

# THE RAM

THE MAGAZINE BY & FOR SERVING & EX-RAAF PEOPLE & OTHERS

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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 issue is Sheena Millar and we have lots of old-time pics.

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What is Paywave, is it safe? and what is HDCP error. Why are the Kiwis so far ahead of us in fibre optics (the NBN).

See Page 4

114MCRU had a reunion. 25 Years ago, one of the RAAF's Boeing 707s crashed into the ocean near Sale and we have some old time pics.

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Here are the latest pension figures – and how do auto wind-screen wipers work. We have a look at the problems at Long Tan this year.

See Page 6

Angus Meikle joined the RAAF during WW2. This is his remarkable life. The F-111 aircrew had a reunion – we went along.

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1, 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Williamstown.

See Page 8

Electronic warfare is on the march, Nations are spending heaps on the technology and why is the earth rotating. See Page 9



The RAAF's lovely switchie girls had a reunion, we sucked in the gut and went along. The ex-Sale people also had a reunion.

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How to prevent prostate cancer and how to support a family member with depression.

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More of Geoff's book *Wallaby Airlines*. DVA Qld had their Christmas get together, we went along.

See Page 12

Remembrance Day was commemorated throughout Australia and we have a look over Anglesea Barracks Hobart.

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2 Sqn Assoc members gathered at Williamstown with current serving members to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
See Page 14

On the Saturday current and past 2 Sqn members got together for a celebratory dinner.

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John remembers his childhood living in London during WW2. Back in 1956 one of 11 Sqn's Neptunes crashed not far from the base at Richmond. Sadly, all on board were killed. Bob Hoover passed away.

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A couple of our mates have been crook. We wish them a speedy recovery.

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We're looking for a few people, perhaps you can help??

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This is where you have your say. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Here's the news, all the news, the whole news and nothing but the news.

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## 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.

## Alan Jones - Dan Tehan. TPI. (Continued)

In Vol 54 and Vol 55 we reported that Minister Dan Tehan had been interviewed by Alan Jones and had promised to look into the inadequate payment paid to TPI's. You can hear an edited version of that interview [HERE](#)."



We wrote to Minister Tehan asking him what were his intentions and we reported last issue that Minister Tehan hadn't bothered to reply.

Shortly after Vol 55 was released, we received a hard copy letter from Minister Tehan, apologising for the lateness of his reply and in which he said 'in effect' no way Josey! It was a very "motherhood" type of letter, telling me all the wonderful things DVA do for TPI's. He said:

*"Arguments about the perceived erosion of TPI were addressed in the 2003 Report of the Review of Veterans' Entitlements (Clarke Review). It found that those arguments did not take into consideration the total package of support available to TPI recipients, including the Gold Card and its associated benefits, and the Service Pension for those with levels of private income and assets that enable them to meet the eligibility requirement for the pension."*

You can read his full letter [HERE](#).

I wrote back to the Minister advising him of a few facts and you have to, at least, admire him for replying. From his letter, it looks like a bit of a back-flip from what he said in that interview and it seems the status quo is as good as it's going to be for a while, until perhaps the next election when I think there will be a major shake up. You can read the Minister's reply [HERE](#).

## Opinion.

Back in October, I was down at Williamstown for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of 1, 2, 3, and 4 Squadrons. It was a typical military event with a parade, troops marching, aircraft flying around, bands playing, lots of people looking on and a sausage sizzle – and it included a Welcome to Country ceremony.

A Welcome to Country ceremony?? WHY??

This particular ceremony was performed by John Ridgeway OAM, who was introduced as the Traditional Custodian of the [Worimi People](#) (he is given the title of "Uncle," ??) who I did meet and with whom I had a brief chat and who seemed a real nice bloke – but why do I need to be welcomed by him to a country in which I was born?? in fact, I was born before he was.

**John Ridgeway (left) and Neville Lilley  
Traditional Custodians of the Worimi People.**



This "Welcome" ceremony seems to have become a bit of a fad, a ritual and it's being performed at more and more events – but is it healthy?? I think it is a very divisive ceremony and although it might make some feel all warm and fuzzy, I bet it offends more than it pleases.



