



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 Crissie Wessels and we have lots of old time pics.

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Solid-state batteries will be the next big leap forward. How to run a mail-merge from within Outlook and Windows has a new disk clean tool – and more!.

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Currumbin RSL has renamed its Vets Support Centre after Ron Workman. An Orion went to Caloundra and a Mirage put down safely at Evans Head.

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- \* The most recent pension rates,
- \* A trip to Butterworth
- \* Adrian Cronauer
- \* Mirrorless cameras
- \* Exemption from GST and more

See Page 6

Peter Condon tells us about his flying career in the RAAF, including his time flying the "Bird Dogs" in Vietnam.

See Page 7



35 Sqn received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry streamer to add to their Colours. The RAAF Aircrew Commemorative Day was held at the Qld Air Museum at Caloundra and 114 MCRU got together at Kedron Wavell Services Club.

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Perth got a new bell. Car engines are going hi-tech, brain freeze, what is it and how do you cure it? And more!

See Page 9



Geoff Spackman and I have a good look over Kapooka.

See Page 10

Fat-free, is it the answer? Flu shots, should you get one? And how to lose weight and more.

See Page 11.



Jeff remembers his time flying the old Caribou in Vietnam back in 1966/67 and Caribou A4-264 crashed at Camden and more.

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Armistice Day was celebrated all over Australia. Kedron Wavell RSL Sub-Branch held a ceremony too.

See Page 13





The OC 82Wing hosted the annual Association's Day at Amberley.

See Page 14.

The Airman Aircrew got together at the CSI club at Ipswich

See Page 15



*"Mystery at Eagle Farm"*. John tells how fate stepped in and he wasn't required for a flight that flight ended in tragedy when the Lincoln crashed into the mountains west of Brisbane.

And more!

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No-one sick this episode – but we look at the Productivity Commission's advise on closing the DVA.

See Page 17



We're looking for a few people, perhaps you can help??

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Frank Alley spent a bit of time in China – he sent us a lot of photos of his visits to various museums.

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The Herc boys and their ladies got together at Richmond for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And! 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.

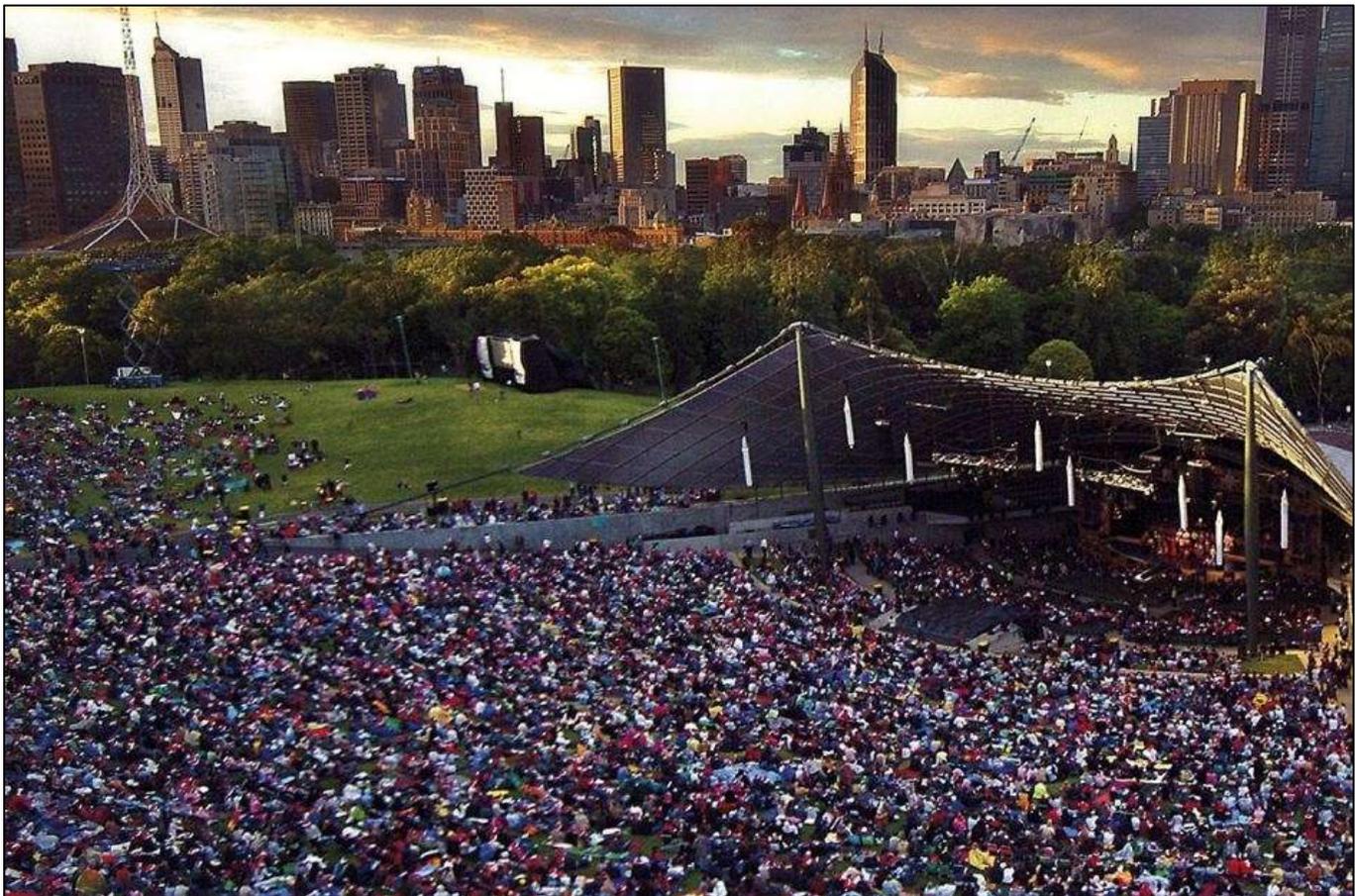
## 2021 Celebration.



