overseas functions. I would suggest this could be attributed to any number of issues which in some cases would include age and ill health. It would be a shame to see the UK ADA fade from the international scene but we must be prepared to accept this possibility.

During the 2016 reunion held in Sydney, Mr Bennie Manning, from the United States, enjoyed himself so much, he promised he would return for our reunion this year and he did bringing with him a lovely lady, Miss Mary Robinson. Bennie and Mary spent 10 days with us before heading off to New Zealand to catch up with Kiwi AD's. Both are looking forward to catching up with everyone at next years reunion in the UK.

To those people who attended our reunion in Melbourne, Thank You, one and all. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and a big thanks to Geoff Cutts and Graham Papworth for their input. Until next time, Take care

Cheers, Nicko (June 17)

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Treasurer's Report

Annual Membership payments for 2017/18 are now due to be paid. The current membership list has been brought up to date and we have 95 financial members of the Association and 9 Life members. If you believe your name is missing from the list please send me an email with payment details to treasurer@adaa.net.au. Below is the current Financial membership list

Members paid to 2017

Len Armstrong	Warren Badger	Ian Baines
John Barnes	Glen Barton	David Beaven
Albert Bell	Ron Blakely	Steven Bleuel
Bill Campbell	Ken Chester	Andrew Clarke
Peter Cohen	William Cormack	Andrew Cornish
Peter De Jeney	Joe Delaney	Ray Farmer
Grant Foster	John Goddard	Geoff Harris
Stuart Hilsberg	Brian Holecek	Roy Howard
Ron Hughes	Charles Hutchins	Dieter Jankovic
Peter Keane	Terrence Klumper	Gary Lawson
Max Lincoln	Mike Lonergan	Kerry Luscombe
Blair Macdonald	Imre Marki	Ray Martin
Gordon McGeough	Garry McGravie	Robert McMaster
Edward McNamara	Eric (Ned) Miller	Alan Moore
Mark (Nick) Nicolai	Graeme O'Brien	Ray Opie
Richard Osbourne	Peter Russell	Jim Ryman
Barry Smith	Adrian South	Phillip Spry
Bernard Stevens	John Sumner	Rusty Towers
Edward Weidner	Mark Wolff	Trevor Worland

Members Paid to 2018

Paul Bates	Gary Berman	Denis Bowden
Matt Conwell	Geoff Cutts	Tony Dowd
Dennis Dray	Robert Flint	Lyndon Fracaro
Max Grimshaw	Lou Heidenreich	Terry Heydon
Brian Hill	Alan Howes	Michael Hughes
John Huddleston	Shaun Kool	Peter Le Sueur
Bennie Manning	Anthony McNulty	Peter Milke
Alan Pragnell	Jim Scotland	Peter Simpson
John Taylor	John Thurgood	Mark Wahlen
Lee Walsh	John Whittaker	John Williams

Members paid to 2019

Bill D'Arcy	John Durney	Chris Felkin
David Solomon	Zeek Zaffino	

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Members paid to 2020

Peter Munson

Members paid to 2021

Michael Johansen

Tony (Harry) Hordern

Current Life Members

Anthony Eddie

Robert Hutton

Denis McCann

Pat Slee

Kemm Baber

Brian Irving

Gary Cole

Barry Gannon

David Ferguson

Fundraising BBQ's are still going strong at Wollongong and Kirrawee - a big thankyou to Joyce and Nicko who do these BBQ's every month and to everyone who has come along to help with them. We have also picked up some Sundays at Bunnings Valley Heights for the rest of this year. To date for 2017 our BBQ fundraising has brought in \$7,368. We are well on our way to help a widow to attend next year's International Reunion in Scotland.

The DVA Bus Grant that was received last year has expired and we will be sending \$4,440 back to DVA.

The 2017 Melbourne Reunion was a resounding success and everyone who was able to attend had an enjoyable few days. Thanks goes to Geoff Cutts for organising the Reunion this year. Anyone who ordered a 75th Anniversary of Kokoda polo shirt they are ready to be sent out once payment has been received – The polo's are \$32.00 each plus \$8.00 postage.

PLEASE ALSO TAKE NOTE OF THE WARNING ORDER REGARDING OUR OLD BANK OF QUEENSLAND ACCOUNTS.

Kind Regards
Geoff Harris

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Fund Raising Report

Sausage Sizzles

Listed below are the fund-raising activities planned for the remainder of the year. If you can, please contact the arranger to notify them that you are coming along and pick up a pair of tongs to help sell a few snags, you won't be disappointed.

- 2 June Bunnings Kirrawee – not going ahead
- 6 June Bunnings Wollongong – arranged by Nick and Joyce
- 2 July Bunnings Narellan – arranged by Matt Conwell
- 4 July Bunnings Wollongong
- 7 July Bunnings Kirrawee – arranged by Nick and Joyce
- 16 July Bunnings Valley Heights – arranged by Fozzie
- 1 August Bunnings Wollongong
- 4 August Bunnings Wollongong
- 13 August Bunnings Valley Heights

Very busy 3 months coming up.

