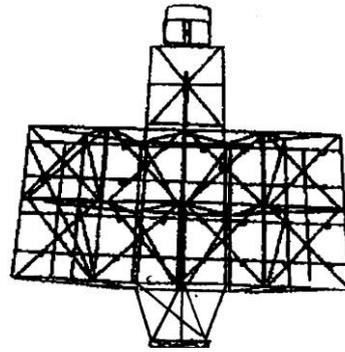


## Newsletter March 2016

President: A Culvenor, 27A Panmure Street NEWSTEAD VIC 3462  
03 5476 2288

Secretary: I C McKellar, 25 Salisbury Court, HEATHMONT VIC 3135  
03 9729 4359

Treasurer: B Mainon, 1/12 Talbot Avenue, BALWYN VIC 3103  
03 9830 4124



### Reunion Lunch

**Friday 22 April 2016**

**TIME 12 noon**

**Bentleigh RSL,  
538-540 Centre Road near the  
corner of Jasper Road, Bentleigh  
(Melway map 77 E1).**

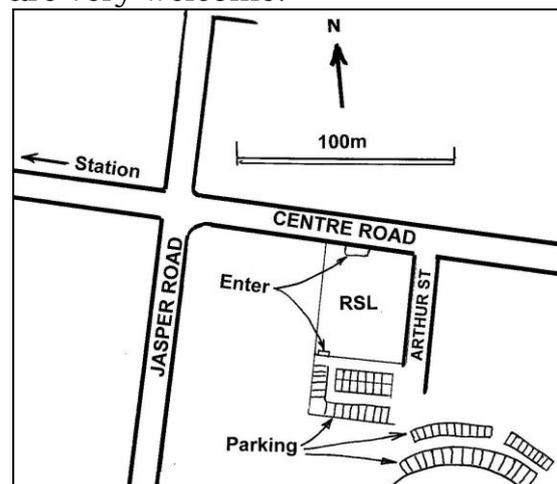
After the lunch, over a cup of tea or coffee in the upstairs meeting room, two of our members have agreed to tell us about some unusual aspects of their service life. They are Beryl Manion (106683 ACW B Walker) and Doug Brooke (53798 F/Sgt D A Brooke).

If you are coming by car, parking is available at the rear of the premises and the adjoining recreation reserve, enter parking areas via Arthur Street, off Centre Road as shown.

This is 400 metres east of Bentleigh Railway Station, on the Frankston line (trains run every 15 minutes from the city). Please note that as Bentleigh Station is being rebuilt due the removal of the adjacent level crossing there may be some access changes prior to the completion of the work, scheduled to be at the end of August. There is a taxi stand at the station. The Club is wheelchair friendly.

Enter the Club from Centre Road. If you are an RSL member you can access the door from the carpark, by swiping your membership card and walk through the gaming room to the dining room.

THE COST: A donation of \$5 is requested, to help finance our projects and postage. However drinks and your meal will be at your own expense. Complimentary hot drinks upstairs after the talk. We hope to see many of you there, spouses and other family members are very welcome.

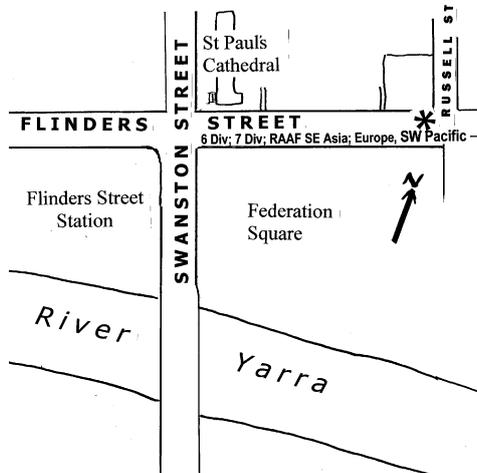


ANY QUESTIONS or APOLOGIES:  
Please contact your Secretary.

**Advance notice:** The same venue, the Bentleigh RSL, has been booked for a reunion lunch on Thursday 15 September 2016. Please put the date in your diaries now.

## Melbourne ANZAC Day March and commemoration ceremony.

Form up on the **South side of Flinders Street East (Fed Square side) (Melway map 1B Q10)**. Shown by the asterisk on the map. Look out for our blue RAAF RADAR banner. We normally march near the end of the RAAF South Pacific Group. At this stage the assembly plan is not available. That is expected to be in the Age and Herald Sun on the Tuesday or Wednesday in the week preceding Anzac Day. If it follows previous years you will need to be there to form up at 10.20 am ready to move off – Note that transport will be available for WW2 veterans. If you have any problems finding us ask an RAAF Marshall for help. Ask for the ‘Radar Units’.



## ANZAC Day Commemorative Council

We have received a letter from the ADCC which, in part, presents the following protocols to ensure that in future the body of the march continues to be led by veterans:

- All WW2 veterans are encouraged to use transport provided.
- Marchers should form up and march six abreast;
- Descendants should march behind the veterans;

- Representation of your former veteran should be restricted to one per veteran;
- Carrying pictures and pushing prams and pushers is not permitted.

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## Faded Echoes

The deaths of the following Radar people have come to our notice since the last newsletter. Sadly we have not been able to record tributes to most of them. Our sincere sympathy goes to all their families and friends.