We've had to put our preparations on hold until 1 July 2019 – see the latest update [HERE](#).



The Sunday Concert event will be open to all in Melbourne and could look like this below, you'll definitely want a reserved seat.



Remember, the “other day” Celebration events are open to anyone and everyone who has spent time at Ballarat, Laverton, Point Cook, St Kilda or Frognall, it's open to clerks, cooks, framies, pilots, instructor, even radtechs, it's irrespective of mustering. The individual cost to everyone will be minimal as we're down the road away with sponsors and it's looking good.



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.

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

Click [HERE](#) to let us know you'd like to come.

## Buying a new car?

If you're contemplating buying a new car, we could save you thousands. The Radschool Association has done a deal with Australia's biggest car brokers whereby you can purchase a car (your choice of make, colour, specs etc) at fleet discount prices.

To see further details, go to the Radschool Assoc home page ([HERE](#)) then click on "New Car Purchase".

## Discounts.

We're working on obtaining discounts for financial members of the Radschool Association. If you'd like to benefit from these discounts, and you're not a member, scroll down to the Membership section below, fill in the relevant form and we'll send you the info.



Current financial members will receive an email from us soon with info on how to obtain a 12% discount on the base rate of the day when hiring a car from Thrifty. With the holiday season upon us, if you're thinking of hiring a car or an SUV or a people mover, this could save you heaps.

## Veterans Card.

Back in June 2018 we wrote to the Minister for Veterans Affairs/Defence Personnel, Hon Darren Chester MP, suggesting the Government should introduce a "Proof of Service" card (see [HERE](#)). This was followed up with several bits of correspondence and eventually we were offered a meeting with the Minister's advisers in Canberra. On the 21<sup>st</sup> September, we met in Canberra with David Roberts and the delightful Louise Hooper (right), both advisers to the Minister who gave us about an hour of their valuable time and where we discussed the proposal.





Shortly after, we received [THIS](#) from the Minister. Good News!

As most know, TPI/EDA Vets have access to free Government transport within the state in which they live. State Governments issue a Veterans Travel Card however, the holder of the card is entitled to free transport only with that state. We asked Louise Hooper if there were any plans to make the card a national benefit. She replied: "I understand that harmonisation of state benefits was discussed at the Veteran Ministers Roundtable that was held on 27 October"

We think it is still being discussed – but fingers crossed!

While in Canberra, we also met with the Sarah Huy from the office of Amanda Rishworth (right), the Labor Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs. We didn't get a personal response, but we did get this [Media Release](#).



## Savings for veterans

Once the Proof of Service Card – or Veterans' Card as it will be called, is implemented, major corporations will be encouraged to offer special services and/or discounts to holders. Businesses will be encouraged to offer discounts on everything from groceries to power bills.

The details of the card will be worked through with state and territory governments and businesses. It will be separate to the Department of Veterans' Affairs health cards but will be similar to the approach adopted by Canada and the US. Already Woolworths, Coles, Kmart, Bunnings, Target, NRMA and Clubs Australia have signed up, while Westpac has expressed support for the idea. The reported percentages were between 5 and 10 per cent.

At present, many businesses and services find it hard to identify who is a veteran, with the problem most acute in states such as NSW and Queensland, each of which are home to more than 80,000 veterans.

## Virgin

Back in November, Virgin Australia announced plans to allow priority boarding for members and ex-members of the Australian Defence Force. They offered military veterans the chance to board first and acknowledge their service during in-flight announcements.



We thought it was a wonderful initiative – but for some inexplicable reason, some didn't.



The Australia Defence Association (ADA) said the offer was lacking in common sense. Neil James, the executive director of the ADA said “Virgin Australia’s move to offer veterans priority boarding and a public thank-you on flights drew a ‘reasonably critical’ response from his members. I think most people would like some practical help rather than what’s likely to become a tokenistic gesture”. He said “the US-style of publicly thanking veterans for their service would not necessarily translate well to Australia. There’s a fine line between embarrassing them and thanking them and, in some cases, where they’re suffering a psychological illness, effusively thanking them in public might not necessarily help them.”



Well, let me tell you something Mr James, you don’t speak for me, I’ll be forever grateful to Virgin for offering that benefit – to be able to board early ahead of the rush, I think is fabulous and I’ll accept it with both hands. Anyone, who for whatever reason doesn’t want to accept it, can just sit tight and board with the masses. If you don’t want it, don’t put your hand up – and don’t try and stop others who do want it.

My old nan used to say, “give them an inch and they’ll want a mile!”. This seems to be the ADA’s doctrine, instead of saying thank you to Virgin, they want to big-note themselves and want more.

Good for you Virgin. For me it’s a reason to fly with them.

## Membership.

We’ve decided to go with the following membership.

- 1 year’s full membership for \$12.00. (now till 30 June 2018)
- Full membership for \$45.00 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: \$

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.

Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight

## 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.