



TAKE OFF ... MAY FLYER

**In place of Hangar Doors for this month
keeping you in touch with happenings and news of Branch activities**

Hangar Doors

Due to AAD and absences plus copier commitments there is no Hangar Doors for May.

From the May meeting:

Numbers were down maybe due to Mothers' Day. Absences also occurred in the kitchen but we were still well looked after by the VVAA members and ladies present and the meat and salads were once again 'beautiful'.. Thank you to the workers.

Robyn Richardson, one of our members, was a kitchen worker—she also attended her first meeting AND won the raffle. (Drew her own!)

30 stories. Enthusiasm for the 30 stories is growing—all we need is your reminiscences. Little things that have happened to you that you remember with fondness, laughter or sorrow. Share and preserve. David has taken on the controlling role—send stories to him direct or through John.

Luncheon. To go with the project it has been decided to have a luncheon in February. Kerry put her hand up to check out options.

Display. Greg Francis has agreed to put on another display of aircraft related items—this will be held in conjunction with the June meeting/BBQ.

Name badges. John will be placing an order for name badges—let him know if you need one ASAP.

Delegates are off to the AAD on Wednesday—you can expect a report in June.

Activities—reminders:

- Meeting and gold coin BBQ, Defence Veterans Drop-in Centre 12 June 1130 for noon.
- Aeronautical display, in conjunction with the June meeting (12 June).
- Super Saturday at Services Club in July. Every Saturday—arrive around 11-11.30.
- Woodgate with Fraser Coast Branch, Friday 22 July. Please book at June or July meeting.

Branch Bank

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Circuits & Bumps

JOINT BATTLEFIELD SUCCESS

07April2016. Exercise Predators Gallop began with a road move equivalent to travelling from London to Moscow and ended with a boom. The exercise was a massive dry and live fire activity for the Army's 1 Brigade on the road to Hamel and Air Forces's aircraft provided a level of realism to enhance the training outcomes. Held at the expanded Cultana Training Area in March, the exercise integrated multiple Air Force assets, units and personnel. During the dry field training manoeuvres, a 32 Sqn King Air was used to provide ISR to the battle groups and simulate close air support. In a unique use of the King Air, the Tactical Air Control Party developed capabilities briefs for its air crew to enable them to simulate B-1, B-52, and F/A-18A and F aircraft providing ISR and close air support to the ground troops.

114 MCRU TASTES FIELD ACTION

07April2016. Exercise Predators gallop at the Cultana Training Area in South Australia gave 114 Mobile Control and Reporting Unit its first field deployment since Afghanistan in 2007-2009. The exercise symbolised an increasing move to coordinate air and land capabilities more regularly in the tactical arena. The Mobile Control and Reporting Centre (MCRU) offered a comprehensive picture of what was happening in the sky during the exercise.

GRAND DISPLAY OF SPEED

07April2016. Air Force members flew the flag for the ADF in a series of powerful displays in the Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix in Melbourne from March 16-20. The Air Force Roulettes aerial displays and the F/A-18 Hornets flyovers were the crowd favourites for young and old at the four day event. A C-17A Globemaster from No 36 Sqn at Amberley made an impression as it opened the F1 GP with a flypast. Members from Williamtown based No 2 OCU and Tindal based No 75 Sqn show-cased the F/A-18 Hornet, with a high speed pass ahead of the main Formula 1 race. Traveling at speeds of up to 1000km/hr, the Hornet maintained an altitude not below 76m on the high speed pass, with all other altitudes during manoeuvres being above 152m.

C-17A FLEXES ITS MUSCLES

07April2016. For the first time at the Australian Grand Prix, an Air Force C-17A Globemaster conducted a fly

Circuits & Bumps *continued*

-past over Albert Park. The C-17A fly-over was lower and more impressive than any aircraft previously seen at the Formula 1 event in Melbourne. Just a few minutes before the race began, the C-17A flew over Albert Park at minimum height—just 300 feet above the grandstand. The display captivated a live audience of more than 100,000 and a televised audience of more than one million. It was a spectacular grand finale for Air Force, which has conducted a few days of fly-pasts with the Roulettes and the F/A-18 Hornets. The C-17A conducted three passes in six minutes, each pass demonstrating the unique handling and manoeuvrability. They included numerous low level passes, a configured descent with flaps and landing gear extended before a final high-speed pass was conducted at about 300 knots. The C-17A fly-past followed in the footsteps of other large aircraft such as Boeing 747 and Airbus A380, which have traditionally opened the race.

