



RAAF ASSOCIATION (N.S.W. DIVISION) INC



## THE RADAR BRANCH BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2011

Website: <http://www.raafradar.org.au>

Email: [contact@raafradar.org.au](mailto:contact@raafradar.org.au)

<b>Patrons</b>	Air Commodore D. Bowden AM (Ret'd)
<b>President</b>	Air Vice Marshal R.B. Treloar AO (Ret'd )
<b>Senior RAAF Member</b>	Air Commodore T.C. Delahunty AM
<b>Correspondence</b>	Air Commodore C.J. Westwood Secretary, The Radar Branch 7 Glenridding Grove, Lakelands NSW 2282

### CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

***Join us at the CITY TATTERSALLS CLUB SYDNEY 9 Dec 2011***

All members, family and friends are invited to celebrate together at the fine facilities of the Tattersall's City Club in Sydney. Order and payment of drinks and lunch will be an individual choice.

We will meet in the 'Lower Bar' on the ground floor, one of Sydney's Art Deco treasures, and move upstairs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Café 2 Bistro for lunch. The bistro serves fresh snacks and light meals at reasonable prices.

TATTERSALLS CLUB IS CENTRALLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF SYDNEY WITH EXCELLENT ACCESS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### **City Tattersalls Club, 194 – 204 Pitt Street, Sydney**

- (I) **Day - Date - Time :** Friday 9<sup>TH</sup> - December 11 – 1100am for 12 noon lunch
- (II) **Venue:** **Meet:** "The Lower Bar", Ground Floor  
**Lunch:** "Café 2 Bistro", 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
**Dress:** -Smart Casual
- (III) **Cost:** Individual Payment
- (IV) **Travel –** City Tattersalls Club is conveniently located in Sydney Central CBD. It is a short walk from Town Hall Rail Station and is close to the corner of Pitt and Market Streets, on the eastern side of Pitt Street. It is also adjacent to the Monorail Station and is easily accessed by bus from Circular Quay.
- (V) **Car Parking –** The most convenient car parking is almost opposite at the Hilton or Piccadilly in Pitt Street.

*(If possible, we would appreciate if members would inform the Branch if they are attending to give Tattersalls an indication of our numbers.*

Please contact our Secretary (details above) or email [contact@raafradar.org.au](mailto:contact@raafradar.org.au)

## **HUNTER REGION – 3CRU XMAS FUNCTION**

### **Newcastle Harness Club, Broadmeadow – 25 November 2011**

We are pleased to advise members that No 3CRU at RAAF Williamtown has invited RADAR Branch members to join the unit for its Xmas function. Details are as follows:

- (I) **Day - Date - Time :** Friday 25<sup>TH</sup> - November 11 at 6:00pm
- (VI) **Venue:** Newcastle Harness Club, Broadmeadow
- (VII) **Cost:** \$65 per person
- (VIII) **Inclusions**
  - Entry to paceway and reserved table**
  - Smorgasbord meal**
  - Access to parade ring and open area at the finish line**
  - Bar and tote facilities**

**RSVP** – As soon as possible to Secretary, 0411 409 178 or email [rayod@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rayod@ozemail.com.au)

## **RAAF ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL SERVICE – Sunday 13 November 2011**

This service honours members of the RAAF and WAAAF.

### **All Saints' Air Force Memorial Church**

**11 Moore Avenue, West Lindfield**

**Service Commences 1000 am**

## **'CHRISTMAS ON HARRIS' – 27 November 2011**

***Free XMAS Lunch – No Gifts Required – Lucky Door Prize***

***No charge for RAAFA financial members, partners or carers***



The annual RAAF Association Headquarters 'FREE' Christmas Function will be held at the Ultimo Community Centre at the corner of William Henry Street and Harris Street, Ultimo, at 1200 noon for 1230 pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 11. **Cost is ZERO** and is open to all NSW Division members.

A shuttle bus will run from Town Hall Station (Bathurst Street) from 1130 onwards with return to Town Hall Station at the end of the function.

If you wish to attend please notify Brian Morelli, The Secretary, RAAF Association (NSW Division), PO Box A2147 Sydney South NSW 1235 or ring Bruce Weekly, Vice President directly on **02 9393 3485 (preferably Tuesdays)** before **17 November** for catering and transport purposes.

## **RADAR BRANCH MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

The Radar Branch Vice President and Secretary attended the RAAF Association NSW Division Annual General Meeting on 14 July 2011. There were two significant announcements at the AGM for Radar:

- **Tony Rogers, our Vice President was awarded his 25 year continuous membership certificate, and**
- **The Radar Branch was awarded the Claude H Vautin trophy for the most increased membership.**

Membership is fundamental and critical to the future of the Radar Branch. We value the membership of the current members of the RAAF who will be the future membership. Technology and social media will no doubt change the way that future Radar folk maintain contact with one another and maintain their professional interest. However, the friendships established in RAAF service in Australia and on active service will be the strong bond that will keep everyone connected in the future through the RAAF Association as it has since WWII when Radar revolutionised warfare.

