

Page 3 Girl.



Our page 3 girl this issue is the lovely **Faye Chatham**, who was spotted at the Djinnang AGM/Get Together back in May 2011. In her RAAF days, Faye was Faye Wesley and in 1965 she was on 25 Teleprinter Course at Laverton. She now lives in the Bundy area in Queensland.

The History of RAAF Wagga.

RAAF Base Wagga was established in 1940. In 1939, the Australian Government bought some 300 acres of the property known as 'Allonville' from the Brunskill and Lyons families for the sum of £12,500 (\$25,000). The base was established to meet World War II needs because of its suitability in terms of climate (???), geography and accompanying infrastructures. The first buildings were constructed out of brick, as it was intended from the outset that this was to be a permanent base. Some of these original buildings are easily identified, such as the museum at the entrance to the base which was the original guardhouse.



During World War II, many temporary buildings were erected but these have since been replaced by permanent structures. In July 1940, No 2 Flying Training School, using Wirraways and Ansons, operated from the base. In 1942, the unit was replaced by No 5 Aircraft Depot, which handled the major maintenance work on aircraft including such famous types as Beauforts, Beaufighters, Venturas and Mitchells. Also operating from the base at this time were No 31 Squadron and 5 Operational Training Unit.

After the war, No 5 Aircraft Depot was disbanded and No 1 Engineering School relocated from Ascot Vale in Melbourne. In March 1946, this unit became known as the RAAF Ground Training School and, from this point on, became the centre of training for all RAAF ground trades. In May 1950, this was changed to the RAAF School of Technical Training and in December 1952, RAAF Base Wagga came into being, comprising Headquarters Wagga, RAAF School of Technical Training, Base



Squadron and No 1 Recruit Training Unit (1RTU). 1RTU was later moved to Edinburgh, South Australia.

Although the RAAF has provided instructional training since the early 1950s, it was not until 1985 that RAAF School of Management and Technology Training (RAAFSMTT) had its own unit identity on the Base. Since then, the school has developed the present suite of courses to train personnel as instructors, course developers, training managers, training administrators, and educational officers.

Until August 1998, Airmen Leadership Flight was formerly part of RAAFSMTT after which it came under the control of the School of Postgraduate Studies, RAAF College. Airmen Leadership Flight is responsible for the conduct of airmen courses in the Professional Military Education and Training Scheme.

Following are some photos of Wagga – taken many years ago.....some of these buildings might still be there??

Airman's Mess – 1954.





Post Office.



In the movies - Interbreeding is genetically possible with any creature from anywhere in the universe.

Education Centre.



In the movies - If staying in a haunted house, women always investigate any strange noises in their most revealing underwear.

Hangar 154.



Electrical section.



In the movies - Mothers always cook toast, eggs, bacon and hash browns for their family every morning even though their husband and children never have time to eat it.

Engine hanger.



Theatre.



In the movies - A single match will be sufficient to light up a room the size of the MCG.

Main Street.



In the movies - If a killer is lurking in your house, it's easy to find him. Just relax and run a bath, even if it's the middle of the afternoon, then look in your bathroom mirror and he will suddenly appear behind you.

Living Quarters.



Living area.



Appy rec room.



Base Hospital.



In the movies - It is always possible to park directly outside any building in any city that you wish to go to.

Living Area,



Wagga 2008.



THE BEAVERS - FURRY DAMM WORKERS.

RAAF Engineering Apprentices trained at the Forest Hill RAAF Base from 1948 through to 1993 under the auspices of the RAAF Engineering Apprentice Scheme. Over that period, 4,468 apprentices graduated from Forest Hill and fulfilled over 60% of the RAAF's technical manpower needs.

These RAAF School of Technical Training (RSTT) engineering apprentice graduates contributed significantly to the operational capability of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) in fields of aircraft maintenance, communication, aircrew life support, explosive ordnance and other logistic and support functions relating to engineering, supply, clerical and administration.

In January 1961 137 youths aged between 15 and 17 signed up as engineering apprentices; 132 in the RAAF, and 5 in the RNZAF. They were the 15th intake of the RAAF engineering apprentice scheme. They signed on for 15 years' service, and were given the course name of 'Beavers' (Furry Damm Workers).



The following five photographs are of the 137 Beavers taken in late January 1961 approximately nine days after they enlisted.

In the movies – A cough is usually the sign of a terminal illness.

15 RAAF Apprentice Intake (Beavers)

1 Flight
Wagga, January 1961



Rear L-R: Peter Hill, Gordon Ruming, Bob Koger, Kevin Esposito, Gerry Cansick, Dennis Caesar, Graham Johnston, Bill Vandenberg, Dennis Macneall, Doug Whawell

Centre L-R: Dave Martin, Mick Berryman, Miro Janco, George Newnham, Fred Adams, Ray Patterson, Jack Hardwick, Mick Bell, Dave Ryan

Front L-R: Ray Ashton, Geoff Unicomb, Gary Watson, Robert Rowe, John Gorrie, Bob Hood, Terry Morton, Doug Clark

No 15 RAAF Apprentice Intake (Beavers)

2 Flight (Kiwaroos)
Wagga, January 1961



Rear L-R: Brian Ryder, Chester George, Rob Wilson, Llew Robb, Warren Dickson, Ross Bryant, Jim Irvine, Dave Comber, Brian Camp, Bill McCarthy, Kevin Gurney.

Centre L-R: John Bone, Dave Court, Russell Cross, Frank Grimshaw, Tony Murphy, Mike Creswell, Flynn Henry, Peter Joyce, Ron Window.

