



THE RADAR BRANCH

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

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

Email: 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: Group Captain T.C. Delahunty AM

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 2 Preece Close, SPRINGFIELD NSW 2250
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BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2008

Our Patrons and Committee join me in wishing all members, spouse and friends
'Compliments of the Season'

FUTURE EVENTS

XMAS LUNCH: – 'THE SYDNEY ROOM' CITY TATTERSALLS CLUB

OUR COMMITTEE HAS SELECTED A NEW VENUE FOR OUR CHRISTMAS FUNCTION WHICH IS CENTRALLY LOCATED IN THE HEART OF SYDNEY WITH EXCELLENT ACCESS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR ALL MEMBERS

- (I) **Day - Date - Time :** Thursday 4TH - December 08 - 12 noon
- (II) **Venue:** "The Sydney Room", 2nd Floor City Tattersalls Club
198 – 204 Pitt Street, Sydney
- (III) **Dress: -** Coat and Tie
- (IV) **Cost:** \$60 per Person
- (V) **Menu:** Glass of sparkling wine on arrival. Other drinks at members' cost, available from private bar in Sydney Room

Entrée	<i>Cold Poached Salmon Beetroot Feta & Kifler Potato Salad with Sauce Verdi</i>
Main Course	<i>Free Range Turkey Breast with Honey Glazed Ham Sage & Chestnut Stuffing, Green Beans and Cranberry Jus</i>
Dessert	<i>Steamed Christmas Pudding Brandy & Fig Ice-Cream & Vanilla Custard</i>
Beverages	<i>Bon Bons per person Coffee, tea and Mince Pies</i>

- (VI) **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.
- (VII) **Car Parking** – The most convenient car parking is almost opposite at the Hilton or Piccadilly in Pitt Street.

As there are only sixty (60) places available, Members should return the slip is provided with this Bulletin and send as soon as possible to the Treasurer at the address shown and no later than 30TH NOVEMBER 2008 with your cheque made in favour of 'Radar Air Defence Branch'.

We would welcome a donation (such as a bottle of wine or chocolates) towards 'Lucky Door' prizes.

Please wear a name badge (any shape or size) and don't forget to indicate any special dietary needs on the return slip. **Please Note: Family Members and Friends are most welcome.**

If you wish more information please contact our Secretary (details above) or e-mail to contact@raafradar.org.au

RAAF Association Headquarters Christmas Function

RAAF Association Headquarters Christmas Function will be held at the Ultimo Community Centre, William Street Ultimo, at 1230 for 1.00pm on Sunday 7th December 08. Cost is \$25 per head and cheques/money orders can be sent to: RAAF Association Headquarters, PO Box A2147 Sydney South NSW 1235. Raffle prize donations would be greatly appreciated.

PAST EVENTS

BATTLE OF BRITAIN ANNIVERSARY LUNCH – 16 SEPTEMBER 2008

The Battle of Britain Lunch was well attended by 164 RAAFA members, including 16 members from Radar Branch. AVM Mark Skidmore gave an address at Martin Place and also at the lunch at Parliament House. In his address, AVM Skidmore noted the vital role played by RAF Air Defence and radar in the battle which turned the tide in the air war over Europe. Mrs Robbie Knox attended the lunch with Mrs Phyllis Loveday, widow of former Radar Branch committee member the late Hon Ray Loveday AM QC. The annual lunch is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends so please put a note in your diary for next year.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Our Branch Committee meets at the Defence Plaza Building, Pitt Street Sydney. The next meeting will be held at 1000am Wednesday 5 November 2008. Vice President Tony Rogers and Secretary Howie Campbell attended the RAAF Association meeting to review Anzac Day 2009 arrangements on 22 Aug 08. The meeting was chaired by Kevin Sylvester, NSW State Council, and arrangements which were outlined in the July Bulletin were agreed. There will be some fine tuning to achieve the best results on AnzacDay 2009 under Kevin Sylvester's very capable charge. Kevin has our full support.