If you wish to organise an event in your area, please let us know and we will assist where possible.

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State Rep Report - Victoria

Following a very successful ANZAC week in Melbourne I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to all who attended the various activities, including our visit to AST at Puckapunyal, the Vietnam Veteran's Museum on Phillip Island, the RAAF Aviation Museum at Point Cook and, of course, the formal dinner at the Wharf Hotel and ANZAC Day breakfast and lunch at the Royce Hotel. Not all of our activities were of a recreational nature and some serious business was conducted at the AGM, kindly hosted by ANZAC House. At each venue we were able to proclaim our identity by erecting the new pop-up banners which were quite a talking point.

By all accounts a wonderful time was had by all who attended and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who made the event possible. Firstly, I'd like to thank CUB for their generous donation of VB and VB Gold stubbies to prevent dehydration during our travels. Also a special thank-you to the Army School of Transport for hosting us and providing transport to and from, including a brief diversion to the Vietnam memorial in Seymour. The Royce Hotel proved to be a great central facility and the digs were considered excellent, as were the meals, especially the breakfast after the dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance and lunch after the ANZAC Day march.

Thanks to the outstanding service provided by Murray's Coaches the trips to the RAAF Museum and Vietnam Veterans Museum were comfortable, informative and fun with lots of banter and laughter all through the trips. The Vietnam Veterans Museum was especially moving and, realizing there is currently no recognition of the role Air Dispatchers played during this conflict, moves are afoot to create an exhibition within the museum to describe our contribution. Again, the courtesy we received from the staff of the museum was outstanding, as was the lunch.

In conclusion, I would again like to thank all those who attended and hope that more members will be able to participate in future activities as they are great fun and a wonderful way to catch up with old mates and make some new ones. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Graham "Pappy" Papworth

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Annual General Meeting

Monday 24 April 2017

Commencement Time 1000 RSL House Melbourne Vic

Meeting Opened 1000 hours

Present Nick Nicolai, Lou Heidenreich, Geoff Harris, Geoff Cutts, Brian Hill, Barry Gannon, Ross McGann, Bill Darcy, Trevor Worland, Brian Hill, Garry Cole and Brian Irving

Apologies Anthony Eddie, Denis McCann, Ned Miller, Chris Felkin and Andy Cornish.

Barry Gannon raised an issue that he had been advised of by Denis McCann. The Constitution requires the advising of AGM to be provided in writing to all members along with a copy of the Agenda fourteen days prior to the AGM. The Secretary advised Mr Gannon that the notice had been advertised in writing on the ADAA web site three weeks prior to the meeting and a copy of the Agenda was also available. Three weeks prior to the AGM there had been no Agenda items but the notice of the AGM provided a request that anyone wishing to raise any agenda items should do so via email to the Secretary. The two items on the Agenda had been advised to the Secretary and were available to all members attending the AGM.

The President asked the Secretary to read the Minutes from the previous AGM.

Moved: Brian Hill Seconded: Trevor Worland that the minutes as read be accepted. Carried

President Report: The President welcomed all of the members attending the AGM and outlined the Associations progress during 2016.

Moved: Trevor Worland Seconded: Barry Gannon that the Presidents report be accepted. Carried

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AGM Secretaries Report

The Secretary was asked to read his report.

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the other Committee members for their support and assistance. As you all know I was asked to fill in as Secretary after the tragic passing of our colleague and friend Jim Piet. It was only with the assistance of the President, his wife Joyce, Geoff and Kim Harris and Brenda Baber that I was able to muddle my way through 2016-17. The Association has been on a path of resurgence and growth throughout the year, and this year (2017) has all of the hallmarks of being a great year. The planning for the Annual Ball is well under way thanks to Anthony Eddie, and the fund raising to support all of the Associations future activities are progressing nicely thanks to Nick, Joyce, Grant Foster and all of their assistants.

Whilst I will not seek re-election I know that my nominated replacement (Ned Miller) will be fantastic in the position of Secretary, he too has assisted me greatly during my brief term.

Correspondence In:

Biscuit Bombers Banner

141 TPT Coy (Biscuit Bombers Association)

Death Douglas Carpenter

National Disability Conference Initiative 2017-18

Closing of Volunteer Grants Application 2016

Brian Moore Anzac March Melbourne (Biscuit Bombers)

Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Leading Prevention Grant

Receipt Dept. Social Services (Grant)

INC1200406 Confirmation of registration of amendment to constitution.

Financial Grant application QLD Govt Website upgrade/ digital needs.

Peter Whitbread

Recruit Training Affiliation 22 Platoon

Correspondence Out

Biscuit Bombers Banner

Death Douglas Carpenter

Volunteer Grant 2016 Application

Recruit Training Affiliation

Moved: Geoff Cutts Seconded: Trevor Worland

Carried

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Moved: Barry Gannon Seconded: Trevor Worland

Carried

That the Committee continue on with the planning with the view of having the ballot conducted prior to Christmas 2017.

