

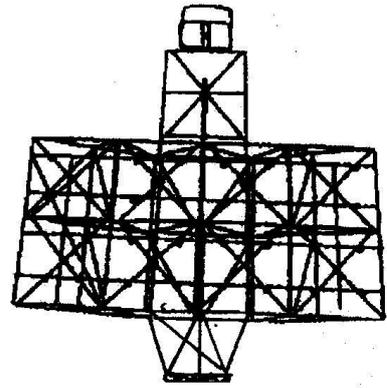
Victorian RAAF Radar Association

Newsletter March 2015

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



ANZAC Reunion Lunch

THE DATE: FRIDAY 24 April 2015

THE TIME: 12 noon

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

The Club is 400 metres east of Bentleigh Railway Station, which is on the Frankston line (trains run every 15 minutes from the city). There is a taxi stand at the station. Parking is available at the rear of the premises and the adjoining recreation reserve, enter these parking areas via Arthur Street, off Centre Road as shown.

Enter the Club building from Centre Road. Or if you are an RSL member you can access the door from the carpark, by swiping your membership card and walk through to the dining room to our reserved tables. The Club is wheelchair friendly.

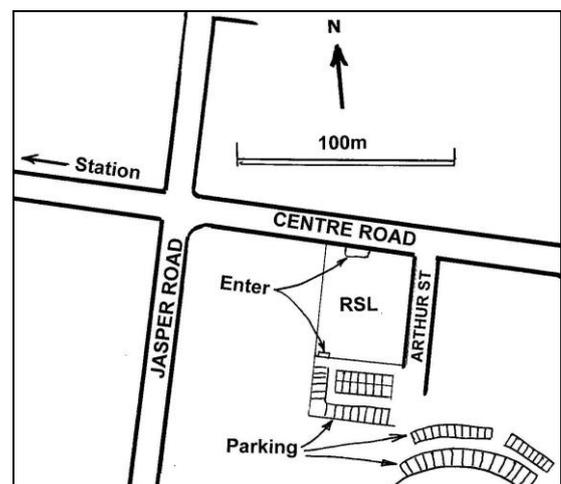
THE COST: A donation of \$5 is requested, to help finance our projects and postage. However drinks and your meal will be at your own expense.

We hope to see many of you there, spouses and other family members are very welcome. **Anyone who is in any way connected with radar is welcome.**

ANY QUESTIONS or APOLOGIES: Please contact: Vice President Chris Harnath – details on last page

Guest speaker – Maj Denny Gredzo

After the lunch make your way up, using the lift if you wish, to the meeting room for complimentary hot drinks. Here Major Denny Gredzo will give a presentation on the current crop of minor operations being conducted overseas by Australia with a brief description of its roles. Special emphasis will be on OP Mazurka in the Sinai recounting our role there, the history of the mission and how the history of the ADF in that region has significance over many years.

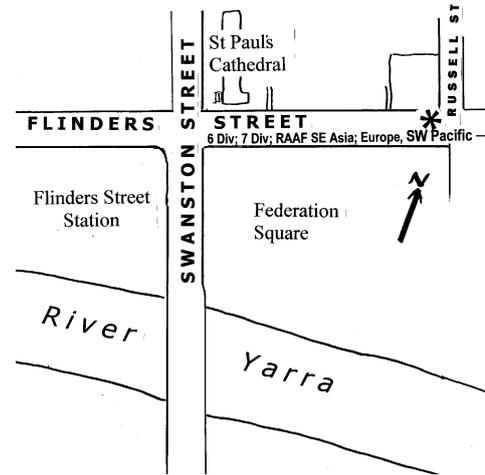


Advance notice: The same venue has been booked for a reunion lunch on Thursday 3 September. Please put the date in your diaries now.

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 the 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 proceeding 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'.



Last meeting

Our speaker was Glen Gould who told 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 or centimetric radars.

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.

Preserving our history

The late Harry Spry

Beryl Mainon and Alex Culvenor recently met Harry's widow, Lorna and were loaned all the information assembled by Harry relating to the rudimentary ASV equipment and operational experience of radar stations 302 and 303 in the Milne Bay area of New Guinea. This will be reviewed and donated to the Pete Smith collection RAAF Archive at Point Cook. Alex will make a brief reference to this at our ANZAC lunch.

The Association encourages members or their families who may have diaries, photos or memories gathering dust on bookshelves, under beds or in garages to consider depositing them with the RAAF Archive. Alternatively other places such as the National Library, the Office of Air Force History or the Australian War Memorial. Harry Spry's situation is a typical example of how your Association can help.

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

In 2013 the Museum had noted that there was a film in production "Castles in the Sky" based on the early history of Radar in the UK. This was released on BBC TV in June 2014 and is now available as a DVD for purchase through the BBC Shop in England from which you can purchase a copy. Being a film rather than a documentary there is some trade-off between the story and historic accuracy but they seem to have researched the background very well. **Warning:** The DVD is only produced to Region Code 2 (European) standard but we have tested it and found it will work on most Code 4 (Australian) machines.

History of 52RS, Mutee Head, Cape York, Queensland

This is the only remaining reasonably intact WWII radar antenna in Australia. It went into operation in March 1943 using a British COL transmitter and receiver.

Association Secretary, Ian McKellar has now recorded its history in 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 Cape York community is showing an increasing interest in the

site and its history. Hopefully this may help in the steelwork of the antenna being conserved before it collapses.

Your Association is currently working on a project with the local community to install a commemorative/interpretive plaque on the site.. The local people will erect it on a secure concrete foundation.

The book "Mutee Head Radar Station North Queensland 1942-1950" will be available for purchase at the April Reunion lunch at a cost of \$17.00 each.

The bi-annual International Air Show, Avalon, Victoria

This event was held at Avalon in February. As well as the usual noisy aerobatic performances there were three large enclosed exhibition halls with a myriad of stands demonstrating every conceivable type of specialised tools, instruments and services. A few 3D printers were on display or performing. You could also talk with sales teams waiting to take your order for anything from a single seat helicopter to a large airliner. A considerable range of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) from tiny camera carrying machines that can peek over your back fence to large fighting machines. They used to be remote controlled but now many have automatic landing and navigation systems that just need to be switched on and started up.

Outside were hundreds of parked aircraft – some flyable, some just static; some so new that no one wanted to talk about them; some replicas of pre-WW1 aircraft. In the first category were the shiny WW2 warbirds from Temora, NSW, such as the Hudson, Mustang, Sabre and so on. Several of these were in operation as well as a DC3, Catalina, Meteor, Neptune, Spitfire and Boomerang. On the issue of modern radar developments, the current RAAF equivalent of the AW was there – an imported cross between a venetian blind and an advertising hoarding – the 20KW, L-band TPS-77. It can be set up in two hours but requires two large trucks with trailers or just a couple of C-130 (Hercules) aircraft to get around. The other RAAF radar included a large contraption built on top of a Boeing 737, known as the "Wedgetail" which does not help the aircraft's flying performance but can still do much better than a system at ground level. One wonders where it will all end as a firm in one of the big tents was marketing a flying counter-measures machine, capable, they said, of analysing and jamming all types of radio and communications equipment.

Association Secretary, Ian McKellar will be on leave until the end of March. If you have any Association matters including errors in or changes to your address please advise Vice President Chris Harnath, by email harnathc@bigpond.com or phone (03 9720 4674).

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 Chris as above.