### D L Don Parncutt

23 March 1923 – 15 September 2015  
128201 Radar Operator MO76  
Served on 13RS, 47RS, 163RS, 345RS and 325RS

### R H Bob Brann

29 November 1924 - 3 November 2015  
125545 Radar Mechanic M44G  
Served on 340RS and others

### D G Doug Dowe

5 December 1923 - 9 November 2015  
62648 Radar Mechanic M20G  
Served on 101RS, 52RS, Radar Wing (probably No 42). After the Japanese surrender in 1945 he continued in the RAAF, for a period he was in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan where he investigated their radar systems. He retired from the RAAF in 1960 and joined the CSIRO where he designed and operated their specialised radar for atmospheric research. In 1951 when the LW/AW set intended for display at the AWM was lost in the fire at the RAAF store at Tottenham he joined a team that collected parts from many sources to build the set now on display in Canberra. More recently he was the major contributor to the book on 52 Radar at Mutee Head on Cape York.

**O E Jim Coad**

20 February 1925 - 22 November 2015  
128686 Radar Operator MO80  
Served on 220RS, 61RS

**Ian Douglas McDonald**

19 January 1920 - 11 December 2015  
59339 Radar Mechanic M38G  
Served on 10RS, 131RS, 211RS, 348RS

**Rolphe Fox**

22 April 1925- December 2015  
142325 Radar Operator MO84  
Served on 40RS, 52RS

**September 2015 meeting**

Our guest speaker was, Emily Constantine, the Collections Manager of the RAAF Museum at Point Cook who enlightened us on how donations are accepted, processed, catalogued and maintained by the Museum. Also how family members and researchers can access the collection. Another guest was Dave Gardner, the Manager of the Museum.

**Postage cost rise**

The recent rise in the cost of postage will significantly affect this Association. Most members receive their newsletters by post. If you have an email facility (either to your own unique address or that of a relative or friend) PLEASE would you let your secretary know at the address shown on the last page. The Association collects its funds by a contribution paid by members attending our lunches

**Enquiry to Radar Returns regarding Flying Officer W H Flynn**

President Alec Culvenor has received an enquiry from this man's grandson. F/O Flynn was CO at 23RS when it

was at Lytton, Queensland; 53RS at Mt Surprise Queensland and 322RS at Tanah Merah, Dutch New Guinea. Post war he went on to set up communications for DCA's Air Traffic Control services.

If you knew or served with him at any stage or can help with any memories please let your Secretary know and we will pass them on or put you in touch with his grandson.

**No 52 Radar Station, Mutee Head, Cape York, Queensland**



This plaque financed jointly by our Association and the Radar Branch of the NSW RAAF Association, has been delivered to Cape York where the local people will erect it on a secure concrete foundation alongside the only remaining, reasonably intact WWII radar antenna in Australia. It went into operation in March 1943 using a British COL transmitter and receiver. The antenna is a very popular and accessible place for tourists visiting Cape York, but has lacked any interpretive signage and, in contrast to nearby aircraft wrecks, is uncared for.

We now have recorded its history with a book. In it three of our Association members, Doug Dowe, Bruce Kendall and Rolphe Fox, who served on this station, have shared their experiences. The book *Mutee Head Radar Station North Queensland 1942-1950* will be available for purchase at the Reunion lunch for a cost of \$17.00 each.

### No 1 Signals School Plaque

In November 2009 this plaque recording its location and supplied by your Association, was dedicated alongside the Point Cook parade ground. It has now been repositioned on one of the memorial walls at the head of the parade ground. The lower photograph shows it in its new location.



Photos by Chris Harnath

### Frank Sharp's records of Dunk Island and Cooktown

Our member, Frank Sharp, who died in May 2011 was CO at several radar stations. These included 27RS Dunk Island and 56RS Cooktown. He was a "Bailey Boy", that is he trained as a Radar Officer in a six month course under Professor V Bailey at Sydney University. He contributed personal memories to Eric Unthank which were published in the latter's book on 27RS history. He and his wife, Nola, attended many radar reunions. In September 1996 he organised the dedication of a plaque, shown below, at the site of 56RS. The ceremony was well attended by local community leaders.

His family has recently donated the meticulously collected records of his activities to the Pete Smith Radar Collection in the RAAF Museum Archive at Point Cook.

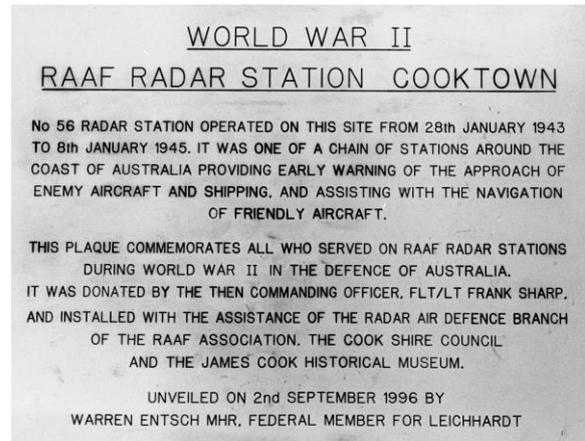


Photo by Nola Sharp

**If you have any Association matters including errors in or changes to your address please advise your secretary Ian McKellar, by email [ianmck@alphalink.com.au](mailto:ianmck@alphalink.com.au) or phone (03 9729 4359). If you have an e-mail address it would be appreciated if you would accept mail by that means to reduce costs to your Association.**