



June 2010

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Welcome to the Museum of Australian Army Flying Newsletter

Chairmans Chatter

Jon Martlew



MAAF Members

For those who are unaware Helen Bawden has been doing a wonderful job promoting the Museum throughout the Darling Downs and region. On behalf of the MAAF she is a member of the Darling Downs Tourism Advisory Group, which includes marketing and links into Tourism Queensland, represents us within the Cultural Heritage Network - Toowoomba Region as a Committee Member, and is a key player in Toowoomba and Golden West Tourism. Helen's efforts are invaluable in promoting the museum and ensuring that the Board is fully up to date with all marketing opportunities. One of our greatest desires is that as many people as possible get the opportunity to see for themselves the rich history of Army's involvement in aviation and Helen's work helps to achieve this - well done and thank you Helen.

I recently had the opportunity to take a group of predominately ex-RAAF officers to the Museum and we had a most enjoyable and colourful tour from our Museum Administrator WO2 Scott Downs - keep up the good work Scott. They all left suitable impressed and with a clear understanding of Army's magnificent aviation history.

A reminder to all current, past and future members of Fourays and serving/ex-service personnel of all ranks, who have served in Australian Army aviation units, that we are now within six months of our 50 year celebration of the rebirth of Australian Army aviation - with the raising of 16 Army Light Aircraft Squadron in December 1960.

I will finish with a farewell to Ian Jesser, who is retiring and leaving the Army Aviation Centre (AAC) at Oakey and his role as Base Support Manager - Darling Downs. Ian has been a long-term supporter of the Museum - as a life-member, former Director and Chairman of the Board, and in his various professional roles at the AAC in particular as Base Support Manager. Ian is a Vietnam Veteran - serving with 2 RAR as an infanteer, who transferred to aviation as an Air Traffic Controller, before spending his post Army career - which itself spanned over 30 years and included postings as Deputy Director Army Aviation and Commanding Officer of the Base Support Unit, Oakey - in the Public Services at Oakey providing base services. Ian has been a hard working and dedicated member of the Army aviation community, in particular his support and development of the AAC, including the museum, has been second-to-none. He was Acting Chairman of the Board of Directors following the September 11 attacks when the significant increases in security at the base resulted in substantial drops in visitor numbers and our financial viability was at great risk. Ian's leadership helped steady the ship. One of his most significant contributions was the facilitation of Defence



funding for the building of our new display hangar which turns five in September – it would not have happened without him. Ian, on behalf of all members of the MAAF, thank you for all you have done for our museum and Army aviation and I wish you all the best in your retirement, which I have no doubt will include lots of fishing and road bike riding – enjoy!

Managers Musings WO1 Paul Schrodter



The month of June has been fairly quiet with regards to visitors attending. However there is still a huge amount of work happening behind the scenes.

The FX/FJ club attended on Saturday, 20 Jun 2010. This group made the most of their visit, spending almost the entire day. The group consisted of 13 Vehicles and 21 Visitors. I must say it was wonderful to see their beautifully restored cars. Some of the cars had not been restored they had just been looked after and well maintained all of their lives.

First up, the group were taken to the Workshop Precinct for a tour of the Bellman Hangar with WO1 Gary Watson, to see some of our projects being restored or built and other Technology Items we now have on display.

Then they returned to the Museum for a Barbeque Lunch.

When lunch was finished the group was taken on a Guided Tour of

the Main Display, by WO2 Scott Downs.

As the group was about to leave, I had an opportunity to talk to some of the members of the group. They explained that they had a wonderful day. They were very impressed with very passionate and informative tours by Gary and Scott. Well done Gary and Scott!



On the same day we also had a local Morris Minor group visit. This group also had a guided tour, conducted by Scott Downs. These cars were also beautifully restored and we are now looking forward to this group attending the Fly-In in October, to display their cars.

Our sales computer at the front counter had problems on the day also. Poor Barry Bawden ably assisted by WO2 Greg Beard recorded all sales with a pen and paper to allow the accurate up date of MYOB. Thank you Barry and Greg for your efforts and well done!

