



# **THE RADAR BRANCH**

## **BULLETIN FEBRUARY 2009**

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

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

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

**Patrons:** Air Commodore D. Bowden AM (Ret'd)  
Air Vice Marshal R.B. Treloar AO (Ret'd)  
W. Fielder-Gill (Life Member)

**President:** Air Commodore T.C. Delahunty AM

**Correspondence** Secretary, The Radar Branch  
2 Preece Close, SPRINGFIELD NSW 2250  
Phone: 02 4322 1505

## **THE RADAR BRANCH 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

- (I) **Date:** Tuesday 3th March 2009 – 1030am
- (II) **Venue:** RAAF Association Headquarters  
Defence Plaza, Level 23, 270 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000 (Phone 02 9377 3485)
- (III) **Travel:** The Defence Plaza is in Pitt Street between Park and Bathurst Streets. It is a 5-minute walk from Town Hall Station. The nearest parking station is at 133 Castlereagh Street, one block north between Park and Market Streets.

The AGM will call for nominations for all office bearers and elect the Executive and Committee members. Existing office bearers are welcome to stand for re-election. All positions will be declared vacant and nominations can be made in writing to Secretary or at the meeting. Members are encouraged and welcome to participate in the election of your committee and executive. The first committee meeting of the Branch elected officers will follow the AGM.

Those wishing to attend and nominations for office are requested to be sent to The Secretary (details above) or e-mail to [contact@raafradar.org.au](mailto:contact@raafradar.org.au). **Please Note: All Members and Friends are most welcome.**

## **ANNUAL RAAF BIRTHDAY FUNCTIONS 2009**

This years Annual Birthday Luncheon to celebrate the 88<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Air Force will take place as follows:

- (I) **Church Service:** 1030am Sunday 22<sup>th</sup> March, St Andrews Cathedral
- (II) **Commemorative Service** 1100am Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, Cenotaph Martin Place Sydney
- (III) **Annual Luncheon** 1200 for 1230 Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, Parliament House

**For details of the events, please contact the RAAF Association, NSW Division Phone 02 9377 3485**

The luncheon is \$65 per head and members of the Radar Branch have enjoyed the event over many years. The dress is Jacket and Tie (medals may be worn). If you haven't been before, please consider attending to experience a special function in a very special and friendly venue with other Radar Branch members. The RAAF Association extends the invitation to the function to all Radar Branch Members and partners and requests that the form attached to this bulletin be forwarded to the address on the form **no later than Monday 23 March 2009. Note: Payment of \$65 per head can be made by cheque or credit card.**

Remember to annotate membership of The Radar Branch and make cheques payable to RAAF Association NSW Division Inc. For details contact:

**Bruce Weekley RFD**  
**State Vice President**  
**RAAF Association (NSW Division)**  
**PO Box A2147**  
**SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235**  
[bweekely@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bweekely@optusnet.com.au)

## **ANZAC DAY 2009**

All RAAF and WAAAF Veterans and serving members are invited to assemble at the usual 1030am in Elizabeth Street, City (just south of Market Street).

**The ANZAC Day March format trialed last year has been abandoned and the 2009 march will revert to the format of previous years.**

Accordingly, the RAAF will march as a complete service and current RAAF units are permitted to march with WW2 and Post WW2 units. Therefore, again this year, we will be accompanied by a contingent of serving members from Surveillance and Response Group (SRG), RAAF Williamtown. SRG includes Nos 41, 42 and 44 Wings which were also active in WWII as radar units. We are extremely grateful and delighted that serving RAAF members can once again join with us on this important day.

In addition to serving members, WWII and Post WWII veterans, one relative representing a deceased or disabled veteran may march with the Radar Branch. . In particular, one descendant will be allowed to march as a 'carer' for Veterans with a genuine need. Representatives of Radar Branch veterans may wear the veteran's medals on his or her right side and are invited to march in the contingent rear rows Instructions for others who wish to participate in the march will be published by the RAAF NSW Association. Descendants who are not representing a veteran member of a Branch or association will be able to join the march in the RAAF Descendants section at the rear of the Air Force contingent.

The Radar Branch contingent will again be lead by Cec Blumenthal who served as a commissioned officer in radar stations throughout Australia and New Guinea.

### **ANZAC Day Banquet Lunch - \$40 Per Head**

***ANZAC DAY 2009 VENUE: The Emperor's Choice Restaurant, Corner King and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney***

The EMPEROR'S CHOICE RESTAURANT, on the corner of King and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney has graciously agreed to host our annual lunch following the Anzac Day March. Lunch will commence 1230pm to 3.00pm. An usher will be on the corner to direct members to the restaurant.

