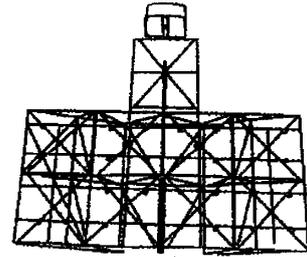


Victorian RAAF Radar Association

Newsletter July 2014

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Reunion Lunch

Thursday 21 August 2014

TIME 12 noon

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

After the lunch Glen Gould will tell us how 'Over the Horizon Radar' (OHTR) works and is used.

OHTR uses HF signals that are reflected by the ionosphere to give a consistently greater range than VHF and above as shown on the next page.

The Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) consists of two OTHR, one in Queensland and the other in Western Australia, jointly operated from the RAAF Base at Edinburgh, SA. JORN radars are capable of all weather detection of air and surface targets inside an arc of up to 3,000 km range.

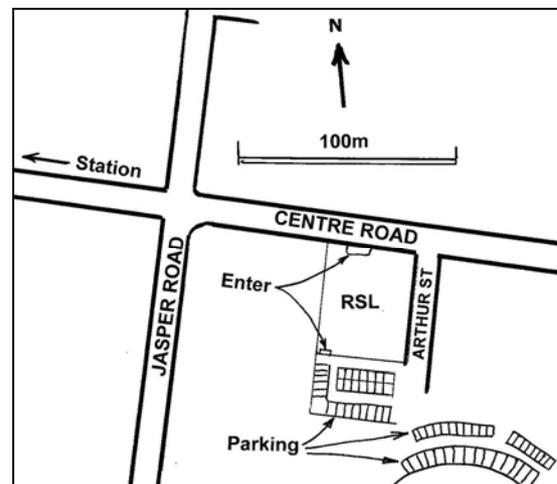
If you are coming by car, parking is available at the rear of the premises and the adjoining recreation reserve, enter parking areas via Arthur Street, off Centre Road as shown.

This is 400 metres east of Bentleigh Railway Station, on the Frankston line (trains run every 15 minutes from the city). 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. We will have complimentary hot drinks after the lunch.

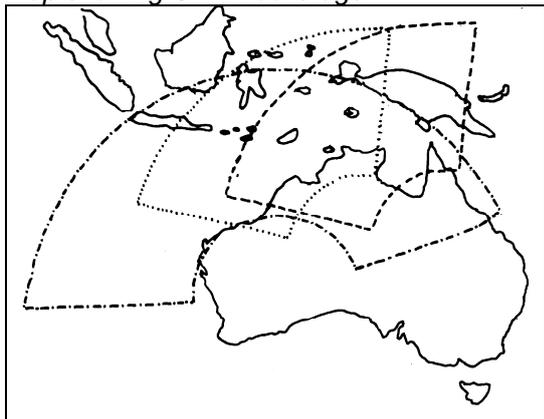
We hope to see many of you there, spouses and other family members are very welcome.



ANY QUESTIONS or APOLOGIES:
Please contact your Secretary.

Advance notice: The same venue has been booked for an Anzac reunion lunch on Friday 24 April 2015. Please put the date in your diaries now.

Map showing OTHR coverage



ABC programme “Whose been sleeping in my House?”

Broadcast nationally on ABC TV this programme explores social history through the intriguing questions people ask about their homes. The presenter then sets out to answer those questions and reveal a past that is not always in the history books.

One episode concerns 6FS, later 106FCU, which was secretly set up in the Masonic Hall in Alma Street Mt Lawley WA in April 1942, it is now a private home.

The date on which it is to be telecast has yet to be announced but it is now expected be in August or September 2014.

From the Royal Air Force Air Defence Radar Museum (UK)

In the November 2013 issue of their newsletter it was noted that there is a film in production “Castles in the Sky” which will cover the early history of Radar in UK. Robert Watson-Watt and Arnold Wilkins, played by actors, feature prominently in the film. It will appear on BBC2 TV later this year and then for a short time on BBC iPlayer (their I-View).