Curators Corner

WO2 Greg Beard, Peter Ford and Peter White



The new curatorial team lead by Greg Beard and assisted by Peter White and Peter Ford have been coming to grips with the enormity of the task.

A process of standardising all text panels is underway and a number of items have been protected by having them framed. As a result the aircraft message streamer used by 1 Sqn AFC on 31 Oct 1917 is about to go on display. This is the message streamer to which was attached the message to General Chauvel ordering the Light Horse attack on Beersheba. It was donated to the Museum by Cpl Cooper, the soldier who retrieved the message.

In the Technology Hanger (C36) the Pallarini Airjeep has been reassembled in all its orange glory. We are still in need of information on the aircraft so as to determine its significance. **Can you help?** (Please email any information to Secretary Helen and she will forward on to the Curatorial Team).



The Bleriot has been accessioned while work is continuing on its building. The fuselage is nearing completion and the wings are taking shape thanks to Peter White and his team.

The first display resulting from action in Afghanistan is being planned. It revolves around a Chinook having its fuel line severed by an AK47 bullet.

To ensure continuing progress in the development and refurbishing of displays a curatorial plan has been developed and is being implemented.

THE MAAF SPANNER BANGERS (MSB) CLUB WO1 Gary Watson



"We got it one piece at a time and didn't cost us a dime"

From the *"Man in Black"* himself who happened to be in the Cadillac recycling business (amongst other things). The workshops embraces cost free options, seeking efficiencies, defying expensive social norms using the bartering and horse trading system. As the recycling kings on the base, let us make a deal with you.

This month along with the colder weather, has brought more visitors to the workshop (aside from some of the local rodents seeking warmth from the hangar) and it was interesting to receive a visit from the curatorial staff of the RAAF Museum Point Cook. Apparently better funded than we (they came bearing flash coffee cups and coasters) it was great to exchange ideas with their maintenance manager and executive staff. Their latest acquisition being *"The Boneyard Wrangler"* (F111G A8-272) would have to rate highly in the realm of big boys toys.

This was also the month where we were finally able to achieve the setting up of the revamped welding bay and metal storage areas in the Bellman Annex. With a mountain of steel that even BHP would be proud of, we now eagerly await for the next influx of trainees to assist in the loading of steel into the racks.

On the project side of the house, the Bougainville Finger restoration is progressing well with the lower section now proudly sporting a new paint job. All the names have been painstakingly replaced and now restoration of the upper logos and motifs is about to commence with the steady hand of **Ken (paint me a picture) Matuszczak** under the watchful eye of **Geoff (you missed a bit) Lance**.

The honour board for past and fallen volunteers (I knew we had been overworking them) is starting to take shape with the Huey blade section ready for final painting. With **Danny (time for second breakfasts) O'Brien** industriously manufacturing the backing board and support brackets, the next argument (sorry decision) will be where to place it.

The aircraft rebuild projects continue along, with some progressing a little more than others. One crew (no names no pack drill) appears to have gone into hibernation. Probably understandable with the onset of your typical Oakey Winter and the brew room is becoming a place the volunteers seem to spend more time.

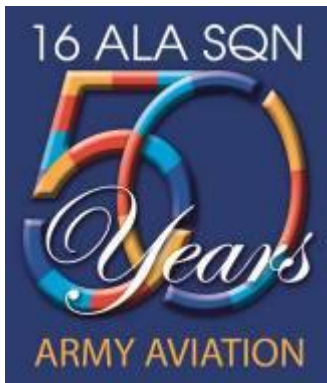
So until next time, keep bangin those spanners!

WOIC MSB



Pictured with WO1 Schrodter and WO2 Downs are David Gardner OAM, David Jones OAM and Bradley Owen from the RAAF Museum, Point Cook during their visit to the Museum





50 YEARS OF ARMY AVIATION

Early December 2010 will mark fifty years since 16 Army Light Aircraft Squadron was raised at RAAF Base Amberley. The raising of 16 Squadron marked the first time since the formation of the Australian Air Force in 1921 that Army owned and operated aircraft and was effectively the birth of modern Army aviation.