STEALING THE SHOW

07April2016. The 2016 Singapore Air Show allowed No 35 Sqn to showcase the C27J Spartan before an international audience. The show, held in February, attracted more than 85,000 people, official delegations and media from around the world.

SPARTAN MAKE GOOD PROGRESS

07April2016. Steady progress is being made by No 35 Sqn as it introduces the C-27J Spartan into Australian service. Two aircraft are operated at an initial crew training facility in the United State, with another two flying from RAAF Richmond. For 35Sqn, the priority is to conduct operational test and evaluation of the Spartan's capabilities, as well as building experience within 35 Sqn on the type.

MISSION SUCCESS IN SUDAN

Working with people and aircraft from many different nations in support of an important humanitarian mission has been a career highlight for two Air Force officers. Sqn Ldr Andrew Leonard and Flt Lt Eric Meredith are deployed on Operation Asian in support of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), as an air operations officer and an aviation safety officer respectively.

The joint battlefield airspace control officers from the School of Air Traffic Control and HQ No 44 Wing rely on their extensive aviation background to assist UNMISS in its execution of air operations in a highly complex operating environment. The two officers are part of the team responsible for ensuring 28 fixed and rotary winged aircraft operated by a diverse range of nations such as Canada, Russia, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka and Ukraine operate efficiently and safely. The 22 ADF members deployed among 13,000 UNMISS personnel play small but vital roles, helping to protect civilians, deliver humanitarian aid and investigate human rights breaches.

DELIVERING A TON OF POTENTIAL

07April2016. Aircrew from No 37Sqn C-130Js took advantage of an unique chance to practice mass container airdrops while supporting Exercise Elephant Trail 2916 in Sydney's north-west. The exercise involved the prepara-

tion and airborne delivery of more than 30 tonnes of cargo, which included construction of 60 container delivery systems. Army's No 176 Air Dispatch Sqn used Elephant Trail to test its ability to respond to short notice contingency scenarios from a deployed camp within RAAF Richmond from March 3-11.

WAAAF MARKS 75 YEARS

07April2016. The "magnificent" contribution of women who joined the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force during WW2 was celebrated at the 75th anniversary of WAAAF at RAAF Wagga. The RAAF began enlisting women on March 15, 1941, when the first females were able to join Australia's armed forces. The anniversary was celebrated on March 15 with a parade reviewed by Air Cdre Kathryn Dunn at Fairbairn. In 1947, when the last WAAAF was discharged, 27,258 had enlisted from all states and territories.

Playing a vital role in RAAF activities during WW2, young WAAAF members folded parachutes, worked on aircraft as fabric workers, riggers, aircraft mechanics and instrument repairers. WAAAF meteorological assistants monitored the weather and they screened radar 24 hours a day on stations based at the northern half of the Australian coastline from Townsville to Geraldton. They also refuelled aircraft, drove trucks and oil tankers, worked as nursing orderlies, x-ray and dental technicians and staffed hospitals and medical units.

RESTORING HISTORICAL TIES

07April2016. A restored Jindivik—the first unmanned aerial system used by the RAAF—has been unveiled at RAAF Edinburgh to celebrate its historical significance. The restoration of Jindivik A92-9 was carried out by the Static Display Aircraft Section at RAAF Amberley and 12 reservists spent 1200 hours refurbishing the aircraft to static display condition. The Jindivik was developed in the 1950's, with production running from 1952 to 1986. More than 500 Jindivik models were made for Australia, UK, US and Sweden. Apart from the RAAF Museum at Point Cook there are more than 50 RAAF aircraft on static display across nine bases as well as on loan to Australian historical organisations. The task ahead is to have this nation wide fleet in top condition for the RAAF's centenary in 2021.

BASIC INSTINCT

21April2016. Combat Support Unit Rotation 14 can put the success of its six month stint in the Middle East region down to "being brilliant at the basics" and quick to identify opportunities. The unit was deployed in support of Australian forces, including the Air Task Group (ATG) at Australia's main air operating base. It provides a range of services to help sustain Australian air power in both Iraq and Syria. These include medical, security, logistics, airfield liaison.



**12 June—noon
MEETING
DISPLAY
Gold Coin BBQ**