Other Business

The President spoke about the recent trip to the Viet Nam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island. It had been noted that there was no display that reflected the job carried out by the members of Det 176 AD Coy. The Museum curator said that they would be willing to offer up a space for a small display. It was suggested that a coordinated effort be made to procure suitable items for Viet Nam Veterans Museum and 22 Platoon lines at the Recruit Training Battalion. Trevor Worland volunteered to look into the situation and see what could be arranged.

Moved: Mark Nicolai Seconded: Geoff Cutts

Carried

That a support to both organisations be investigated

The Meeting discussed consideration of the update of the Constitution to reflect the changes in technology in light of the earlier mentioned complaint about individual notices not being delivered in writing to members. The practice as outlined was not the first time that the members had been advised via social media, in November 2013 the same practice was carried out, but the Constitution should be amended to reflect this. It was also suggested that the use of Skype or a similar teleconferencing technology be investigated so the members, who are unable to attend the AGM have the opportunity to view it via the internet.

Moved: Barry Gannon Seconded: Brian Irving

That the Constitution be amended to reflect the changes in using social media to advise members of AGM's and Agendas.

The meeting conducted a discussion about the 141 TPT COY banner and the need for a secure storage place for it. It was suggested that the banner (Biscuit Bombers) be stored with the current Association Banner and paraded on Anzac Day and any other day that was deemed appropriate by the Committee.

Lou Heidenreich
Assistant Secretary

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Audit and Financial Report

AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

(ABN: 82 580 295 387)

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2016

WINTER 2017

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AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

(ABN: 82 580 295 387)

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2016

<u>31/12/2015</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>31/12/2016</u>
\$3,795	Subscriptions	\$1,825
\$2,750	Sponsorship/Donations	\$4,346
\$0	DVA Grant	\$19,873
\$0	Functions & Trips	\$4,755
\$0	BBQ	\$26,290
\$0	Interest	\$18
(\$796)	GST Refunds	\$4,316
\$6,748	Reunion Contributions	\$24,883
\$9,217	Fundraising	\$1,896
\$329	Sundries	\$0
	<u>\$693 Merchandise Sales</u>	<u>\$6,621</u>
	\$7,048 Opening Stock	\$5,084
	(\$1,855) Stock Value Adjustment	\$625
	\$251 Purchases	\$6,855
	<u>\$5,084 Closing Stock</u>	<u>\$6,247</u>
\$333	\$360 COGS	\$6,317
<u>\$22,376</u>		<u>\$88,506</u>
	<u>LESS EXPENDITURE</u>	
\$247	Newsletter	\$0
\$95	PayPal/Bank Fees	\$119
\$719	Printing/Post/Stationary	\$1,953
-	BBQ Expenses	\$10,886
-	Reunion Expenses	\$51,168
-	Awards & Plaques	\$254
\$1,110	Insurance	\$1,120
\$101	Dept Fair Trading	\$54
\$2,255	Fundraising Expenses	\$1,162
\$5,361	First Aid Expenses	\$0
\$1,583	Reunion Memorabilia	\$0
\$8,844	Travel/Accom Expenses	\$391
\$492	Welfare	\$200
\$647	Internet/Web Costs	\$1,951
	Functions/Trips	\$12,021
\$500	Sponsorship/Donations	\$850
\$22,383	DVA Grant Repayments	\$0
\$164	Sundry Expenses	\$0
<u>\$44,501</u>		<u>\$82,129</u>
<u>(\$22,125)</u>	Surplus/Deficiency for the Year	<u>\$6,377</u>

M. Gordon

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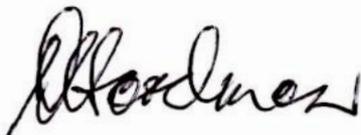
AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

(ABN: 82 580 295 387)

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2016

<u>31/12/2015</u>	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>	<u>31/12/2016</u>
\$56,011	Opening Balance	\$33,886
(\$22,125)	Add Surplus/Deficiency for Year	\$6,377
<u>\$33,886</u>	Closing Balance	<u>\$40,263</u>
 <u>REPRESENTED BY</u>		
<u>Assets</u>		
<u>Cash at Bank</u>		
\$15,888	Admin A/C	\$14,127
-	Merchandise A/C	\$836
-	Grants A/C	\$6,629
\$5,845	Fund Raising A/C	\$8,108
\$6,748	Reunion A/C	\$0
\$5,084	Stock on Hand	\$6,247
\$321	GST Refunds Due	\$4,316
<u>\$33,886</u>		<u>\$40,263</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
-	Less Creditors	-
\$0	GST Payments Due	\$0
<u>\$0</u>		<u>\$0</u>
<u>\$33,886</u>		<u>\$40,263</u>

Hon Auditor



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Auditor's Report

I have audited the attached Financial Statements that have been prepared from the association's records to reflect the financial position of the Air Dispatch association of Australia Inc. (the Association) as at 31st December 2016.