Being a film rather than a documentary there is some trade-off between the story and historic accuracy but they have researched the background very carefully so that this should not be of too much concern. We will monitor its progress and let you know if and when it can be seen on BBC iPlayer and, if possible, obtain a copy.

Rathmines on Parade, Celebrating 75 years as an RAAF base

On Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September RAAF Rathmines NSW will be celebrating its 75 years as an Officers Training Unit, home for the Marine Section and a Flying Boat Base. Open days with commemorative ceremonies and exhibitions are planned. All welcome.

For more details contact Alec on 02 4975 1973.

Syllabuses from No 1 Radio School, Richmond NSW

We recently discovered that the syllabuses of instruction and training as used at Richmond and Melbourne Technical College have lain hidden in the National Archives for 70 years because no one could or had sought to get a security clearance. This has been done so now you can review the subjects you sweated over.

These include:

- Radar Officers ‘G’ and ‘A’,
- Mechanics ‘G’ and ‘A’,
- Filter Officers,
- Radar Operators
- Wireless Mechanics.

The latter document complements the manuals that

were left to us by the late Len Ralph.

Also included is a report on the liaison tour of UK by W/C Martin and S/L Brandon in August 1942. The whole document can now be seen as a digital copy on the National Archive website. Look for Series No A12638; Control symbol 1/5/AIR PART 1 Attachment; Barcode 6963728.

Last meeting

Our speaker was Tom Roberts AO, author of *“Wingless, a Biographical index of Australian Airmen detained in Wartime”*. He is also now President of the Ballarat Branch of the RAAF Association. Tom told us about the adventures of one particular POW under the title “Sex, Spys and the X-Factor”. He presented detailed drawings of how the escape from Colditz POW camp was achieved.

Guests included family members including all three sons of the late F/Lt H P Simpson (CO of 101RS, 52RS, 55RS and 27RS).

History of 52RS, Mutee Head, Cape York Queensland

This project is progressing well. Bruce Kendall, another of our members has reminded us that he was also posted there from July 1944 until April 1945. 52RS went into operation in March 1943 using a British COL transmitter and receiver.

The Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council is showing an increasing interest in the site and its history. Hopefully this may also help in getting the steelwork of the antenna conserved before it collapses as well as safety fencing.

There would be scope for this Association and RAAFA to fund interpretive plaques, other relics in the Cape York area already have informative signage.

The photo below shows the antenna tower.



The air photo below shows Mutee Head with mouth of the Jardine River in the distance. The wide beach in the foreground was where the long jetty was built, the camp was in the bush just above that beach.



Apology

Following the installation of a new computer our last newsletter was plagued with gremlins. Both the email and postal address lists were affected. We hope you eventually got your copy.

Enquiries to Radar Returns

Association President, Alex Culvenor, has had a number of interesting enquiries about radar stations and associated facilities directed to him through Radar Returns.

The enquirers are now almost all relatives of deceased radar vets. We assist them in contacting the archivist at the RAAF Museum at Point Cook, the National Library, the Office of Air Force History or the Australian War Memorial.

Once again we appeal to members or their families who may have diaries, photos or memories

gathering dust on bookshelves or in garages to consider depositing them with the RAAF Museum at Point Cook or one of the other places listed above.

The most recent enquiry came from the daughter of a Radio Mechanic with 75 Squadron in New Guinea who has inherited a number of photos taken by her father. We have recommended that they be added to the RAAF Museum archive at Point Cook where they would be included with other 75 Squadron memorabilia.



First parade at 52RS Mutee Head in March 1943. Photo H P Simpson

If there are any errors in your address details would you please advise Ian McKellar, your secretary, by email ianmck@alphalink.com.au , letter or phone (03 9729 4359) of any corrections required.

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. Please advise the Secretary as above.