



RAAF Radschool Association Magazine

Vol 35
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Sadly in the few months since our last issue, we have once again lost some very good mates.

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Our lovely Page 3 girl this time is Dianne Pickering. And – we have photos of courses from a long time ago.

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Sam asks the question, with all these new iPad things, are PC's and Windows on the way out?? and does 3D TV have a future?? And lots more!!

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Randall Kingsley reminisces about his Appy days and we have a good look at Frognall.

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	<p>Ted's got the new pension rates and has some good advice if you're receiving a pension and about to travel overseas.</p> <p>See page 6</p>	<p>Ken Marks, ex Radtech Air, tells us his story and we go to Caboolture to see the mighty Mustang.</p> <p>See Page 7</p>	
 	<p>We get to have a good look over Laverton, there's been a lot of changes since we were there in 1967.</p> <p>See Page 8</p>	<p>Let men grieve as men! How safe is your home, as we age we are more at risk of falls in our home. Homefront will call and check your home for risks.</p> <p>See Page 11</p>	
	<p>The truth on E10 fuel, should we be using it? and are frequent flier cards worth having?</p> <p>See Page 13</p>	<p>Anzac Day in Brisbane was a big day. We've got lots of photos.</p> <p>See Page 14</p>	
	<p>A few blokes are not as well as they should be.</p> <p>See Page 17</p>	<p>We're looking for a few people, perhaps you can help.</p> <p>See Page 18</p>	
	<p>This is where you have your say.</p> <p>See Page 19</p>	<p>Here's the new, all the news, the whole news and nothing but the news.</p> <p>Page 20</p>	

Opinion!

The ADFA Incident.

The recent incident at the ADFA was picked up by an over-enthusiastic press, and widely reported in both print and TV/radio. The Canberra Times, for example, shouted from its [headline](#) “OVERPAID, OVERSEXED CADETS.” The incident was also ‘grabbed’ by some self-seeking politicians who will use any event and will say or do anything to get their heads on TV, regardless of the consequences. Whichever way you look at it though, the actions of those young men cannot be excused, the callous, humiliating and demeaning treatment of that young woman was deplorable.

However - I feel that, once again, we have been let down by a large section of the media in the way this incident was reported. It seems the old adage of ‘*don’t let the truth get in the way of a good story*’ dictated the way Australia’s sensationalist press reported the incident. Bashing the ADF with a sordid sex story will surely



attract viewers/listeners/readers, doesn't matter if it's not strictly true.....

To me, it seems that nearly all of the Australian Media has grown lazy, they are no longer interested in factual reporting but in order to promote themselves, they look for and report only on sensational incidents, some of which they expand on or manufacture themselves.

Take the ADFA incident as an example.

ADFA, which is administered by the ADF but which relies on the University of NSW to tutor the cadets, is located in the ACT suburb of Campbell and is adjacent to but not part of Duntroon (above). That didn't stop the TV news editors showing images of cadets at Duntroon and intimating Duntroon to be the den of all evil where sleazy sex scandals were the norm. Nor did they mention that the cadets in question had been at ADFA for only about 3 months – that's how long most spend at Edinburgh doing rookies. Not a long time and definitely not long enough for a person to be “indoctrinated” into the supposed Defence Culture, whatever that is.

I'm sure most will agree that after the first 3 months in uniform, the only sense you have is one of ‘confusion’. There is just so much to learn and there is a whole new way of life to which you have to adjust and become accustomed and it is only after many months when you have settled into the ‘job,’ found out how the system works and established good friendships that you could say you were part of the ‘Culture.’

For the press to promote the actions of these young people as being a part of ‘Defence Culture’ is nothing more than absolute slovenly reporting. The ADF did not mould nor does it approve of the behavioural standards of these Cadets – they brought this behaviour to the ADF. Surely this behaviour

is a reflection of their life experiences from home, their schooling days and the communities in which they grew up.

It is ADFA's task to train and develop young people into competent and respected military leaders that are accepted by those they command. During this development state, cadets whose behaviour and/or character are found to be unsuitable to the task are released. At the end of the day, Cadets that pass out from ADFA are competent, responsible and professional leaders.

What the sensationalist media and some politicians have done, is introduce into the public's mind the idea that the ADF condones this sort of behaviour and that it reflects the wider defence culture.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The work carried out by the men and women of the ADF is done competently in a very highly professional, moral and ethical manner. These men and women have earned and deserve respect from all of us.

The media does not!

Taxation.

There is a rumour doing the rounds concerning the future Taxation of Pay and allowances whilst ADF personnel are on deployment. CMDR Steve Cornish RAN, Director Navy Employment and Conditions (DNEC) has provided the following advice which confirms that this rumour is incorrect. He says:



“THE RUMOUR IS WRONG - IF YOU ARE ON DEPLOYMENT YOUR TAX ARRANGEMENTS WILL NOT CHANGE”.

The person who originated the buzz has got it very wrong and clearly does not understand the meaning of the language used in the Budget papers.

In the following: '... **“ADF personnel are taxed concessionally on their base pay and allowances while on deployment.”** taxed concessionally' means that if you are in an operational area gazetted for tax concessions you will pay a reduced rate of tax. In most cases the concession is such that ADF personnel on Deployment overseas pay no tax.

DFRDB

Brigadier Neil Weekes MC (retired) will be well-known to many of you. He is circulating a petition in support of the Fair Indexation Bill currently before the Parliament (Senate).

The MP for Herbert (north Queensland), Mr Ewen Jones, needs to table the petition in Parliament very shortly (week after next) if it is to have any effect. That's the week commencing 30 May. The matter is urgent. If you agree with this sentiment, please print out the Petition, write your name and residential address, and sign. You don't



have to be ex-military to sign the petition, you only need to agree that retired ADF personnel are getting a rough deal.

Mail the petition by Friday 27 May to:

Ewen Jones , MP
Cnr Ross River Road & Nathan Street
CRANBROOK QLD 4814

The more pressure put on the Government to introduce fair indexation that protects the purchasing power of DFRDB/MSBS military superannuation pensions the better.

You can download the Petition [HERE](#)

Membership.

We still get mails from blokes asking why their name does not exist on the "List of Members", even though they joined some time ago and sent in their \$10.00.

As we've said, our old data base was so far out of date that it was next to useless so we had to ditch it and start again. We now do it all on line so there is nothing to print out and post in and as there are no costs involved, joining is now free.



Please check the [list of names](#) and if your name isn't there, please click on the "[Join the Association](#)" tag (there's one on the top of each page) fill in the details and send it to us.

Also, if you change your address, or phone numbers or email address, or you just want to say hello, or you want to give us a tongue lashing, you can do so by clicking on the "[Contact Us](#)" tag, also at the top of each page and filling in the details. It's so easy even an instrument fitter could do it, it's all done on line, no printing out forms and no postage.

Over the past couple of months we have been able to put a bunch of people in contact with long lost mates - but that's only because we have your details. Please click on the [Join the Association](#) tag and fill it in, the more people that join the more we can match up.

If you want to get the RAM, but don't want to join the association, that's not a problem either. Just click on the "Contact Us" link at the top of each page and fill in the details and tell us to add your email to the list. Then whenever a new edition is released you will be advised.

We don't and won't give out your details to anyone so there is no risk of you being spammed.

Index.

The Index is now finished - all references have been linked so if you're looking for a topic or a photo of someone, click on the [Index](#) link on the top of each page and just follow the links.