

News and Reunions!



Australian Air Force Cadets.

The Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) is a youth oriented organisation that is administered and actively supported by the Royal Australian Air Force.



Some activities undertaken by the AAFC include flying, fieldcraft, adventure training, firearms safety training, drill and ceremonial, service knowledge, aeromodelling, navigation and gliding. The fundamental aim of the AAFC is to foster qualities that will enable cadets to become responsible young adults, who will make a valuable contribution to the community.



John Griffiths, a bloke who has flown nearly everything the RAAF had in the garage, is the Director, Performance Evaluation, for the AAFC. He says the AAFC was known as the Air Training Corps (AIRC) until 2001, when it was renamed as the AAFC. In February 1941 the War Cabinet approved the formation of a cadet corps as part of the RAAF Reserve – the ‘Air Training Corps’ (ATC). A Mr W.A. Robertson was appointed Director with the rank of Group Captain. The original staff of the Directorate of the ATC commenced duty on 11 June and the six ATC Wings came into being from 12 August. All Wings were formed in the States by 1 October. Although staffed by a small nucleus of RAAF personnel, most of the ATC’s instructors were unpaid volunteers, many of whom had been pilots in WWI.

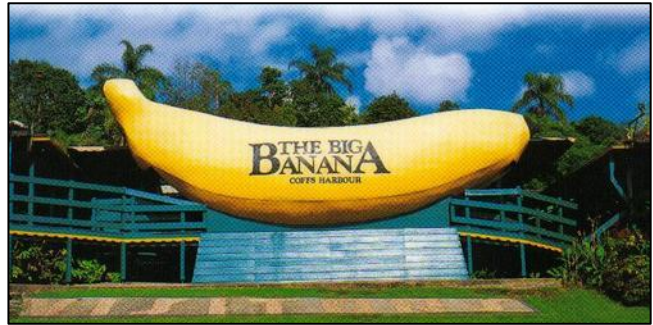
By 31 October 1943, 12,000 cadets were under training. Although this number declined to 7,557 when the Pacific War ended in August 1945, by then just under 12,000 former members had gone on to enlist in the wartime RAAF.

The Corps had two objectives, the primary and short-term aim was to train and educate young men aged between 16 and 18 to join the wartime RAAF. The second, long-term objective, to come into force after the 1939-45 War, was to encourage young men to increase their knowledge of air matters and in particular the RAAF, instil a sense of discipline and provide elementary training in air-related technical matters; thus, even at that stage, a continuing post-war role was seen for the Corps. These days, of course, the AAFC is open to both young boys and girls.

You can see more [HERE](#).

Coffs Ex Service Centre.

A new Ex Service Centre is being set up on the Mid Coast NSW at Coffs Harbour, VCMNC, it will be a hub for all Welfare Pensions from Woolgoolga, Coffs Harbour, Urunga, Bellingen and Dorrigo. Once the site is fully established, it is hoped to have a drop in Centre. Some funding has been provided by DVA.



Wednesday morning is an Ex Service Coffee morning at Piccolo Coffee in the Mall at Coffs Harbour, it is an informal meet and greet with lots of the younger and not some not so young chatting.

Full details will be provided once the site is established.

Trevor Williams

Advocate, Welfare Officer.

RSL Sub Branch Coffs Harbour and RAAF Association Coffs Harbour and District

17 Radio Appy reunion.

Graham Crawford is trying to organise a reunion of all ex-17 Radio Appies. 17 Appy graduated on the 11 August 1965 and August 2015 will be the 50th anniversary. If you're interested you can contact Graham on 08 8381 9181

18 Radio Appy.

Dave Gaffee (Secretary, RSL Port Lincoln Sub-Branch) has been asked to establish a database/website for all surviving ex-18 Radio Technician Apprentice Course members. If you were on 18 Appy please get in touch with Dave at dagrasshopper48@yahoo.com.au

John Butler.

Sean Butler, son of John, tells us that John and Maureen have up stumped and moved to Caloundra. They recently bought a block and are in the process of building, first a house, then an aircraft. "Buk" purchased an aircraft kit from USA and is going to build it. Part of the reason for the shift was to be closer to an airport for flying and to have a shed in which to build the machine in which to go flying.



Someone obviously forgot to tell Buk that he's nearly 70 and normally 70 year olds don't do that sort of thing.....good luck to him we say, I wish I had the energy!!!

Airman Aircrew Reunion.

The Airman Aircrew Association is planning a reunion to be held at the Maroochydore RSL on the 17-18 October 2014.

The reunion will comprise two functions; an informal 'Meet 'n Greet' on Friday afternoon 17th October 2014 and a formal reunion dinner on the evening of Saturday 18th October 2014.

The Maroochydore RSL is set in wonderful surroundings and close to popular beaches and tourist centres. Visitors will find plenty to do or places to visit while in Maroochydore. Guaranteed to be a great event with some interesting activities planned. Please stay-tuned for more details in due course.



