

COMMSOP 1-92.

Now here's a photo that the RAAF should use on all their recruitment brochures, it would certainly make a bunch of boys sit up and take notice (as it did us).....



L-R: Anouk Condie, Annette Kelly, Lesley Hamilton and Dale Arnold.

The girls had just graduated from their COMMSOP course and were so happy the course had finished that they decided to show off their wonderfully natural attributes. Should be more of it we say!!

There are only three types of men. The handsome, the caring and the majority.

Columbus 1992.

The following photo was taken by one of the RAAF's photographers in June or July 1992 and was sent to us by Dale Bradley, who used to be Dale Arnold. It shows a bunch of people who were chosen to talk to the space ship Columbus, using the RAAF's gear.



Back L-R: ??, (Trainee RADTech), Anouk Purdie (Trainee Commsop), Bruce Fisher (Trainee Commsop), Jamie ?? (Trainee RADTech).
Front L-R: FLTLT ??, Dale Arnold (Trainee Commsop).

Dale says: "At this time the Columbus space shuttle was in orbit and we had the opportunity of talking to it. There was a ballot to see who would be 'the chosen few' and the people in the pic were the lucky ones. We knew what time the craft would be overhead so the Flt Lt got us together but we were unsuccessful as the frequency was jammed with Ham radio people and we couldn't get in. We gave up and decided to try again in 4 hours when the vehicle would once again be overhead. The RAAF wanted to record the event and we were then all sent

home to change into our “sparkling best.” This time we were successful and I can remember my lame question to the female astronaut “*what do you eat??*”

After it was all over, we proceeded with un-natural haste to the Airman’s Club” (ol i kolim “The Boozer”) “where we had one or six coldies to celebrate.

19 CommsOp Course, 1979



Back L-R: Dave Parker, Bruce Welsh, Daryl Lewry, Steve Parkinson, Rod Standen.
Front L-R: Nick Maguire, Vicki Taylor, Karen White, Debbie Salmon, Ray Nunn.

Death, is life's way of telling you you're sacked.

95 Teleg.



Back row L-R: Mal Wyss, David Corney, ?? Lynch, Darryl Lourigan, John Brown, Paul Garbutt, Bill Allen, Joe Fawcett, Mick Pengelly

Front row L-R: Steve Birt, Les Gardner, Pat Holland, Mark Burns, Ray Burdekin, unknown, unknown, Casey Mucchay

27 Comms.



Back row L-R: Paul Pickett, Bassett Smith, Barry Green, John Wells, Mick Grealy.

Front row L-R: Glenn Carter, Tony Buzek, Chris Watson, Lee Hopkins, Fergus Watson, Steve Clay.

It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.

Laverton.

This photo of Laverton was taken not long after the “New” Radschool building was opened and was sent to us by Bruce Welsh.



Q: Is it common for 60-plus year olds to have problems with short term memory storage?

A: Storing memory is not a problem, Retrieving it is the problem.

RAAF Base East Sale Medical staff, 1988.

Chrissy Hart, (right) who was Christine Martin in another life, sent us these 2 pics.

Supersede

5 OACS.



Back row L-R: Christine Martin, Kev Curtis, Leanne Goodwin.

Front Row L-R: Graeme Searl, Geoff Robinson, Coleen Harman, Julie Jennings.

And this

1AD Christmas party.

This party took place in the 1 AD hangar at Laverton in 1988. We don't know a lot of the people in the pic, but that's Corporal Blue Phillips on the floor holding onto Chrissy's leg (as you would) and FLTLT Colleen Warthroe (with the F/Sgt epaulets) also with the wobbly boot on and about to join him.

If you recognise anyone else, let us know.



RAAF Women go overseas.

The following clip from the RAAF News appeared in January 1985 and reports on what it says are the first RAAF girls to be posted overseas??

We're at a bit of a loss here – surely these girls can't be the first to be posted overseas,

The pic below is on the AWM web site as is the following:

"Almost a million Australians, both men and women, served in the Second World War. They fought in campaigns against Germany and Italy in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, as well as against Japan in south-east Asia and other parts of the Pacific. The Australian mainland came under direct attack for the first time, as Japanese aircraft bombed towns in north-west Australia and Japanese midget submarines attacked Sydney harbour.

It is also well known that girls in the nursing mustering were sent overseas to care for the wounded as far back as there's been a RAAF.

Not wanting to diminish the work done by the girls in the clip below, we don't think they were the first!!!



First airwomen go overseas

The RAAF has broken with tradition by posting married and single airwomen overseas.