The restaurant would not normally open on Anzac Day but they have again willingly accepted our booking in the spirit of ANZAC Day for which we are most grateful. If asked to recommend a restaurant in Sydney, The banquet is open to all members and guest, particularly those who are unable to march but wish to meet up with old friends and make new acquaintances.

Please fill out the slip included in this bulletin and return to the Secretary **by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2009**. Payment can be made by cheque accompanying the slip or at the restaurant on the day.

The Joe Ulett Memorial and Pither trophies will be awarded at the luncheon to the recipients from Surveillance and Response Group. Both of these trophies are sponsored by the Radar Branch and are awarded annually to the airman or airwoman who has made exemplary contributions in their field.

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Annual Christmas Luncheon**

The Radar Branch held its annual Christmas Luncheon at the The City Tattersalls Club on 4 December 2008. The event was well attended with over 60 members and guest enjoying fine food and wine plus the company of serving RAAF members. However, continuing the annual luncheon will become increasingly difficult without branch member support and attendance. City Tattersalls was not only chosen because of its central locality and access to transport and parking but mainly because the club offered a cost effective deal. Clubs and restaurants, including RSL and Service clubs, understandably require a minimum number in a party for profitability and we have to make a commitment to book a private function room. Hence, attendance below the minimum number can result in a strain on our finances. In this regard, we will be seeking members' cooperation this year to notify the Secretary early of attendance at functions (particularly Anzac Day and Christmas luncheons) so that the committee can make responsible decisions on function costs and particulars.

Again, a gratifying aspect of the Christmas Luncheon was the support and participation by members of Surveillance and Response Group from RAAF Williamtown, including our own committee member

Squadron Leader Ray O'Donoghue. The Group was represented by Ray, Wing Commander Nigel Nelson, representing the Officer Commanding No 41 Wing, Wing Commander Krista Thompson and Wing Commander Ian Gibson, all of whom have recently returned from active service. Krista had just completed her tour of duty as the Commander Wing of the No 41 Wing Radar Detachment in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Nigel gave an interesting outline of 41 Wing activities throughout the year while Krista provided an engaging and thoughtful address on her recent experiences while deployed in Afghanistan. The presentations by Nigel and Krista were a highlight of the luncheon and greatly appreciated by all. Our thanks once again go to serving RAAF members for their valued support.



The Radar Branch Committee at the 2008 Christmas Luncheon, City Tattersalls Club, Sydney

### **RAAF ASSOCIATION NSW DIVISION WEBSITE**

The RAAF Association NSW Division is on the Internet with a website at:

**[www.simplesite.com/raafansw](http://www.simplesite.com/raafansw)**

The site has a magnitude of information and news of interest to members. As well, the NSW Division has an email address at [raafansw@bigpond.com](mailto:raafansw@bigpond.com) where you can request information or have questions answered. Importantly, membership forms can now be downloaded and paid with credit card or online transfer.

**Note:** Our Branch is on the Internet under the domain name:

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

The name has been approved by the RAAF Brand manager and has been included as a linked site on the RAAF website. In this regard, we have an obligation to uphold the values of the RAAF on our website and comply with Defence rules on the use of official imagery and material.

A main aim of the Radar Branch of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Association is to increase our membership and provide a vehicle for all those connected to RAAF Radar to become part of the network and keep in contact with comrades. Our website at '[raafradar.org.au](http://www.raafradar.org.au)' will hopefully enable the Branch to reach out to potential members. On our site, you will find information on the Branch as well as its other varied activities.

Since its inception, the Radar Branch has been served by many wonderful people who have given much of themselves, their time and effort to fostering the spirit of discovery and camaraderie that had its beginnings

with the advent of Radar in World War II, nurtured post WWII, and endures in the RAAF today. Radar technology encompasses Air Defence, Fighter Control, Air Traffic Control, Surveillance, Airborne Early Warning and Control, Over The Horizon Radar Surveillance, Ground Telecommunications and Electronics and related areas of radar interest. We welcome members from all areas.

Please contact The Secretary (details above) or e-mail to [contact@raafradar.org.au](mailto:contact@raafradar.org.au)

### VALE

**Vale** Doctor Leonard Hibbard of Wahroonga passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2008. We express our condolences to his family and give thanks for his life.

**Vale** Allan Dennison 27<sup>th</sup> April 1924 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Allan served on the committee of the Branch and later took on the role of Branch photographer and provided hundreds of pictures to members at his own expense. We express our condolences to Marion and family on the passing of Allan.