You can get further info [HERE](#)

15 CLKA Reunion.

“Hi, I met you blokes at the [Equipos reunion](#) at Rathmines in November last year and hope that you can help. We propose to hold a reunion of 15 CLKA course (Wagga April to June 1968) at a date to be determined in 2014. Our problem is contacting ex members. I put a notice in last Sunday's Herald Sun and at this stage have had no response and there is a notice going into VETAFFAIRS newsletter in the winter edition. Would it be possible for you to include our details in your newsletter.



Contacts are Mick Hawryluk 0407 285 457, Peter Ruston 0438 885 381 and Ken Mould 0418 531 760. Would appreciate any assistance you can give. Thanks” - Mick Hawryluk.

Yahoo!!

Ian “Jake” Jacobsen, ex 34Sqn, 35Sqn, 38Sqn and CFS (and others), is setting off to organize a “**Seniors across the Nullarbor**” sortie on 50cc scooters in September 2014. Jake aims to raise needed funds for Beyond Blue and to raise the awareness that Seniors still have it after all.

Jake, as usual has put in a great deal of detailed planning and is now looking for some additional specialist assistance.



The Radschool Association has taken up the challenge – more on that later but we'll be asking for you to put your hand in your pocket to support this very worthy cause.

You read the concept plan [HERE](#) and if you would like to be involved, you can read the Expressions of Interest document [HERE](#).

If you think you would be interested please let us know [HERE](#). This is not binding but we will place your name/email address on a data base and make sure you get all the latest info.

Vietnam tour.

Phil Brooks wrote, he said: "I'm a member of the RAASC Vietnam Veterans Association and Diamond Valley Vietnam Veterans Association. A couple of years ago you very kindly provided publicity for the Grocers and Gunners Vietnam tour. Would it be possible to do the same for our 2013 tour? It's all for a good cause, as during the tour we raise funds for charities in Vietnam.

In 2012 we raised around \$1600 for the Hanoi Blind School and two H'mong village schools in Sapa. I've attached a tour brochure for your information (see it [HERE](#)).

You might also be interested in the 2012 tour article, published for the Diamond Valley Vietnam Veterans Association (see it [HERE](#)). I have about eight berths available at this stage. Last year we had three ex 35 Sqn members join us to add a bit of class to us Army bods and this year I have ex 35 Sqn and 9 Sqn members.

The tour is designed for those who have an interest, not only in Australia's military commitment to Vietnam, but also an interest in the culture of this fascinating country. It's four/five star, all inclusive and designed for couples.

On past tours, the Australian Defence Attaché has joined us for one of our dinners, which has been an added bonus. An invitation will be extended to the current attaché, who is RAAF, to join us for our next tour.



Accommodation for the 2013 tour is:

Saigon:
Vung Tau:

Danang/Hoi An
Hanoi:
Ha Long Bay:
Sapa:

Caravelle Hotel
Imperial Hotel (built on the site of the Badcoe Club)
Vinpearl Hotel
Melia Hotel
La Bhaya Cruises
Victoria Resort

I look forward to some of your members joining us on our tour.

Always enjoy reading your newsletter. I might have mentioned in a previous email that I was posted to the Army Survey Regiment, Bendigo in the mid 80's and had a very pleasant day at the Radio School, Laverton for Bones Day. I recall the RAAF were very hospitable, got us all drunk and then brought out the A team, who were stone cold sober.

In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the Mystic delivered grave news: "There's no easy way to tell you this", she said, "so I'll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."

Visibly shaken, Laura stared at the woman's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself and to stop her mind racing. She simply had to know. She met the Fortune Teller's gaze, steadied her voice and asked, "Will I be acquitted?"

For some reason, wives tend to like this joke..... Oh, and ex-wives too!

THE 521 FALLEN AUSTRALIANS VIETNAM RESEARCH BY BARRY HAMPSON

Click [HERE](#)

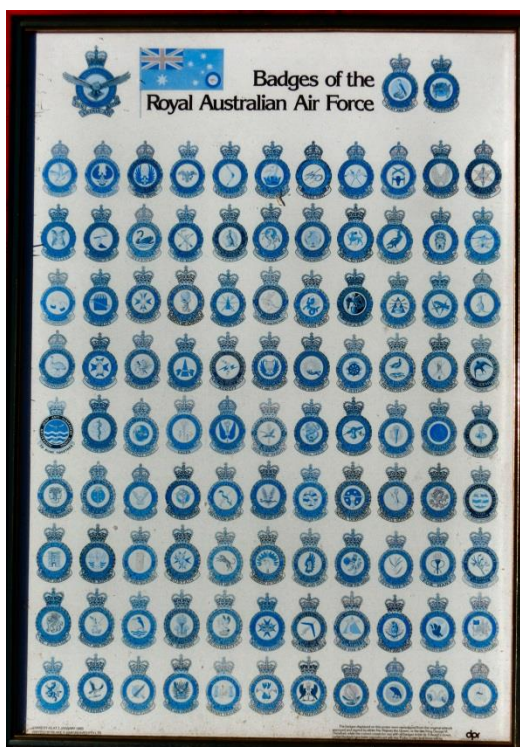
At the Movies.