Six airwomen, two married to serving members of the RAAF, have been posted to RAAF Butterworth, Malaysia for two years.

Two single airwomen have begun a six months' tour of duty with the Australian Contingent with the Multi-national Observers in the Sinai.

The eight will be the first airwomen to be posted overseas, following the Government's decision earlier this year to open more positions in the Defence Force to women.

The single airwomen posted to Butterworth, Malaysia, in December 1984 are:

■ Leading Aircraftwoman Michelle Blakeman, 24, a dental

assistant, of Cremorne, Sydney.
■ Corporal Carolyn Forday, 27, a communications operator, of Rockhampton, Qld.

■ Leading Aircraftwoman Kerry Grant, 23, an airframe fitter, of Moe, Vic (LACW Grant is the first technically qualified airwoman to be posted overseas. She will be attached to No 3 Squadron).

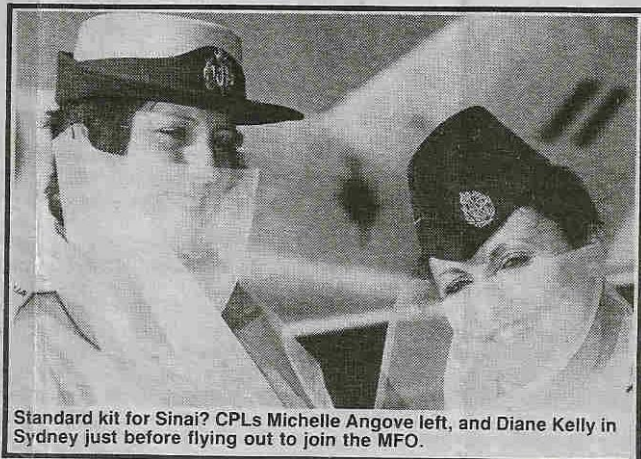
■ Corporal Anita Hirschfeld, 30, a policewoman, of Wongan Hills, WA.

The married airwomen posted to Butterworth are:

■ Corporal Deborah Wesley, 28, a clerk, of Brisbane, Qld.

■ Corporal Alanna Kennedy, 23, a communications operator, of Newcastle, NSW.

Both Corporal Wesley and Corporal Kennedy will be accompanied by their husbands, who also have been posted to Butterworth.



Standard kit for Sinai? CPLs Michelle Angove left, and Diane Kelly in Sydney just before flying out to join the MFO.

Corporal Wesley is married to Sergeant Stephen Wesley, an engine fitter, who has been posted to No 3 Squadron.

Corporal Kennedy is married to Corporal Russell Kennedy, an aircraft metal worker, who is also posted to No 3.

The two single airwomen, who

begin a six months' tour of duty with the Australian Contingent in the Sinai in January 1985 are:

■ Corporal Diane Kelly, 26, a communications operator, of Emerald, Qld.

■ Corporal Michelle Angove, 22, a clerk, of Brisbane, Qld.

Paddy is said to be shocked at finding out all his cows have Bluetongue.
'Be Jeysus!' he said, 'I didn't even know they had mobile phones!'

5 OACS – Laverton 1982



Standing L-R: Bob Anderson, Brian Gower, Mick Hillier, Sue Scarf, Mal Goss, Lynette Wood, Steve Grady

Seated L-R: Jane Mills, Adele Warwick, Debbie O'Meagher, Bernadette Vandetillaart,

3 Commsop – 1977



Standing L-R: Glenda Elliott, Leanne Hogue, Judy Evans, Kathy O'Halloran, Steve Roper, Di Cristea, and Sue Tapp.

Seated L-R: Bronwyn Dowdeswell, Di Kelly, Sybil Kintzell, Helen Pechey, Robyn Rybka.

Blokes who worked on aircraft sure had a boring old job when compared to the Comms blokes, just imagine having to work with all those gorgeous girls, just have a look at the grin on Steve Roper's face above, and no wonder!! – in my next life I'm coming back as a Commsop.

WRAAF Reunion, late 1980.

Carolyn Wilson sent us these photos, but time has blurred the details, if you were there let us know.



L-R: Christine Senior (Cashman) (COMMSOP), Bonny Boon (Airphoto Plotter?), Carolyn Forday (Wilson) (COMMSOP), Linda Cook (Walsh) (Cooks Assistant?)



L-R: Christine Senior (Cashman), SQNLDR Baxter, Carolyn Forday (Wilson).

Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?

Fashion Parade??



The girls held a fashion parade of old WRAAF uniforms.

Carolyn is splendidly outfitted in the overalls in the photo below.