Front L-R: Barry Worthington, Ralph Donelan, Ian Everett, John Sargent, Bob Greenacre, Jim Herron, Dennis Stringfellow, Al Lyon.

15th Intake (Beavers) commenced training in January 1961 at Wagga. One hundred and thirty seven 15 to 16 year old students were indoctrinated into military training which proved to be a very different world than their comfortable surroundings as civilians. Drill instructors had

methods of persuading young fellows into obeying rules and moulding characters to meet military specifications. After some 3 months of military re-arranging of thought patterns it was of some relief to commence training in Engineering.

No 15 RAAF Apprentice Intake (Beavers)

**3 Flight (Untouchables)
Wagga, January 1961**



Rear L-R: Athol Keanalley, Bernard Knowler, Lawrence Hunt, Keith Row, Peter Hollingworth, Graham Allen, Don Gordon, John Chapman, Philip Brown

Centre L-R: John West, Harvey Hersant, Ron Knight, John Tardy, Gavan Greaves, Noel Irving, John Rouse, Graeme Donald, Robin Rhoades

Front L-R: Richard Stone, Bill Cottrell, Keith Every, Peter Maksymczuk, John Patey, Alan McDonald

During the first twelve months all apprentices completed the same wide-ranging facets of basic engineering. In January 1962 apprentices were divided into their specialized trades, which included: Engines, Electrical, Armament, Airframes, Instruments and Motor Transport fitting.

Beavers were the last course to complete a three years training course at Wagga and were the last course to live in wooden wartime huts and have a cold dash through the Wagga frosts to the showers and loos in winter

No 15 RAAF Apprentice Intake (Beavers)

15th Intake – the Beavers.

Instrument Fitters 1963



Back Row L-R: T Kleyn, F Adams, F Grimshaw, J Wilkinson, B Simpson, D Stringfellow, K Row.

Middle Row L-R: P Booth, J Duncan, R Wilson, D Caesar, D Whawell, D McNeill

Front Row L-R: F Hardwick, B Worthington, R Hood, J West, R Knight, B Waters, R Bond

On the 13th December, 1963, there was excitement in the camp as 99 Apprentices finalized their military and engineering training at Wagga. A graduation passing-out parade and celebration ball were held to mark this important milestone for the Beavers.

AUSTRALIAN BUSH ETIQUETTE.

IN GENERAL

1. Never take an open stubby to a job interview.
2. Always identify people in your paddocks before shooting at them.
3. It's tacky to take an Esky to church.
4. If you have to vacuum the bed, it's time to change the sheets.
5. Even if you're certain you're included in the will, it's rude to take your Ute and trailer to the funeral.

Sergeant's Mess Mid-Year Ball, 30 June 1961. Laverton.



Irene McCarthy, Eoin
McCarthy (C.M.C.).
Wing Cdr. R. J.
Fairbank



RAAF Ballarat Basketball Team (Circa 1953)

Rear L-R: Ron GRAY, "Buster" McLEAN,
"Conch" CLEMENTS
Centre L-R: Plt Off McCAFFREY, Charlie
DOYLE, Kevin HARGREAVE
Front L-R: Brian TURNER, Peter
BLUNDELL.

13TPRINOP, 1961.



L-R: Kay WRIGHT (BIGGS), Margaret STAUNTON (DOOLEY), Denise SCHULTZ, Del SMEDLEY.

Sgt's Mess Ball, Butterworth. (early 1970's)



Ian Greenacre, Mick Paget, John Kelly, Vic Morrow, Yvonne Paget, Marlene Kelly, Marg Greenacre, Ann Morrow, Ray Trute.

9 RTC



Rear L-R: R Winwood-Smith, W Budd, G “Del” Delaneuy, J “Cho” Denton, I Bride, J “Jacko” Jackson.

Centre L-R: E “Warbo” Warburton, B “Mac” McWatters, B “B B” Burns, B “Schmidy” Schmidt, W “Dicko” Dixon, B “Miff” Smith.

Front L-R: H Farlow, E Young, R “Chappy” Chapman, E “Dad” Perren.

AUSTRALIAN BUSH ETIQUETTE.

DINING OUT

1. When decanting wine from the box, tilt the paper cup and pour slowly so as not to bruise the wine.
2. If drinking directly from the bottle, hold it with only one hand.

26 TPRINOPS 1966



**2 Sqn Comcen Vietnam,
Feb 1968.**

Standing L-R:

Les RAMSAY, Ray TRUTE, Derek ROLPH, Bob RYDING.

Seated L-R:

Aub WALKER, John COOMER, "Blue" TAYLOR.

3 TPRINOPS - Ballarat, (3 March-15 May, 1959)



Back row L-R: Heather Gray, Bobbie Atkinson, Joan Coles, Lyn Jones, Maureen Hickey, Barbara Frazer, Beth Lucas.
Front L-R: Phyl Hart, Joan Webb, Barbara Willis, Shirley Russell, Jeanette Badrick, Mary Lubbers.

I stopped at your house the other day and was told you were down at your favourite biker bar with some friends. I wasn't sure where that was, but was told I wouldn't have much trouble finding it. Sure enough, I drove just a couple blocks and there it was...There is nothing like the feel of the sun on your face and the wind in your hair, is there? Click [HERE](#) to see the bar.

In the movies - One man shooting at 20 men has a better chance of killing them all than 20 men have or shooting the 1 man.