As of the 6th May 2013, the Seniors Club Online is now rebranded Cine Buzz Rewards for Seniors. Membership benefits remain exactly the same as previously. For details please see [Cine Buzz for Seniors](#).

Please collect your new membership card when you are next at the movies.



If you are over 60 and already a member of Seniors Club Online and have a Seniors Club Online or a Cine Buzz membership card then next time you are at the movies at any Event, Greater Union or Birch Carroll Coyle cinema, simply present your present Seniors Club Online or Cine Buzz branded Membership Card and the cinema staff will give you your replacement Cine Buzz for Seniors Membership Card. <http://seniorsclubonline.com.au/>



Ted Ilton gave us this, it shows the badges for all the RAAF's Units/Squadrons.

Click [HERE](#) for a bigger copy.

Retired RAAF Engineer Officers.

A team of ex- Engineer Officers lead by GPCAPT (Retd) Brian Duddington, AM, is currently working to establish a Queensland Chapter of the RAAF Engineer Officer Association (REOA), the charter for which will be similar to that of the long-established Melbourne association of the same name.

Please see the REOA website (www.reoa.org.au) for details.

The charter provides a sound basis for the establishment of a “club” that would satisfy the needs of a defined group of people of similar background and professional interest while promoting the ideals of mateship and camaraderie in a relaxed and benign environment.

If you have any interest in joining the team or know someone who may, please contact Brian on M: 0417 625 213 W:3637 3833 or E-Mail: Duddo8@bigpond.com.au.”



WRAAF Reunion.

Kerry Brocket would like to remind all ex-WRAAFs that the next WRAAF Reunion will be held in Perth WA, 11th-13th October 2013.

The girls below at the 2011 Brisbane reunion, lunching at the Brekky Creek Hotel.



L-R around the table: Dianne Cardy, Jeanette Brookes, Roslyn Curran, Kerry Brocket, Maxine Moore. At end Lorry Cameron, Kate Lunt, Marie (sorry no surname) Jane Dowdeswell, Lindy Crimean and Carmel Homewood.

For more info go to <http://www.wraaf.org.au/> or email [wraff2013@hotmail.com.au/](mailto:wraff2013@hotmail.com.au)

11th Light Horse Military Museum

Russ Walker got in touch, he said, "I was wondering whether you might include some info on our new venture in the Caboolture district of Queensland in the Radschool Magazine. I am a member of the 11th Light Horse Military Museum Association (Caboolture Troop) which is located at the [Caboolture Historical Village](#). The Light Horse Troop has a display in the Village

and artefacts which cover from the Boer War to Vietnam. The Village is visited by thousands of people each year, mainly school children

You may be aware that recently the RAAF offered retired F111 aircraft and escape capsules to museums that could suitably display them, but under quite stringent conditions. I went along to the RAAF presentation with a team from the Village however the terms and conditions were far more than the Village and the Troop could meet or afford.

However, being innovative types we developed a plan to build our own Air Museum at the Village and to build a full scale model of the F111 in front of the wing. This is planned using techniques usually applied in model aircraft. The completed "airframe" will be covered with a layer of fibre glass and then painted in RAAF colours. The airframe will be fitted with two GWS model aircraft simulators and TV screens so that it will be just like flying a real plane. (similar to flying a radio controlled model)



In addition to the F111 model there will be at least three information kiosks with DVD presentations on various air related activities. There will also be two further kiosks fitted with Microsoft Flight Simulator software.

We currently have six large glass fronted display cupboards in which we hope to display a range of interesting materials from the RAAF or any other air related activities. This is the area where we are seeking donations or loans of material from ex- serving members. As Desley and I have been downsizing we have realised that we have a 50 year collection of "good junk" too good to throw out to the tip but is certainly interesting enough to be put in the museum. Accordingly, the Air Museum has become my best friend for lots of stuff that I simply did not wish to part with. Hopefully this will be the case for many who read the magazine.

We will be opening the Air Museum in stages. The new building at the Village will be finalised by the end of April 2013 and we hope to have the electrics and air conditioning finalised by the end of May. The F111 model is being prepared as a big model kit in my shed and will be taken to the Village and assembled there.

The information kiosks and reading material will be available by June 2013 so we will have a basic display operating by June. This includes donations that have been offered by local ex servicemen and women. Uniforms badges, insignias etc.

We believe that this is a most important museum for commemorating the sterling service made by the F111 and the men and women who flew, supported and maintained them. We are also

looking for people who might be interested in assisting in the project. There are many different aspects from ticket writing to preparing narratives for display items, to construction work. We have a number of electronics people but more are always welcome. We also need people to be present at the museum to explain the display to visitors on an ongoing basis.

I would be most grateful if you could let people know about the project via the magazine. I am the Project Coordinator on behalf of the Caboolture Historical Village and the 11th Light Horse Museum.

Anyone wishing to assist or provide donations can contact me on this email address: russell.walker39@gmail.com

Indonesian confrontation.

There is a Tri-Service commemoration ceremony planned for the 50th anniversary of the embarkation to Indonesia. See [HERE](#).