



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 Janette Copeman-Vaughan and we have lots of old time pics.

See Page 3.



Spyware is a real problem, you must protect yourself. We have some useful MS-Office tips

See Page 4

Uranquinty ain't what she used to be and we've got pics from long ago.

See Page 5





There is some confusion on who can claim War Widows' Pension and what are your entitlements with the DVA Gold Card.

See Page 6



Jock Cassels continues his story of his exciting life in two Air Forces.

See Page 7



If you're in Melbourne the Airways Museum at Essendon Airport is definitely worth a visit.

See Page 8

When driving into Canberra on the Federal Hwy, make sure you stop off at the RAAF Memorial Grove.

See Page 9



The Djinnang people held their annual get together in Brisbane.

See Page 10

Do aphrodisiacs work? And is chocolate good for your health?

See Page 11.



Jeff remembers his time flying the old Caribou in Vietnam back in 1966/67. Townsville airport is being upgraded.

See Page 12

The MCG in Melbourne has a wonderful history.

See Page 13



ANZAC Day was celebrated by thousands again, old friends got together to reminisce old times.

See Page 14.

3 CRU recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

See Page 15







*“The Pot Belly Stove”*. John tells us some more of his enviable and sometimes humorous escapades in the left land seat.

See Page 16

Sick parade.

See Page 17



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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Bomber Command Commemoration plus 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.

## Opinion.

Most of our readers were proud to have served Australia in one of her Armed Services, be it in the Army, Navy or the Air Force. Some did the minimum term, a lot stayed on for a lot longer, and of those that did serve, the vast majority remember their time in uniform fondly, they made life-long friends and at the drop of a hat they will get together again in large numbers to chat, keep old friendships alive and to recall those “great times.” They would do it all again.

While in uniform they worked on some of the ADF's latest and in some cases very sensitive equipment, they had access to and either flew, sailed, drove, operated or fixed its aircraft, its ships or its machinery, some sent and received sensitive messages, some typed and read secret



correspondence. As promotions were obtained, some made decisions that determined the safety and security of the Nation.

Some made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation they loved, some were terribly injured while serving in some thankless land, some saw and were involved in terrible and never to be forgotten events, yet all did it willingly as it was “our job” and we were proud to wear the Nation’s uniform.

And then we discharged and were scrapped.

One day we were an important and essential part of a very sophisticated Armed Service, the next day we were pariahs, outcasts, a not to be trusted forgotten people.



It’s disgraceful!!!

But, why is it so?? – Try and get back onto a Base the day after you take off the uniform – you’re treated like a potential criminal and even though you might have spent 20 years of your life serving the nation and in some cases, having spent many years on the very Base to which you’re trying to access, you have to get special permission, sit through a 10 minute safety video, be photographed and once on, be escorted at all times.

Do the hierarchy think we all turn terrorist the moment we take off the uniform. Do they think we are hell bent on causing damage to Base personnel or equipment? If we were of that mind, we had 20 years or more with unlimited access in which time to do it.

Readers will know that over the years we’ve been able to access several ADF Bases across Australia and have written on the social, accommodation and messing facilities on these Bases. We don’t include anything of an operational nature as we have served and we’re fully aware of the security issues involved. Each of our stories are very well received as they are nostalgic, they bring back fond memories for our many readers who like to compare today’s facilities to what they enjoyed years prior.



We’re providing a well received service.

Since February this year we’ve been trying to gain access to the Army Aviation Base out at Oakey (west of Toowoomba) on which to do a story. Some will know that Oakey started its life as a RAAF Base back on 1943 and housed Number 6 Aircraft Depot (6AD). After the war it became the civvy airport for Oakey then in 1969 was handed over to the Army. We’ve sent written requests for access to RAAF PR and to ADF Media in Canberra from whom we can’t even get a confirmation of receipt. We’ve rung both many times only to be told “We’ll get back to you” – they never do.



It's not good enough.

In desperation we recently wrote a letter of complaint to the Defence Minister, Marise Payne, who at least had the decency to acknowledge receipt of our letter.

We'll let you know the outcome.

