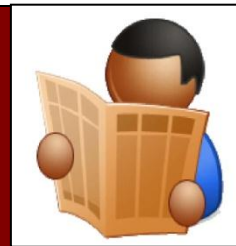


News and Reunions!



Howard Houlston.

Howard Houlston was in the Gong Ride on the first Sunday in November. The Gong Ride is a bike ride from Sydney down the hill to Wollongong to raise funds for MS (Multiple Sclerosis) - if you can contribute to a good cause (it's not too late) here's my fundraising link:<http://register.gongride.org.au/2012-Sydney-to-Gong-Bike-Ride/HowardHoulston>

Please help this worthy cause!!

Bob McInnes.

Bon McInnes, the bloke who led the charge to get helicopter [A2-1022](#) stuffed and mounted at the Caloundra RSL recently got in touch. His committee is trying to record the whole event and produce a YouTube clip – but they need a hand.



If you know how to do it and you have a bit of spare time please let us know and we'll put you in touch with Bob.

Defence Family Fun Day

Howie Campbell wrote, he says, "I am a member of the Central Coast Pension and Welfare Officers Network, and in May this year, we formed a committee to organize a "Defence Family Fun Day" which was held on the 28th October, 2012. We are very aware that our younger serving and ex-serving men and women, who have served in The Solomons, Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor and other hot spots around the world, are not travelling too well. There is a high rate of Post Traumatic Stress and suicide. We need to be there for these people. They are young and don't want to be called "veterans" and many, on discharge, are not fitting back into the general community. Our Family Fun Day was designed to attract them as well as their families, as they also suffer because of these problems. We had lots of stalls to show them what is available for them in the community, and also activities for children. We also had a "chill out" tent for mums and or dads.

You can download a flyer [HERE](#).

Howie Campbell
Welfare Officer, Radar Branch, and State Councillor ,
RAAF Association NSW Div.

Mike Greyson

This is an informative message to all my Aussie friends.



Your members who had connections with Radio RAAF Butterworth may like to know that a site has been set up on Facebook by Bruce "Bones" Welsh. Anyone caring to reminisce/join/post are welcome....Go to [Facebook.com/raaf radio butterworth](https://www.facebook.com/raaf-radio-butterworth)....see you there.

Everything will turn out alright at the end.
If things are not alright now, then this cannot be the end

This is *my* definition of a good bloke - tb



Helping hand: Ted McEvoy with 10-year-old Huong Nguyen Thi Vo, who is deaf. Picture: Lincoln Baker

Girl's plight inspires Vietnam vet

■ Elle Farcic

Huong Nguyen Thi Vo cannot hear or talk, but the 10-year-old's beaming smile speaks volumes to Vietnam veteran Ted McEvoy.

Mr McEvoy met Huong and her family two years ago in Da Nang, a vibrant city that seemed worlds away from the Vietnam he knew 43 years ago.

Three weeks after his wedding at age 23, Mr McEvoy, now 69, was sent to Vietnam to fight in a war he believes Australia never should have been involved in. Memories of the war remained strong and four

years ago he decided it was time to give something back to the people he had seen suffer from the conflict.

Mr McEvoy began teaching English at Vietnamese schools and so met Huong, a young deaf girl whose life he has changed for ever.

"When I first met her she was bubbly and happy and she was dancing for me even though she can't hear music," he said.

"She was so engaging, so I thought, bugger it — I will see what I can do for her."

Each month he sends her family \$100 to keep her in a school for deaf children.

On Sunday he went a step further and flew Huong and her mother to Perth for hearing tests, which were done free by the Ear Science Institute of Australia.

Unfortunately the tests revealed Huong, who has been deaf since birth, would not benefit from a cochlear implant.

Mr McEvoy said though the news was not as good as they had hoped, she was still a happy and healthy little girl.

"All of the kids use sign language at her school in Da Nang, so she is with peers and she is a very happy and inquisitive kid," he said.

