

# 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. What's the best Cloud supplier?

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Our lovely Page 3 girl this issue is Mary Thompson and we have lots of old-time pics.

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What's the difference between FAT32, exFAT and NTFS and what are file permissions?

See Page 4

We have lots of pics of old courses and some pics of Butterworth.

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At last, an investigation into DVA and what happened to the Wankel rotary engine?

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Nick Ford was the first to belly land a Mirage and walk away. He tells us when, where and why.

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The Red Hat ladies get together in Caloundra. Is Australia ready for a hi-tech war?

See Page 8

One of our Spartans crash lands and we have the "Harry de Wheels" story.

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50 years ago, 6RAR fought a remarkable battle at Long Tan. The AWM held a wonderful ceremony to remember it.

See Page 10

What to do about mozzie bites and are fitness trackers worthwhile?

See Page 11



More of Geoff's book *Wallaby Airlines* and more on the F-35.

See Page 12

The report into the fatal Mirage accident at Butterworth and Caribou A4-228's last sortie.

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2 Squadron Assoc members gathered at Caloundra to dedicate a Plaque to commemorate the Sqn's Vietnam service.

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3 Squadron Association members got together at the Currumbin RSL.

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John remembers the time he was declared not suitable for fighter aircraft and he has a look at Convair's YB-60 and the P-47 Thunderbolt.

See Page 16

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.

We had the following in Vol 54



"Alan Jones interviewed Dan Tehan, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on his breakfast program on the 2nd June. He brought up the subject of inequality of TPI's compensation payments and how TPIs have been losing buying power and asked the Minister why TPI payments have not been resorted to 100% of the tax adjusted minimum wage. The Minister was put on the spot but has promised to come back to Alan Jones with an answer.

You can hear an edited version of that interview [HERE](#)."

We've wrote to Dan Tehan some time ago asking him what his intentions are, to date he hasn't bothered to reply.....what does that tell you??

## 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
- Life (5 year's) full membership for \$50.00

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.

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those that matter don't mind, and those that mind, don't matter!

## Oh Dear!

OK, so we haven't mentioned the F-35 for a while, purely out of the goodness of our hearts, but we can't ignore the latest bad news. In recent months, Lockheed, the US government and various F-35 boosters have been trying to play up the success of the grossly over-cost, decade-late aircraft that Australia is wasting billions on. Alas, the Pentagon, which is the chief purchaser of the aircraft, isn't buying it. In a shocking memo obtained by Bloomberg, the Defence Department's chief weapons tester has damned the project, declaring "the program is actually not on a path toward success but instead on a path toward failing to deliver". And there is a "substantial risk" that full combat capability will not be obtained. This is despite the Air Force awarding the aircraft "initial combat capability" recently. The whole project "is running out of time and money to complete the planned flight testing and implement the required fixes and modifications".



Worse, problems "continue to be discovered at a substantial rate". There's also a minor ongoing problem of not having "a functioning and accurate gun". Further details [HERE](#).

So, all's going well then?



## 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.