I think it has the real possibility of dividing us into a “them and us” nation and that would be very unwelcome. We are a one land, one people country, made up of hundreds of different ethnic backgrounds and religions and what we have works well. Cook landed here in 1770 – nearly 250 years ago, and although the land was then occupied by a people who we call Aborigines, those that came after Cook settled in and made Australia the wonderful country it is today. 200 years ago, atrocities were committed by both peoples, things weren’t all that smart for the Aboriginal people, but they weren’t all that smart for a lot of people who came by boat either. In time though, things settled down and we all got on with it.

Like John Ridgeway, I was born here, as was my father and as was his father, I have fought for this country – so as far as I’m concerned, that makes me a native and I don’t need to be welcomed.

Another ritual that is equally as divisive is the “Acknowledging” ritual. You hear this more often these days, on TV, radio, at our Parliament, even in schools: *“I would like to respectfully acknowledge the (insert tribe here) people who are the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand.”* What’s the purpose of this?? Irrespective of all injustices that happened in the past, I was under the impression that all of Australia belonged to all Australians – we judge people by who they are and what they’ve done, not by their ancestry – surely?.

All these “feel good” rituals have the distinct possibility of regressing us back into tribes, back into Feudalism, though I think the tide is changing, I think the so called “silent majority” is close to the “had enough” point and there will be some major surprises come the next election.

## Membership.

The response to our membership questionnaire was outstanding, we received hundreds of replies and suggestions and we’ve decided to go with the following.

- 1 year’s full membership for \$12.00 (now \$6 till 30 June 2017)
- Life (5 year’s) full membership for \$50.00 to 30 Jun 2021.

Annual Membership will run from July one year to June the next, with this year’s annual membership expiring in June 2017. As we’ve said, full membership is not compulsory, you can still receive the RAM which will remain open, free and available on the net and we’ve decided to limit life membership to 5 years because as we’ve recently discovered, we’re all mortal and 5 years could very well be a lifetime.

So, if you’d like to contribute and help us with the ever increasing costs, please join as a full member.

If you are already a member (ie: if your name is on this [LIST](#)), please fill in the form below and send it to us, if you haven’t already joined (if you’re not on the list), please use the form [HERE](#).



First Name:  Surname:

Your email address:

Membership type:

Please transfer your joining contribution to:

**BSB:** 124-021      **Account number:** 1048 7401      **Title:** RAAF Radschool Association.

**Bank:** Bank of Queensland.

and include your name in the "Remarks" window on the deposit.

You can of course pay more if you wish!!

**AND!!** If you work for a firm that would be kind and generous enough to sponsor the Radschool Association, please get in touch.

## RAM thought for the day.

Though no one can go back and make a brand new start  
Anyone can start from now and make a brand new beginning.

## Rubbish.

There's an email going around saying: *Headline News: "A flood of doctors" are abandoning bulk billing. According to a report in the Herald Sun, more GP practices are ending bulk billing as the Turnbull Government refuses to lift the freeze on the GP Medicare rebate. And new Medicare statistics show bulk billing rates dropping in recent months.*

*That means patients who normally bulk bill can now face a \$40 gap fee — much worse than the \$6 co-payment in the 2014 Abbott Budget. Non-bulk billing patients could pay a higher price too, as their gap fees increase. But this hurts pensioners, the chronically ill and people on low incomes the most."*





This email is being peddled by that left wing organisation Getup – and as usual it's rubbish, it's a political statement. They are frightening people and asking them to sign a petition to get the Gov't to lift the Medicare rebate freeze. The ABC, another left wing leaning organisation, reported recently that bulk billing rates have actually increased. See [HERE](#).

**Merry Christmas everybody, I hope Santa is good to you.**



**See you all next year.**

## Errors

Our aim is to have this site error free – but that's probably impossible. But with your help I reckon we can get pretty close. If you see any errors, be they punctuation, spelling, links that don't work, facts wrong etc, (no matter how small) please let us know so we can fix them.



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