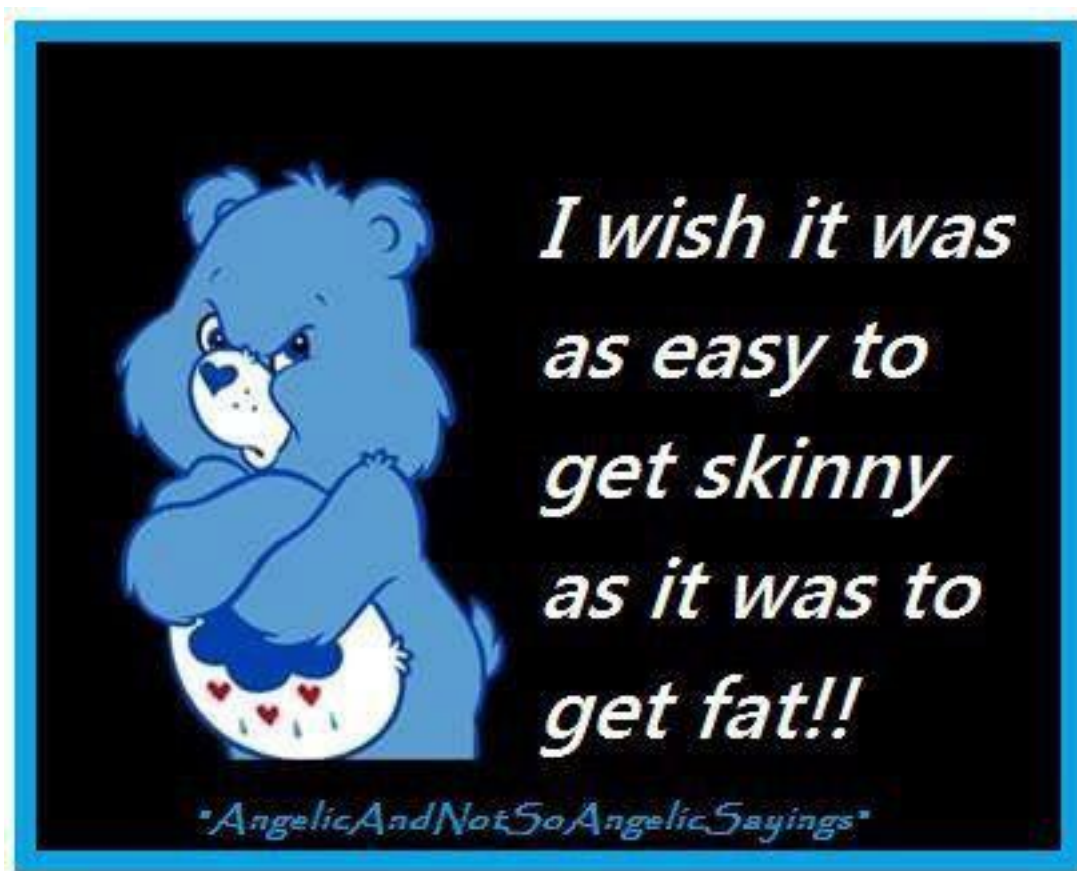
Mick Owens

Recently the Australian Communications and Media Authority announced the conclusion of its review of marine radio certificates of proficiency for recreational boaters. The outcomes from the review are:

That the ACMA will:

- co-ordinate the development and implementation of the Australian Waters Qualification (AWQ), which will become the new mandatory qualification for recreational boaters using VHF marine radio channels within Australian territorial waters. It is anticipated the AWQ arrangement will begin during 2013-14.
- align its remaining marine radio certificate of proficiency framework with the Maritime Training Package administered by the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council (TLISC) in the longer.

For more information on the review outcomes please see the [Media Release](#).



John Sambrooks**MEETING WITH LINDA & ADRIAN WOODS
LACE PRODUCTIONS**

Linda is looking to interview anyone who has had a connection with the Caribou for a story that will be shown on TV about Anzac Day next year. The story will also be distributed World-wide. It is not just about the Caribou in Vietnam, Linda wants to hear about other places where the Caribou operated i.e. P.N.G., Borneo, United Nations etc., flood relief, medi-vac. In other words, all and any operations in which the Caribou was involved. She is looking for the aircrew of the Caribou that flew the “Survivors” cast to Alice Springs.