The Association through its Management Committee is responsible for the record keeping, preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein. The committee is responsible for ensuring that the preparation of report has been done in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in Australia and that it is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

The Financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's Financial reporting requirements. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

Following completion of the Audit I make the following comments;

- The Association was incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (NSW) on 6th December 2012; INC1200406 and regulated by NSW Fair Trading. It also holds a Charitable Fundraising Authority CFN/23996 which expires on 6th October 2017. This will require renewal before expiry.
- The management Committee must ensure that annual returns to NSW Fair Trading continue to be lodged in accordance with requirements. Annual updating of information with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission must also be maintained. A search of the ACNC Register did not reveal any ADAA records. The committee should verify compliance with the ACNC reporting requirements.
- The Association has become affiliated with the Vietnam Veterans, peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association of Australia New South Wales Branch Inc. (VVPPA). This was acknowledged in writing by the organisation on 19th December 2013.
- The Management Committee must ensure that all insurance is in place for the protection of the Association and its members from possible claims. Through the affiliation with the VVPPA, Public Liability cover through CGU expires on 7th July 2017. A current certificate of currency with the Association noted on the policy is held.



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- Receipts must continue to be issued in all instances when cash/cheques are received. Banking summaries confirming the amount banked and the correct allocation of receipts must be maintained.
- Committee Meeting Minutes must be retained on record, with the approved Treasures Report attached ratifying Receipts and Payments for the period. These records were not sighted at the time of the Audit. The Committee meeting minutes sighted had not resolved to accept the Treasures Report.
- The current Constitution and Objects of the Association must be read, and responsibilities understood by all Members of the Management Committee. Copies should be distributed and all Committee Members should formerly acknowledge that they have read and understood the document.
- The results for the year reflected a surplus of \$5,121 (LY deficit of \$22,125). This was due mainly to Grant monies received and unspent during the period.
- This stocktake has revealed an increase in stock held. The Management Committee must ensure that proper stock controls and management procedures are implemented. It is noted that \$625 (obsolete stock) was written off during the period.
- A Grant was received from DVA for \$19,872.73 on the 19th May 2016. A reconciliation has been provided revealing that the Grant has not been fully utilised. The management Committee must ensure that funds are spent in Accordance with the approval and properly acquitted accordingly.
- The Public Officer for the ADAA is now Mr E C Miller effective 1st November 2016. A letter from NSW Fair Trading confirming the appointment is held.
- When claiming GST, tax invoices must be held on file by the treasurer as documentary evidence of the claim. All tax invoices must be forwarded to the Treasurer.

The Financial Report represents fairly, subject to the above, the receipts and payments of the Association for the Year Ended 31st December 2016.



W H Hardman OAM

FIPA FFA Dip Law (LPAB) MAICD MICM JP

Hon Auditor

10th March 2017

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EVENTS

ANZAC Day Reunion Wrap-Up

This year, our ANZAC Day reunion was held in Melbourne and for those who attended, it did not disappoint. Geoff Cutts and Graham Papworth put together a world-class reunion during which all who attended were kept amused, entertained and interested.

Members from all over Australia headed to Melbourne to be part of our off-(International Year) reunion which commenced on 21 April. The NSW contingent opted to travel by train from Sydney to Melbourne and after a number of personnel changes we finally got our act together and instead of 10 members and their wives travelling, we wound up with 6. Mark Wahlen and his wife Deb could not attend as he had the opportunity to commence a new job and had to withdraw from the whole reunion. Grant Foster (Fozzie) on the other hand did not have anything so dramatic as to prevent him from not attending, he only required a triple by-pass (some blokes will do anything to get out of a reunion). Denis McCann also withdrew because during May, he is going to require a new hip (again another flimsy excuse). In all cases we wish those who were unable to attend through various reasons – all the best.

At about 0645, on 20 April, Bennie Manning, his lady Mary Robinson, “she who must be obeyed” (Joyce) and I made our way to Central Station to meet up with Denis and Jean Foster to catch the XPT to Melbourne. The trip, the whole 11 hours, was very relaxing and to be able to travel without being interrupted by mobile phone or emails made it even better.

We arrived in Melbourne about 1830 and after collecting our baggage made our way to the exit of Southern Cross Station. Our volunteer driver, who will remain nameless, was there to pick us up and after swinging by the Wharf Hotel we made our way to the Royce Hotel. I learnt from an early age to always use local knowledge where possible and whilst we were in transit from the Wharf hotel, we encountered some typical evening traffic and one particular incident that was rather disconcerting. Our driver and guide pulled into a lane of traffic and while waiting for the red light to change we noticed there was at least three changes of red light and our lane did not move – we had pulled up in a taxi rank! – Derr!

After swinging out of our stationary position, we headed down St Kilda road and into the Royce. Not a bad little shack, with a bar and restaurant. After a few quite sherbets, we headed to bed for our next day’s activities.