Another sticking point is the access to course photos. For some years we've been cataloguing course photos which are of great interest to our readers. To date, we have had over 227,000 hits on the site and although the site is of interest to our readers, it is not complete, we are missing many many photos. In order to copy and display the missing ones, we have been requesting access to the RAAF's collection of these photos since the end of 2013 only to be fobbed off with one excuse after another.



We've been treated disgracefully.

Once again, in desperation, we have had to approach Minister Dutton for assistance. We'll keep you posted on that too.

All this is completely unnecessary. In the UK, the Government now recognises those that have served the nation. Ex-Service people will have their driver's licenses stamped with the letter "V" to distinguish them as veterans and this will give them easier access to specialist services and to offers, including retail discounts (See [HERE](#)). Our Government should do something similar, our Politicians are only too ready to be photographed with Military personnel when it's beneficial to them, they espouse praise on service personnel in front of the camera but it's all snake oil. Hollow promises.

It would probably not be possible to emboss our drivers' licences as they are State issued, but a card similar to the Proof of Age card would do perfectly well. These could be issued by the relevant Service as part of the members' discharge procedure.



It wouldn't be hard to make ex-Service men and women feel "special" – make them feel as though their lives weren't wasted. There are far too many ex-Service people "doing it tough," these are the forgotten people, they live on the street, in solitary, some take their own lives. A little bit of recognition would go a long way.

Some form of ID would make it easier for Ex-Service men and women to access a Defence establishment too. It is not as though every ex-Service person wants to get onto a Base every 5 minutes, but if and when they do, having a form of recognition would make it much easier and wouldn't make that person feel he/she was a nobody.

We've a long way to go when it comes to looking after our ex-Service people. There are several splinter groups, the RSL, Defence Community Organisations, Welfare, Legacy etc. even DVA, all with the best of intentions but there isn't a national "symbol" that an ex-Service man or woman can produce to show that he/she has served. The general public would get right behind it, look





at the turnout on ANZAC Day – the public are appreciative of the sacrifice their defence men and women have made and businesses could and would direct their marketing to Ex-Service people.

The UK have done it, we should follow. The UK even has a Military based radio network, and it's good, listen [HERE](#).

If you agree or disagree with this, please click [HERE](#) and let us know. We'll pass on your remarks to DVA.

SIGN OVER A GYNAECOLOGIST'S OFFICE:  
"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

## 2021 Celebration.

Our preparations are going well, if you haven't already let us know you could or would like to be a part of the celebration, please click [HERE](#) and do so – the more numbers we have the easier it is when we discuss our plans with venues and sponsors.



As we're celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Air Force, we've decided to throw it open to anyone and everyone who has served or is still serving in the Air Force – it's not now just for Radschool people.