So, when the RAAF Association renewal comes in the mail, please think of the importance of the 'bond' and renew your membership.

### **ON THIS DAY**

#### **19 Oct 43 - Sweers Island incident**



On this day, a party from No 313 Radio Direction Finding (Radar) Station on Mornington Island, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, came under attack from Aborigines on Sweers Island. The party was on its way to Burketown by boat and called in at the normally uninhabited island to take on fresh water from a well. The airmen who went ashore became aware that they were being watched by a group of Aborigines who appeared very unfriendly. These pursued the airmen back to the beach and began

throwing spears. As the shore party swam for the boat, those on board fired several rounds from their .303 rifles. The shots were only intended to scare off the attackers but a young Kaiadilt man from nearby Bentinc Island was killed. The incident was investigated by police, and was thought to have been motivated by misbehaviour of an Army survey party visiting the area 10 days before.

#### **19 Sep 46 - Radar outfit embarked for Japan**

On this day, No 111 Mobile Fighter Control Unit (comprising Nos 305 and 322 Early Warning Radar Stations, and No 165 Ground Control Intercept Radar) embarked with its technical equipment in HMAS Kanimbla at Sydney, bound for Japan to provide support for the fighter wing contributed by the RAAF to the British Commonwealth Air (BCAir) Group. Disembarking on 4 October at Iwakuni, on the main island of Honshu, No 322 went to Miho while No 165 was taken to Hiroshima (and for a time operated at Takamatsu on Shikoku). No 305 went to Kure in April 1947 and occupied a site at Hamada from September and (from February 1948) Susa, the latter overlooking the southern Sea of Japan and northern reaches of the Tsushima Strait. No 111 Mobile Fighter Control Unit left Kure to return to Australia in December 1948, disbanding on its return.

### **RAAF ASSOCIATION NSW WEBSITE**

The 'Australian Flying Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Association (New South Wales Division) Inc.' which we refer to in shorthand as 'RAAF Association NSW' has a new website address at:

[www.raafansw.com.au](http://www.raafansw.com.au) and can be contacted at [raafansw@bigpond.com](mailto:raafansw@bigpond.com)

## 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF DARWIN 1942

The 19th February 2012 will be the 70th anniversary of the first bombing raids by Japanese aircraft on Darwin which killed some 255 people and hundreds of casualties. Many more were killed or injured in the ongoing attacks over Northern Australia that took place over the following two years. In two attacks on this day, Japanese aircraft caused widespread destruction to the port of Darwin, including the town's civil aerodrome and RAAF air base.



The first raid, carried out at 9.55 am by 188 carrier-based aircraft, focused on the harbour before turning on the town itself. With the advantage of numbers, the element of surprise and the absence of significant fighter opposition, Japanese dive-bombers were largely untroubled as they selected their targets. While buildings, installations and aircraft at the RAAF base were damaged in the first raid, the worst destruction came in a second attack carried out by 54 land-based bombers at 11.55 am. This wrecked the remaining buildings, including many of the living quarters, and caused the majority of the RAAF casualties (seven dead and five injured). Allied losses during the day totalled 23 aircraft, eight ships and 255 people killed. Only five Japanese aircraft were definitely downed.

The Darwin City Council will mark the anniversary with a two week commemorative program of events from 11 to 26 February 2012. The program will include local

activities in both Darwin and surrounding areas. There will also be national activities to build awareness of the event which hopes to include veterans who served in Darwin at the time.

Full details of the commemorative events can be found on the 'Frontline Australia' website at:

[www.frontlineaustralia.com.au](http://www.frontlineaustralia.com.au)

Or contact **Darwin City Council** at GPO Box 84, Darwin NT 0801

Phone (08) 8930 0300 or email [dcc@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:dcc@darwin.nt.gov.au)

*Hope to see you at the Xmas lunch at Tattersall's on 9 Dec 2011!!*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

(And please don't forget to renew your RAAFA and Branch membership!!)



The Bulletin is now sent to email recipients and is available on the website at

[www.raafradar.org.au](http://www.raafradar.org.au).

If you don't have a computer and/or an email address you will continue to receive the Bulletin in the mail. Also, if members with email prefer the Bulletin by mail, please notify

[contact@raafradar.org.au](mailto:contact@raafradar.org.au) or phone message to 02 62598351 or 0437 459128.