21 Apr Day 1 Our bus driver was there bright eyed and bushy tailed ready to take us to “beautiful Puckapunyal by the sea”. The bus and driver was supplied by the Army School of Transport and as well as our little push, we were joined by members of 3MD RAASC/RAC Assn for the trip. Our driver Cpl Darren Walmsley did a fantastic job, manouervng the vehicle through Melbourne



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morning traffic over the West Gate Bridge and along the ring road out to Pucka. This was pretty challenging as the traffic was down to a crawl and it was pouring rain. We had arranged to meet Max Grimshaw at the front gate but when we had not arrived by the arranged time the phone ran red hot wanting to know where we were and when we'd get there. When we arrived, we were taken to the Officers Mess for smoko and greeted by Maj Phil Bearzatto. The weather was bloody dreadful and after a display of the new MAN

truck and a ride in the Bushmaster, it was off to the Sergeants Mess for lunch. We left Pucka and visited the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour before heading back to Melbourne. It was still pouring rain. Drinks at the Royce and de-brief.

22 Apr Day 2 Murrays bus out the front of the Royce at 0800 and off to Phillip Island. The trip was good and our driver Brandon made sure everything was perfect. We arrived a little bit early at the

National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) so we headed down the road to Nobbies and the ecotourism viewing area. Allegedly there was a seal colony down there but it was too cold and blowy so we went back to the NVVM. The museum was very interesting and had some great displays from various units and actions. It also had a very good animated show which described a number of facets of the war. I'm sure some older hearts beat faster looking at some of the displays and video of external gun hook-ups under Chinooks.



After the museum, we had lunch there then headed to Parry's Chocolate Factory where some ladies (who will remain nameless) managed to just about buy out the shop. Back to the Royce for drinks and de-brief.

23 Apr Day 3 It was during breakfast this morning when we found we almost had an incident. During the night, one of our members had decided to walk outside onto his veranda and have a smoke, dressed only in his jocks (knickers, underwear, you name it) anyway when he closed the door, it locked and he was unable to get back in. Hmmm. There was a light on in the next door apartment so he decided to knock on the door and ask if the occupants could ring the Reception Desk and let him back into his room. No body was there. Hmmm. So he tried their door and luckily it was open. He found the phone, contacted reception and explained the situation. One of the staff let him into his room. It could have been interesting if the occupants had come home and found this person in their room wearing only his undies. It turns out when he went outside for a smoke the next morning the room was inhabited by three very nice young ladies.

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Off to the RAAF museum at Point Cook. A professional display and some very interesting diaramas a good outing for a few hours. Sunday night was the Reunion Dinner and we managed to attract a few more people, Lou Heidenreich, Brian Hill, Gary Cole and Marie, Barry Gannon and Lynne and one of our previous Patrons, Geoff Christopherson and Leonie. Geoff also marched with us on ANZAC Day. Another special event was also celebrated, it was Jean Foster's birthday (22nd we believe). A great night was had by all and we made our way back to the Royce for a night cap. We managed to get the stayers out of our room at about 0200.

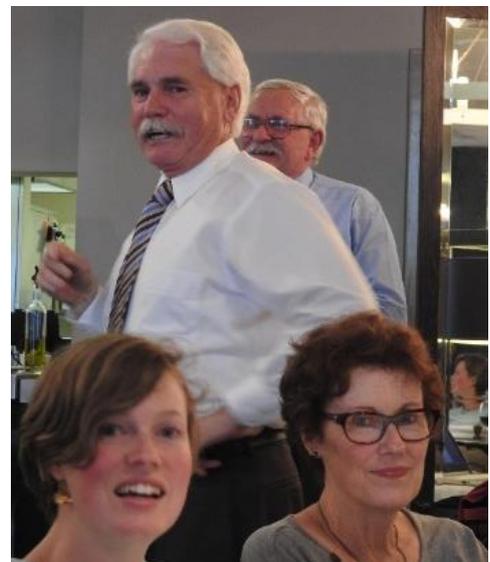


24 Apr Day 4 Stand down day for most but the AGM for everybody else. A reasonable attendance with 13 members present. Even if some were still hung over and another was still drinking (unbeknown to most of us). Kemm Baber arrived from QLD with the 141 Gen Tpt Coy banner.

25 Apr ANZAC Day 0500 the Royce hotel put on coffee and Brian Irving supplied the rum. It was the same weather as Day 1, pouring rain. We made our way up the road to the Shrine of Remembrance and paid our respects accordingly. The ground was soggy and people were sinking into it. After the service, we headed back to the Royce for breakfast. About 0930 we made our way up St Kilda road to our formup point where we were juggled and positioned and rearranged until it was march-off time. We were lucky because although cloudy, it hadn't rained from the time we left the hotel. Finally we were off, marching behind RAASC/RACT back down St Kilda road. The crowds were down in numbers this year because of the rain but we got to the Shrine with our two banners, fell out and headed back to the hotel for lunch. We managed to pick up a few more people with the march, including Denis Bowden (ex 36 PI) and Chris Folkes.