www.raafradar.org.au

Please note that copies of the Bulletin are posted on the website. Please contact by e-mail to contact@raafradar.org.au

NEW CHIEF OF AIR FORCE

Air Marshal Mark Binskin AM was promoted to Air Marshal and appointed Chief of Air Force on 04 July 2008. Air Marshal Binskin has a fighter pilot background and has a wealth of experience in command, including command of Coalition air operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (ADF Operations Catalyst and Slipper). As well as an experienced commander and aviator, Air Marshal Binskin also brings strong leadership and management acumen to the office and is a graduate of the Harvard Business School. Air Marshal Binskin's impressive biographical details are included.

We also wish the outgoing Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Shepherd AO and his wife Annie all the best for the future and offer our thanks for his exceptional service to the RAAF and the country.

I look forward to seeing you at the XMAS function

With kind regards

Terry Delahunty (Phone 02 6259 8351) or email contact@raafradar.org.au

**Air Marshal Mark Binskin, AM, RAAF
Chief of Air Force (CAF)**

Air Marshal Mark Binskin was born in Sydney in 1960. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in 1984 after an initial period of service with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). Air Marshal Binskin's service commenced with the RAN in May 1978 and on completion of flying training, was posted to fly A-4G Skyhawk aircraft at Naval Air Station Nowra, NSW. He served in VC724 and VF805 Squadrons and in January 1982 was selected as the first RAN pilot to undergo an exchange with the Royal Australian Air Force flying Mirage III aircraft. On completion of this exchange and with the disbanding of the Navy's fixed wing capability, he joined the RAAF.

Air Marshal Binskin's other flying tours include No 2 Operational Conversion Unit and No 77 Squadron at Williamtown, NSW flying Mirage and F/A-18 Hornet aircraft; with the United States Navy at VFA-125 at Lemoore, California training on F/A-18 aircraft; with the United States Air Force at 314 Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, USAF at Luke AFB Arizona instructing on F-16C aircraft; and No 75 Squadron at Tindal, Northern Territory flying F/A-18 aircraft.



He was the Commanding Officer of No 77 Squadron at Williamtown during the period 1998-99, Commander of Air Combat Group (F/A-18, F-111, Hawk and PC9-A(F)) in 2004-05 and later as Air Commander Australia in 2007-08. Air Marshal Binskin's flying qualifications include Fighter Combat Instructor and Tactical Reconnaissance Pilot. Additionally, he has served as the RAAF F/A-18 Hornet Demonstration Pilot and in this position represented the RAAF throughout Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand. He has over 3,500 hours in single-seat fighter aircraft. He was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his performance as a Fighter Combat Instructor and the RAAF F/A-18 Display Pilot.

Air Marshal Binskin has served in various joint and single service staff positions including Headquarters Australian Defence Force as Deputy Director Airspace Control and as Staff Officer to the Chief of Defence Force; in the Defence Materiel Organisation as Officer Commanding the Airborne Early Warning and Control System Program Office; and in Air Force Headquarters as Director General Performance Management Audit and Director General Capability Planning. During Australia's 2003 contribution to the war in Iraq, Air Marshal Binskin served as Chief of Staff at Headquarters Australian Theatre. Following this, he served as the first dedicated non-USAF Director of the US Central Air Force Combined Air and Space Operations Centre where he was responsible for the conduct of all Coalition air operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (ADF Operations Catalyst and Slipper). For this service he was awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service.

Air Marshal Binskin is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program, Australian Institute of Company Directors and RAAF Command and Staff Course where he was awarded the Chief of Staff's Prize for Professional Excellence.

Air Marshal Binskin is married to Gitte and they have two sons, Scott, born in 1989, and Nicholas, born in 1993. Air Marshal Binskin's interests include camping, motor sports and motorcycle riding with his family.