If you would like to be involved, you can contact Linda here linda@laceproductions.com.au or Mobile 0411 884 559.

Avalon Air Show.

Avalon is gearing up for another monstrous Air Show (Feb next year) and if you haven't been to one, you should have it on the top of your bucket list – it is something not to be missed.



The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace and Defence Exposition (to give its full name) is an event unlike any other in the Australasian region. It is the result of many years of passion and enthusiasm by a dedicated group of aviation enthusiasts.

It has grown from a country airshow at Schofields in outer Western Sydney in 1976, to what is now a biennial event with an enviable reputation on the world airshow calendar. It comprises two separate, but concurrent major international events which are staged at Avalon Airport near Geelong in Victoria.

The Australian International Airshow, is a three day, action packed public event, with public flying displays and an amazing array of static aircraft to view up close.

The Australian International Aerospace and Defence Exposition is a major trade event for Australia's aviation, aerospace and defence industries, with some 600 participating exhibitor companies showcasing their products, services and technologies to a national and international audience.

Together these events are one of the most exciting attractions on the Australian tourism events calendar. Airshow 2013 will be the eleventh in the series of events staged at Avalon Airport. General Admission Tickets will be on sale soon, details are as follows:

Adult (15 years and over) \$60

Child (5-14 years) \$30

Concession (Pensioner, HCC, Student Card Only) \$50

Family (2 adults & 4 children) \$120

Children under 5 Free

*

On the public days (1-3 March) a car parking fee of \$10 per car per day applies and is payable at the gate upon entry. A group discount of 10% is available for advance bookings of 10 or more of the same ticket type for any one day.

Tickets will be available through Ticketmaster shortly. If you would like to register your interest in purchasing General Admission tickets for AIRSHOW 2013 or would like to be notified once tickets are available, please email your details to airshow@amda.com.au



If you would rather see the show a little more comfortably, you can always buy a Gold Pass, see details [HERE](#).

BUT!!!! There is another way to see the Air Show and that is as a Volunteer. If you have an interest in aircraft, and if you can spare a few days, then, not only will you get to see the exciting show for free, you will also meet new people, all with similar interests to yourself and also have a lot of fun along the way.



As a Volunteer you will receive the following benefits.

- Airshow Family Pass.
- Free access to Airshow campsite (if required).
- Free car parking in designated personnel car park.
- Meals provided as per roster.
- Uniform Provided.
- Post Event Recognition, and best of all,
- Post Event Party.

Garry Jarvis, who is an ex RAAF apprentice (Arab), manages the Aircraft Ground Operations area (tarmac) at the Airshow and he is always on the lookout for ex RAAF Techo's with tarmac awareness who would like the occasional fix of being around aircraft. Garry says there are many ex RAAF "grey nomads" who use the Airshow as part of their holidays and treat it as a re-union. All comment on the memories of the smell of burnt AVTUR, the scream of jets and the rumbling of radials that come flooding back.

At the 2011 Airshow the "Tarmacers" handled over 1,400 aircraft movements from 600 different visiting aircraft.

There are plenty of different jobs going. No matter what your background – there's sure to be a great job just for you. If you would like to know more about volunteering, click [HERE](#). That will take you to the registration page which has a description of each job.

Ex-WRAAF reunion.

Rosalyn Curran would like all ex-WRAAF's to make an entry in their diaries to remind them that the next WRAAF reunion will be held in Perth WA on the 11, 12 and 13 October next year (2013). It's still a way off but the organisers would like to get some idea of how many girls are interested in attending. If you are thinking about it (in a positive way) please email your details, ie name, address, email, phone, maiden name, recruit course number (if you can remember it) to wraaf2013@hotmail.com This of course is not binding, it just gives the organisers some idea on what to plan.



The reunion will be held at the [Rydges Hotel](#) in Perth.

RAAF Ex-Apprentice/JEAT Reunion.

Dick Tracey advises that the next Appy reunion will be held in Wagga on the 24th, 25th and 26th April next year. Click [HERE](#) to download the flier.