ANZAC Day lunch was pretty well organised and a good meal and a few more turned up. Peter Keane and Cath and their daughter Audra (pictured right) joined us for lunch. We had the mandatory speeches and this year we offered everybody the chance to get up and say something. Chris Felkin managed to coerce Bennie Manning to get up and sing. Some of the girls had their photo taken with Senator Derryn Hinch and every body wound up all warm and fuzzy. A special event occurred in the afternoon after the lunch, Bennie Manning said he would like to join the ADAA. This was quickly seconded by Brian Irving and he was presented with his ADAA lapel badge as a full member. We did have a few stayers and the last men standing were Brian Irving, Lou Heidenreich and Bill Darcy. The actual time of cessation was not noted but they were a bit peckish and Macca's was still open around the corner, so it couldn't have been too late.



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Kim Harris congratulates Bennie Manning at joining the ADAA!

Day 1 Army School of Transport – Puckapunyal



Jean Foster exiting the Bushmaster



Len Armstrong getting a feel for the new MAN



Welcome to Puckapunyal Officers Mess,
by Maj Phillip Baerzatto



Members of the ADAA and 3 MD
RAASC/RAC Assn at Puckapunyal Sgts
Mess

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Len Armstrong and Sandy Nhill survey the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk, Seymour, Victoria

Day 2 National Vietnam Veterans Museum – Phillip Island

Benni Manning and Mary Robinson our visitors from the US freeze at Nobbies while waiting for the museum to open



NVVM Guide gives us a welcome speech and describes the layout of the museum



A Centurion, M113, Huey and a Cobra Gunship in background



We were under threat of death if we didn't stop at Panny's Chocolate factory, Phillip Island. No names mentioned but it is understood a lady from WA has a very sweet tooth.

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Day 3 RAAF Museum – Pt Cook and the Reunion Dinner – Wharf Hotel Melbourne



Most of the Melbournites didn't come to Pt Cook but it was a very professional display

This was the crowd who was at the Royce. All the locals made their way to the Wharf Hotel



Just some of our dinner guests (Including the one who was disowned, for whatever reason)

Bill Darcy consoling Dianne Irving. Interesting holding Brians hand, head on Bills Shoulder and wearing the presidents Jacket



Day 4 Stand down AGM

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Day 5 ANZAC Day– The Shrine of Remembrance, The March and Lunch



Breakfast at the Royce, after the Dawn Service. We had about 38 turn up for breakfast, a good attendance.



The Melbourne March



Brian Irving and Bennie Manning proudly display the 141 Gen Tpt Coy banner



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Jean and Denis Foster and Chris and Rosa Felkin at the Shrine of Remembrance after the march



Brian Hill, Lou Heidenreich and Rossco McGann have a quiet beer



Geoff Cutts with Trevor and Jo Worland

Chris and Rosa Felkin, Senator Derryn Hinch, Sandy Nhill and Kim Harris



Our sincere thanks to Toni Baines, Denis Foster and Joyce Nicolai for our photographs.

THE CLIPPED WINGS



Soldier of the Year Award

My Report from visit to 176 AD Sqn on Thursday 6th April 2017 for presentation of the Unit Soldier of the Year Award.

The Soldier of the Year award was received by LCPL (now CPL) Carla Armenti, from discussions obviously well deserved.

We had discussion about having the award completed at a more appropriate time this year.

Generally, the Unit is well employed, some comment was “more work than we have troops for”. The Unit is growing in that it will be adding the old AMTDU hangar to its work zone plus expanding its outdoor space by about 100 percent. This tells us that the AD trade is in demand. There are also some significant infrastructure improvements due to happen shortly.

On walking into the Unit, there was a feeling of vibrancy. There was a spring in the step of each soldier, a sense of purpose in those who have things important to be done.

The Leadership obviously is bringing about such a purposeful environment and the troops are responding. A great pleasure to see and feel such an experience.

One must note, ex SSM WO Bills who I remember (but not his first name), but now is Capt. Bills, 2IC to Maj Francesca Molnar who now have under their command a very capable team.

Denis McCann, Awards Rep
Air Dispatch Association of Aust.

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Air Dispatch Trade Awards

BAD Student of Merit IET: PTE Lauren Clarke (presented by WO1 Eddie – Vice President ADAA);



Student of Merit Subj 4 CPL Air Dispatch: LCPL Daniel Toenjes (presented by WO1 Eddie); and



Gun Crew: LCPL Toenjes, PTE Clarke, PTE Meakins and PTE Hooper (presented by CO AMTDU).

The Gun Crew award is awarded to crew that performed the best throughout the course. This award was created by SGT's Peter Figg and Ian Murphy. The IET Student Of Merit will also have a photo taken with the presentation. This was created by WO2 Harry Hordern.

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ARTICLES

Sergeant Cecil (Cec) Christopher Parker QX48223

Recently, the association was contacted by Mrs Carole Plant from Brendale, in Queensland, yet again with more sad news of the passing of one of our predecessors. Her father, SGT Cec Parker had passed away and having been very active with his old 141 Gen Tpt Coy association asked if the ADAA would like their banner, as there was nobody left to march with it.

