



THE RADAR BRANCH BULLETIN



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

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

Email: contact@raafradar.org.au

Patrons
President
Senior RAAF Member
Correspondence

Air Commodore D. Bowden AM (Ret'd)
Air Vice Marshal R.B. Treloar AO (Ret'd)
Air Commodore T.C. Delahunty AM
Air Commodore C.J. Westwood
Secretary, The Radar Branch
7 Glenridding Grove, Lakelands NSW 2282

FEBRUARY 2012

Please Note: THE RADAR BRANCH 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- (I) **Date:** Tuesday 13th March 2012 – 1100am
- (II) **Venue:** The Gallipoli Legion Club,
Hamilton, Newcastle NSW 2303 (Phone 02 4961 2430)
- (III) **Travel:** The Gallipoli Legion Club is a short 50 metre walk from Hamilton Railway Station on the southern side of the railway tracks near the corner of Hudson and Beaumont 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. **Please Note: All Members and Friends are most welcome.**

ANNUAL RAAF BIRTHDAY FUNCTIONS 2012

Fabulous Luncheon Venue – “Harbour Cruise on MV SYDNEY 2000”

This years Annual Birthday Luncheon to celebrate the 91st Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Air Force will take place as follows:

- (I) **Commemorative Service** 1030am Friday 30th March, Cenotaph Martin Place Sydney
- (II) **Luncheon and Harbour Cruise** 1215 for 1230 Thursday 31st March, No 6 Wharf Circular Key

For details of the events, please contact the RAAF Association, NSW Division Phone 02 9393 3485

The 91st Birthday function this year following the commemorative service at the Cenotaph will be a harbor cruise with Captain Cook Cruises on board the MV SYDNEY 2000. The dress is Jacket and Tie (medals may be worn). If you haven't been before, please consider attending to experience a special function with other Radar Branch members. The cruise will depart at 1230 and guests are requested to be at No 6 Wharf at Circular Key at 1215 to ensure an on-time departure. Access to embark is level and all facilities are on deck the Show Deck with panoramic windows. The cruise will accommodate 204 guests for a three course meal including Standard Open Bar serving a choice of beers, Tyrrell's wines, soft drinks and fruit juices.

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 included with this bulletin **no later than Friday 9th March 2012. Note: Payment of \$60 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

ANZAC DAY 2012

All RAAF and WAAAF Veterans and serving members are invited to assemble on Wednesday 25th April at the usual 1030am in Elizabeth Street, City (just south of Market Street).

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.

Please contact 026259 8351 or contact@radar.org.au if you wish to ride in a vehicle during the march

ANZAC Day Banquet Lunch - \$50 Per Head

ANZAC DAY 2011 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 once again 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 host Eric and staff have again willingly accepted our booking in the spirit of ANZAC Day for which we are most grateful. 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.

The cost of \$50 per head is the same as last year. Please fill out the slip included in this bulletin and return to the Secretary **by Friday 13th April 2012**. 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. This year will also be the inaugural award in memory of Wing Commander Grant. E.S. Stuchbury to a member of 44Wing.

PAST EVENTS

Annual Christmas Luncheon 2011

Some 20 members met on Friday 9th December 2011 to celebrate together at the Tattersalls City Club in Sydney in the 'Lower Bar' on the ground floor, one of Sydney's Art Deco treasures, and then moved upstairs to the 2nd floor Café 2 Bistro for lunch. Members were able to be seated together and by all accounts had a wonderful function.

A pre Christmas lunch has been a traditional function for the Branch and we would like to keep it going into the future in a location and in format that will attract member participation and provide the means to bring members together for a special occasion.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

DEFENCE ASBESTOS EXPOSURE EVALUATION SCHEME

Defence is concerned about the impact to the health of current and former Australian Defence Force members and Australian Public Service employees who may have been exposed to asbestos in the course of their Defence employment.

Current serving and former Australian Defence Force members, and Australian Public Service employees, who believe they may have been exposed to asbestos and would like to have their asbestos related medical status evaluated are encouraged to contact:

1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362)

and register with the DEFENCE_ASBESTOS EXPOSURE EVALUATION SCHEME. More information can also be found at the Defence Internet site:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ohsc/programs/Asbestos/default.htm>

THE 'FAIR GO!' CAMPAIGN FOR MILITARY SUPERANNUATION INDEXATION

There have been recent media articles on military superannuation; in particular, on the issue of military superannuation indexation which is Consumer Price Index (CPI) based and below the cost of living index used for the Age and Public Service pensions. The 'Fair Go!' campaign is being nationally coordinated by the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO) with the aim of seeking Government to act on the findings of the 2007 review of military superannuation commissioned by the Howard Government and released by the Rudd Government in late December 2007.