To celebrate this golden anniversary, the Australian Army Aviation Association is holding a gathering at the Twin Towns Resort on Queensland's Gold Coast over the weekend 10-12 December 2010. We are inviting all who have or have had a connection with Army aviation over the years to come along. Army, Navy, Air Force; AAAvn, RAEME, RAAOC, etc; civilian, contractor; serving and ex-service, you are all welcome.

The gathering kicks off on the Friday evening (10 Dec) with an informal get together at the Resort followed by dinner under own arrangements. On the Saturday there will be the opportunity to take a bus trip to Amberley to see where 16 Squadron all began and on to Oakey to tour the base and visit the Museum of Australian Army Flying. This will be an all inclusive tour with morning tea and lunch provided.

Saturday evening will be the Anniversary Dinner, a coat and tie, sit down affair back at the resort. For those who do not wish to avail themselves of the bus trip there are plenty of activities on the Coast to fill in the day.

On Sunday morning we will hold a commemoration service at the local RSL (next door to the Resort) to remember all those who have lost their lives during their service with Army aviation. That will complete the organised part of the weekend, however, those attending may also wish to take in the "Heroes of the Light Horse" show currently running at the Outback Spectacular venue near Movie World on the Coast. There is a Sunday matinee at 12:30pm that includes lunch and from all accounts this is a show not to be missed. Bookings can be made on many of the Gold Coast tourist websites and if there is sufficient interest, the Association will examine arranging transport to and from the Resort.

Registration forms for the gathering are available on the website (www.fourays.org) and accommodation can be booked at Outrigger Twin Towns quoting "Australian Army Aviation 50th Anniversary".

For questions and additional information please contact 16ALASQN50@fourays.org.



Editors Edits



The Museum has now entered the “electronic age” with advertising. Recently we investigated advertising in touch screens as they are popular for tourists on the road. After consideration, we are giving it a twelve month trial and during that time will conduct a survey to see if our visitor numbers increase with the use of these screens. Touch screens can be found in most towns in Australia and New Zealand now and in the not too distant future countries overseas will feature Australian tourist attractions as well. Our advert can be seen by clicking on south/east Queensland, then Dalby, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane or Gold Coast and then click on “places to see” and the Museum advert is featured in that group.

The Museum welcomes three new members this month. One living locally and two overseas in France and the United States of America.

DIARY DATES: Please put these dates in your diary. The MAAF AGM will be held at the Museum on Saturday 4 September 2010. Saturday and Sunday 2-3 October 2010 the ‘Rotors Wings n Wheels’ Fly-In will be held at the Museum.

Annual Membership Subscriptions. A reminder for those members who pay a yearly Membership Subscription, it is due **NOW**. We have several members who have not paid this financial year and come the end of June, if I do not receive a membership renewal, you will not receive the Newsletter. A Membership form can be downloaded from our webpage or you can email me and I will forward one to you.

Anyone who has an article, information or photos they would like to share with MAAF members (of either historical or present day interest) please send to me and I will include in future Newsletters. The Newsletter is designed not only to keep members informed of “*Museum Happenings*” but is also a great way of disseminating interesting information amongst members.

ROTORS, WINGS n WHEELS FLY-IN

ADULTS \$5.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

WARBIRDS & CURRENT MILITARY AIRCRAFT

CLASSIC CARS, CLASSIC MOTOR BIKES

MILITARY VEHICLES

FAMILY DAY OUT - FREE PARKING

FOOD STALLS

**CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS IN OUR NEW DISPLAY
BUILDING**

2 - 3 OCTOBER 2010

Museum of Australian Army Flying

Army Airfield, Oakey, Qld 4401. Phone 07 4577 7666

Open 10.00am to 4.00pm daily. Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Admission: \$5.00 adults, \$12.00 family (2 adults and up to 3 children) and \$2.00 children.