Cec Parkers detail are as follows:

Born: Ballandean, QLD 6 July 1917

Date of Enlistment: April 1940

Place of Enlistment: Brisbane

Date of Discharge: 1st May 1946

Posting at Discharge: 3 Australian Air Maintenance Company ASC



Cec's story is similar to his peers. He joined up at the age of 23 and was placed in the section of Driving and Maintenance instructing till August 1941. He then volunteered for a posting to Port Moresby, New Guinea with 125th Tpt Coy. He was promoted to Cpl in November 1941, one month later, 7 December 1941, Japan entered the war. In February 1942, he and many others experienced their first air raid. It was 0205 hr and bombs dropped 50 yards from the trenches which were full of diggers. He wrote *"I can still recall the looks, and the fear of the others as well as my own. We were all serious, still, silent for a few minutes, then the jokes started coming and all was back to normal. This was the only way to handle situation of that kind."*

As with everything army, units change names and 141 General Transport Company was raised and during this time, Cec was promoted to SGT. During his time in New Guinea, he saw many things but one particular day, *"His world momentarily stood still, when he saw his first casualty. Bill Townsend was killed by shrapnel. Not only was he the first Australian casualty, he was also a highly respected SGT and on of Cec's closest friends"*.

Carole wrote *"I remember Mum and Dad telling me how in their first years of marriage Dad would sit up at night because the war neurosis was so bad he couldn't sleep and had terrible nightmares"* (I think many servicemen and women can relate to these words).

After the war, Cec married Helen and tried to return to normal life. He started work in the building trade and eventually got his builders ticket. Cec and Helen had one boy and three girls. His son Christopher was born with brain damage and sadly passed away at the age of 24. The three girls however all grew up and married. One of the greatest pleasures for Cec was to build a house for each of the girls when they got married.

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One of Cec's major commitments was to arrange a reunion every year since 1984 for his old army mates. Their reunion day was held in October and he would send out invitations, and all his old diggers would turn up. They would talk about the old days and laugh and drink, while his wife Helen and the daughters would organise lunch for them all. This group also marched together on ANZAC Day alongside their families behind the 141 banner.

From his eulogy, one of Cec's grandsons, Jason wrote *"My brother Darren and I with our cousins have been privileged to carry the flag for 141 Aust Gen Tpt Coy in the ANZAC Day parade for many years. From a very young age, I remember marching through the streets of Brisbane. At first, next to my Papa, then as my brother and cousins grew older, we marched behind Papa and carried the banner and Australian Flag."*

Seeing Papa, out in front with his mate Glen, standing tall, marching in time with the band (even though at times it was difficult for us to hear the band let alone keep in time with it) leading his mates.... I was filled with and still am filled with a sense of pride and admiration for him. It has been and will continue to be an honour to be able to share this important day with Papa and the many other ex-servicemen and women who fought for our country.



ANZAC Day will always be one the most important and proudest days in my life. I know that I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that our family will continue this tradition and march for our Papa with pride in the years to come".



A clipping from the Brisbane Courier Mail showing Cec Parker in the front passengers seat of a jeep on ANZAC Day, some years ago.

This article was reproduced from the eulogy written by Jason, Cec's grandson and notes from his biography. I would like to thank Carole and Jason for the use of their words.

There will be more articles about the Biscuit Bombers in the upcoming editions of the Clipped Wings.

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Ironman alias Barry Armstead

Today's event was nothing short of amazing. The kids had an absolute blast and I reckon more than a few adults got a bit giddy too. Good to see the innocence coming out in everyone. There were smiles, screams, joyful outbursts, lots of high-fives and fist bumps, a few cuddles, some frightened crying, questions about flight capabilities and jaws on the ground.

At one point, three S.H.I.E.L.D looking security guards escorted for a full length walk of the shopping centre, stopping for photos with many along the way. Shop keepers and customers all came running out, I photobombed a poor bloke getting his hair-cut and popped over the rail, looking down into the food court a level down. Many exclamations from down there when that happened.

The suit was comfortable for the most part, with a couple of friction spots becoming apparent after time. I was hot, but we all knew that was going to be the case. No surprises there. However, once I got wet enough through the undersuit, I was actually self-cooling pretty well. Spent three hours in the suit, with two ten minute breaks spaced apart for some water and a couple of sweet lollies.

Very glad to get the suit off at the end, but what an experience!



There were a couple of good learning experiences with some of the wiring, a couple of the soft-parts of the suit coming unstuck, (no biggy) and the voice changer stopped working about half-way through. The good thing now is that I have some time to refine these things without the rush of a deadline.

Written by Barry Armstead

THE CLIPPED WINGS

Remembering Kokoda

2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. It was hoped that we could commemorate this milestone to coincide with Myola Day in August, by having a group traverse the "Track". Unfortunately, this venture will not occur but we will still be celebrating Myola Day with our dinner and ball.

Some time ago we discovered a second Kokoda Track, in Sydney. The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway is a living memorial and a principal site of commemoration honouring all those who fought for Australia during World War II. The main focus is on the sacrifices made during key Papua New Guinea battles which took place in 1942-43 along the Kokoda Track.