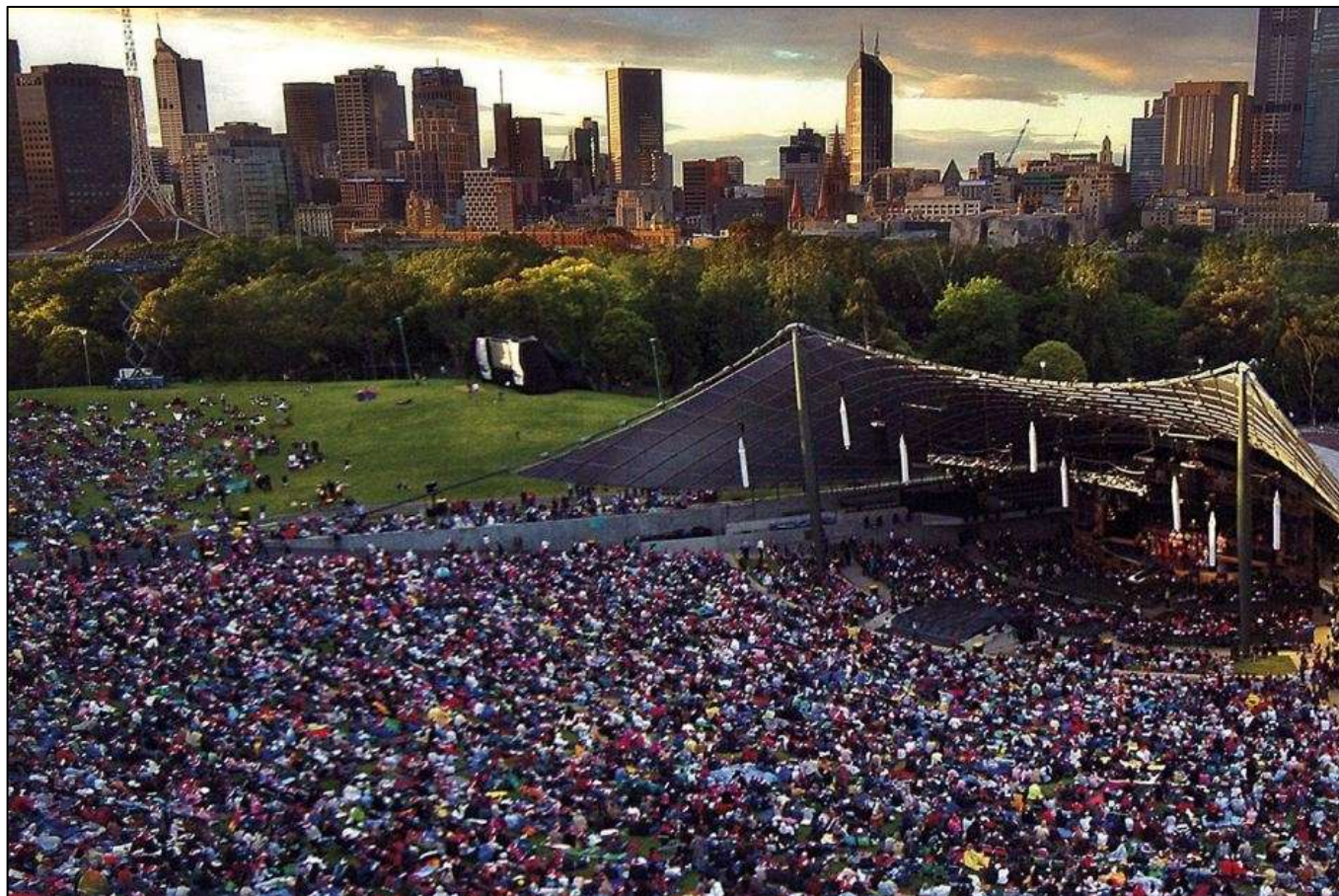
We must stress though, this is not an official Air Force event, it is being organised by the Radschool Association.

Remember, the Sunday Concert event will be open to all in Melbourne and could look like this below, if you're on the list you'll get a reserved seat. Another good excuse for filling in the [FORM](#).

If you're an ex-WRAAF and you would like a "Girls-own" night on the Thursday 25 March in the Officers Mess at Laverton, we're pretty sure we can arrange this, it will all depend on whether the



RAAF has plans for the night – which at this stage looks like the don't. You'll need to fill in the [FORM](#) though.



We've also arranged to hold a "Sleep Rough" night to be held in the Melbourne Showgrounds to honour and remember those that went before us and fought in WW2. A lot of those brave men and women were billeted or worked at the Showgrounds during the war and this will be our way of remembering them. If you want a rough night out, we ask that you get sponsored as we would like this to be a fund raiser event for the RAAF Association.

Early in 2020 we'll need you to commit and fill in another form with all names, shirt sizes etc and soon after that you'll need to make a payment – but more on that later too. Remember, the cost to everyone will be minimal as we're down the road away with sponsors and it's looking good.

We'll be asking for volunteers later too, people to help with set up, team leaders, crowd management, waiters etc, more on that later too.

Remember, keep an eye on our [UPDATE](#) page for the latest info.

**IN A RADIATOR SHOP:**  
"Best place in town to take a leak."



## Membership.

We've decided to go with the following membership.

- 1 year's full membership for \$12.00. (now till 30 June 2019)
- Full membership for \$40.00 to 30 June 2021.

Annual Membership will run from July one year to June the next, with this year's annual membership now expiring in June 2018. 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.

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:

Your State:  Sum transferred: \$

Submit

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.

Children stop being children, but parents never stop being parents.

## 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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