*Allan Dennison*

*Late of Carlingford and North Turramurra.  
Much beloved and loving husband to Marion,  
father to John, Louise, Fiona and Paul,  
father-in-law to Mary and Greg,  
grandfather to Matt, Danni, Siobhan and Alyx.*

### **Ode to Flanders Fields**

**(by WgCdr Krista Thompson, May 2008, Kandahar, Afghanistan)**

Each ANZAC Day we bow and pray,  
reverent memories ne'er to stray.  
And though it is with regret  
The lives lost – lest we forget;  
War still continues to this day.

In Flanders still the poppies grow,  
In Afghanistan they also blow  
o'er the deaths of our young men.  
And so the fight goes on.

What would it take, to live in peace,  
to hold that torch up high,  
to keep the faith with those long gone  
and let the birds across the world  
sing their song clear in the sky:  
There's finally sleep in Flanders Fields.



## PROFILE

### **Air Vice-Marshal Geoff Brown, AM**

In this bulletin we profile the Deputy Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Geoff Brown AM. He has made exemplary contributions to the RAAF as a fighter pilot, in responsibilities of command and in the introduction of the 'Wedgetail' Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft into the Australian Defence Force.



The Deputy Chief of Air Force is responsible for the operation of the Headquarters of the Royal Australian Air Force located in Canberra

Air Vice-Marshal Geoff Brown joined the RAAF in February 1980 after completing an Engineering degree. He graduated from No 111 Pilot's Course in 1981 and was initially posted to 12SQN Amberley to fly Chinooks. After three years at 12SQN he was posted to 2FTS Pearce and spent 18 months as a Flying Instructor before being posted to Central Flying School (CFS) East Sale in 1986. While at CFS he was a member of the Roulettes from 1987-89. He led the last Macchi team before they transitioned to the PC-9.

In 1990, Air Vice-Marshal Brown was posted to Williamtown for a Hornet conversion and then completed a short tour at 77SQN. On promotion to SQNLDR in 1991, he was posted to 75SQN Tindal as a Flight Commander.

In 1993 Air Vice-Marshal Brown was then posted to 77SQN as Executive Officer. He completed RAAF Staff College in 1995 and was subsequently posted to Headquarters Air Command as Staff Officer Operational Evaluation.

From 1997 to 2000, Air Vice-Marshal Brown commanded No 3 Squadron. He then completed F-111 conversion and assumed the position of Officer Commanding No 82 Wing in December 2000. In 2003 he commanded all F/A-18 and C-130 operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded an Order of Australia and a Legion of Merit for his service in the operation. He was Officer Commanding Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems Program Office from June 2003 until December 2004 and spent 2005 at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies. He then commanded Air Combat Group from 2006 until taking up his current appointment as Director General Capability Planning in Air Force Headquarters. Air Vice-Marshal Brown was appointed as DCAF from 30 June 2008.

Air Vice-Marshal Brown has over 5000 hours in military aircraft.

He lives in Canberra with his wife Amanda and his two sons, Ryan and Jake. His sporting interests are gliding and golf.

Please cut off and return to address below:

**RAAF BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON RSVP & PAYMENT ADVICE**

**Please return by 23 March 2009 to**

**Bruce L Weekley RFD  
Vice President  
RAAF Association (NSW Division)  
PO Box A21147  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235**

MEMBER'S NAME .....(PLEASE PRINT)

BRANCH .....

Will be attending the RAAF Birthday Luncheon at Parliament House, Sydney on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

I will be accompanied by .....

And if possible would like to be seated with RADAR BRANCH

**Disabled parking details (if applicable)**

Car Registration No. .... Disabled Sticker No .....

Car Type .....

**Members are also invited to attend the Annual Commemorative RAAF Birthday Church Service, which this year is being held at 10.30 am on SUNDAY, 22 MARCH 2009 at St Andrews Cathedral, George Street, Sydney. Your attendance would be most welcome.**

**METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR LUNCH**

**Cheque**

I enclose a cheque (made payable to RAAF Association NSW Division) for \$..... for..... persons at \$65 per head (GST Included)

**Credit Card**

I approve the RAAF Association (NSW Division) to charge my

**VISA / MASTER CARD (Please circle)**

\$..... being payment for.....persons at \$65 per head (GST included)

**NAME ON CREDIT CARD:** .....(please print)

**CREDIT CARD NO:** .....

**SIGNATURE:** .....

**EXPIRY DATE:** .....MONTH. ....YEAR

No receipts or notification will be sent out unless you miss out, in which case you will receive a full refund.