The Walkway covers more than 800 metres from Rhodes Station to Concord Hospital in Sydney's inner-west, and runs along the mangrove-studded shores of Brays Bay on the Parramatta River.

At the centrepiece are magnificent granite walls bearing photographic images of the Kokoda campaign. There are 22 audio-visual stations along the Walkway, each describing a significant place or military engagement. Station 9 highlights Myola, describing the creation of the drop zone and forward supply depot.

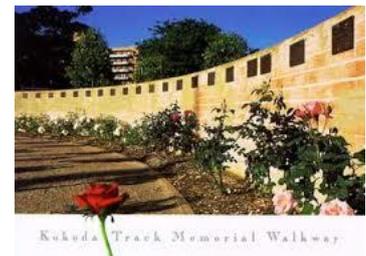


The Walkway has been planted with lush tropical vegetation simulating the conditions of the Kokoda Track.



It is a community project spearheaded by Concord Repatriation General Hospital, involving City of Canada Bay, Concord Rotary and the RSL of Australia. It provides an educational experience relating to this significant part of our heritage for current and future generations.

Access to the Walkway is via Hospital Road, Concord or Bray Bay Reserve. The entrance at Brays Bay Reserve is peaceful and beautiful, and features two semi-circular Memorial Walls amongst beds of roses. On the walls are plaques dedicated to the memory of individuals who served in the war.



For those who live in Sydney and haven't discovered this beautiful area, please do yourself a favour and take a wander down this track. If you are from outside of Sydney, it is worth taking time out to visit this area next time you are in town.

Written by Joyce Nicolai

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Annual RACT Air Dispatch Ball

The annual RACT Air Dispatch Ball is being held at Penrith Panthers Leagues Club on Sat 05 Aug 17, starting at 1830h. The focus this year is commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Airdrops at Myola during the Kokoda Campaign.

Dress is Suit and Tie/ Dinner Suit or Ladies equivalent. No medals as it is to be a relaxed non-military but formal function.

Cost is \$70 for the first subsidised 100 tickets sold then it goes up to \$100. So get in early. This covers the 3-course meal and alcohol for 3 hours. Entertainment will be provided by the Australian Army Band Sydney.

Tickets can be purchased through the try booking link via the ADAA Facebook page.

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WARNING ORDERS

Closing of BOQ bank accounts

To all members of the *Air Dispatch Association of Australia*

We are closing our Bank Of Queensland accounts as our transition to Westpac Banking is now complete.

Please amend any saved BOQ details you have saved in your records to the following Westpac account:

Account Name - Air Dispatch Association of Australia (Administration Account)

BSB – 032-814

Account No – 485891

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, as you will no longer be able to deposit into the Bank of Queensland accounts and changing the details now will save any issues with your deposits going to the correct account.

Kind Regards

Geoff Harris

Treasurer of ADAA

2018 Tour to Scotland and Ireland

Ron McCaffery of the UK Air Dispatch Association has put together a tour to Scotland and Ireland. It is hoped that the ADA will organise the 2018 international reunion either before or after this tour. If you would like to view the itinerary you can by going to:

<http://www.tours-international.com/tours-for-individuals/air-dispatch-scotland-ireland-2018>

ADAA members are able to login to view the prices. Please contact Nick on 0407 942904 or Joyce on 0408 473254 for the password to enter the site.

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VALE

PTE Aaron Stephen

Early on the morning of the 18th of February we lost a beloved member of 176 AD SQN **PTE Aaron Stephen** in a car crash. This news rattled the Squadron to its core, Aaron was an upbeat and happy person who could always make light of any situation. He was best known for his physical attributes, astatic physic and relentless training which lead him to win a body building competition and strong man competition. As a member of 39 Rigger platoon he was a vital asset to 176 AD SQN and assisted in many tasks and exercises.

Aaron was a colleague, a mate and a brother to us all. He will be forever missed.



Rest in Peace PTE Aaron Stephen

11 March 1996 – 18 February 2017

MAJ (Retd) Myles Johnson

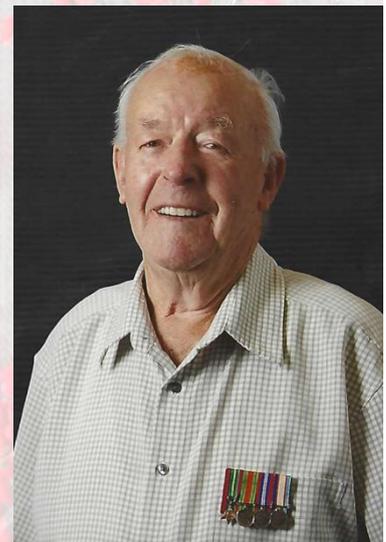
MAJ (Retd) Myles Johnson passed away suddenly last week.

A graduate of the RMC class of 1965, he served with 176 in South Vietnam 1967-68.

Donald Francis Cook

Donald Francis Cook passed away earlier this year.

Donald, from Pakenham East Victoria, was a WWII Air Dispatcher, whose military career spanned from 1 July 1942 until 10 July 1946.



LEST WE FORGET

WINTER 2017