Members can keep up to date on the FAIR GO! campaign on the ADSO website at:

<http://www.standto.org>

Information on Military Superannuation issues can also be obtained through the Defence Force Welfare Association at:

Defence Force Welfare Association
PO Box 4166
KINGSTON ACT 2604

or

Email: national@dfwa.org.au

ONLINE ASSISTANCE FOR EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

Two useful websites to assist ex-service personnel which members may wish to review are:

1. ***A new Defence website to allow ex-service personnel to stay in touch with comrades:***

<http://www.touchbase.gov.au>

2. ***Interactive material in key areas of mental health developed in conjunction with leading experts at the Australian Centre for Post-traumatic Mental Health:***

<http://www.wellbeingtoolbox.net.au>

Please cut off and return

**ANZAC DAY LUNCH 2012 – ‘EMPERORS’S CHOICE RESTAURANT’
12.30 TO 3.00PM**

Please return with your cheque by Friday 13th April 2012 (or annotate that you will pay on the day)

We would welcome your response to

Treasurer, The Radar Branch

PO Box 470

MORISSET NSW 2264

contact@raafradar.org.au

1. YOUR NAME:

2. I will/will not be able to attend the ANZAC Day lunch and will be accompanied by my spouse/partner/family members/friends (please include given and surname)

NAME/S:

.....

3. I enclose my cheque made in favour “**Radar Air Defence Branch**’ for the sum off \$.....
Being payment of \$50 for each person attending. Number attending:

4. I will pay the sum off \$.....
Being payment of \$50 for each person attending. Number attending:

5. Please advise whether there are any special dietary needs:

6. Please advise if you require assistance on the day with your contact details below

Your phone number or email:

ON THIS DAY

19 Feb 42 - Darwin air base destroyed in Japanese raid



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's 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.

23 Nov 42 - First night interception over Australian territory



Wing Commander Richard ('Dick') Cresswell, the 22-year-old Commanding Officer of No 77 Squadron, was scrambled from the unit's base at Livingstone, Northern Territory, at 0327 hours on this day to mount patrol over Darwin against incoming Japanese raiders. Shortly after 0500 he saw clearly silhouetted against the moon three Mitsubishi G4M 'Betty' bombers in formation heading south at 23 500 feet, and moved to engage them. On his first attacking pass he raked all three aircraft with a four-second burst from his P40E Kittyhawk's six guns. The bombers immediately turned to port, except the outside Betty which fell behind. Singling out this aircraft, Cresswell made two more passes which left it blazing fiercely and losing height. Shortly afterwards the Betty exploded and fell to earth in two parts. Cresswell's 'kill' was the first time that an enemy aircraft had been shot down over Australian soil at night.

Please cut off and return to address below:

**91ST BIRTHDAY OF ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
LUNCHEON RSVP & PAYMENT ADVICE**

On board Captain Cook Cruises MV Sydney 2000 - Friday 30 March 2012

PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY 9TH MARCH 2012

**Bruce L Weekley RFD
Vice President
RAAF Association (NSW Division)
PO Box A2147
SOUTH SYDNEY NSW 1235**

MEMBERS NAME(PLEASE PRINT)

BRANCH TELEPHONE NO.....

ADDRESS (for return of tickets)

.....

I will be attending the 91st Birthday Luncheon for the Royal Australian Air Force on board MV Sydney on Friday, 30 March 2012.

I will be accompanied by

.....

And if possible would like to be seated with

.....

METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR LUNCH (COST - \$60 PER HEAD)

Cheque

I enclose a cheque (made payable to '**RAAF Association NSW Division**)
for \$..... for persons ay **\$60 per head** (GST Included)

Credit Card

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

VISA / MASTER CARD (Please circle)

\$..... for persons ay **\$60 per head** (GST Included)

NAME ON CREDIT CARD.....(PLEASE PRINT)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER.....

SIGNATURE.....

EXPIRY DATE.....MONTH.....YEAR

PLEASE RETURN BY FRIDAY 9TH MARCH 2012