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## RAAF Association (ACT Division)

Patrons: Air Marshal David Evans AC DSO AFC (Retd), HE Mr Michael Bryce AM AE

President: Peter McDermott AM CSC [peter.mcdermott@bigpond.com](mailto:peter.mcdermott@bigpond.com) / [www.act.raafa.org.au](http://www.act.raafa.org.au)



## NEWSLETTER

January/February 2011



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**AIMS:** *To foster friendships based on sharing Air Force and aviation experiences; to support commemorative activities, heritage and records of history; and to provide for the welfare of members through advice, liaison and representation.*

### Activities Ahead for 2011

**Monday 14 February 2011.** Luncheon Meeting, Canberra Services Club, Manuka, 1230 for 1300. Guest speaker Mr Brett Biddington: Space Policy for Australia.

**Wednesday 31 March 2011.** RAAF 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, RAAF Memorial, Anzac Parade. Time TBA.

**Monday 4 April 2011.** Annual General Meeting and lunch, Canberra Services Club, Manuka, 1230 for 1300

**25 April 2011.** ANZAC Day lunch, Southern Cross Club, Woden, 1230 for 1330.

members own expense. A raffle will be held. Cost is \$25 per head. If you wish to attend, please complete the attached proforma and send it, along with your payment to the Treasurer by PM hours Thursday 10 February at the latest.

### Annual General Meeting – 4 April 2011

The AGM will, as always, elect the committee and outline planned activities for the rest of 2011. New blood is always welcome on the committee and members are invited to suggest suitable activities for the 2011-12 period. So please give both matters some thought. Nomination forms for committee membership will be included in the next newsletter and suggestions for possible activities can be made to any committee member.

The Luncheon General Meeting on **Monday 14 February** will, as usual, be at the Canberra Services Club, 1230 for 1300.



The guest speaker, retired Group Captain Brett Biddington, is a consultant to government and the private sector. He provides advice on space matters and has more general interests in

community resilience and risk management. Brett chairs the Australian Space Industry Chamber of Commerce and has also been involved in Australia's commitment to astronomy in Antarctica.

Lunch will be the usual buffet, with fruit juice, tea and coffee and alcoholic drinks at

### Beware of Scammers

DVA has advised that scammers are again actively targeting the veteran community. Several incidents have been reported of veterans being contacted via mail or telephone by individuals claiming to be from private or government agencies offering a range of goods and services and asking for personal information, including banking details.

The best course of action is to always be very careful about releasing personal information. If you have any reason at all to doubt the credentials of someone seeking personal information, then tell them nothing until you have confirmed their legitimacy.

DVA is encouraging veterans and war widows/ers to contact them on 133 254 (metropolitan callers) or 1800 555 254 (non-metropolitan callers) if they suspect they have been targeted by a scam.

## **RAAF Ballarat Reunion – 23-27 March 2011**

*A reunion for all who served at RAAF Ballarat at any time between 1940 and 1961 is being held in Ballarat on 23-27 March this year. Interested members can obtain more details by writing to:*

*Rads Reunion, 17 North Avenue,  
Leichhardt, NSW 2040, or*

*By emailing to: [radschl.reunion@gmail.com](mailto:radschl.reunion@gmail.com)*

## **Floods in Queensland**

*Writing at the time of the devastating floods in Queensland and northern NSW, the DVA wants us to know that it is doing all it can to ensure the veteran community can continue to access DVA services. Veterans who have their property insured with Defence Service Homes Insurance and whose property has been affected by the floods are encouraged to contact their local customer service officer on 1300 552 662. The WVCS (Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service) may be contacted on 1800 011 046, 24 hours a day. DVA is working with other agencies and community organisations to ensure a range of support services offering personal, emotional, psychological and financial help is available. Additional services will be required well into the future as the floods peak, dissipate and the clean-up phase gets underway. In the meantime, DVA seeks our assistance in letting them know of any member of the veteran community that needs urgent departmental assistance. Referrals can be made by contacting the Deputy Commissioner's office in each State.*

## **RAF Bomber Command Memorial**

*The Bomber Command Association in Britain is now raising money for a memorial to honour all 55, 573 men who died during WWII. As part of the campaign, members of the public world wide are invited to donate twenty pounds or more to have*

*their personal messages and photographs placed in a time capsule.*

*The capsule will be buried within the foundations of the memorial, which is due to be unveiled in early 2012 in London's Green Park. It will include the name, rank and serial number of all members of bomber command, as well as personal messages from key political figures and Commonwealth heads of state.*

*Further details can be obtained from:  
[www.bombercommand.com/timecapsule](http://www.bombercommand.com/timecapsule), or by writing to:*

*Bomber Command Association  
c/o RAF Museum  
Grahame Park Way  
Hendon  
London NW9 5LL*

## **CONTACTS**

President – Peter McDermott 0411 055 458

Secretary – James Elsbury 0420 329 281

Treasurer – Tony Wilkinson 6291 9030

Vice President – Doug Hurst 6288 6195  
Media, Publicity & Newsletter

Vice President Arthur Skimin 6254 8666  
Memorial Grove management

Director – Lance Halvorson 6286 7825  
Wings editor and Webmaster

Events & Functions – Len Bowen.  
0417 669 543 6292 3204

Postal Address: PO Box 331, MAWSON ACT 2607





## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2011

Members Subscriptions for in the ACT Division of the RAAF Association fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year and we would be pleased if you could now forward payment for the coming year. The cost of communicating with Members is high, and we would like to reduce costs where possible, and speed newsletters and other communication to you, by communicating with you by email. As many members now have email addresses, could you please:

1. Provide us with your email address: ..... @ .....
2. Indicate whether you wish to have the Newsletter sent via your email address: **YES NO** ((please circle one))

Membership Subscription for the calendar year now automatically includes an annual subscription to *Wings* (RAAF Association magazine mailed quarterly to all members). The base fee has increased by \$5 from previous years, and incorporates a charge of \$10 previously charged for the magazine (as agreed at a Special General Meeting of the ACT Division on 18 Oct 10).

**Subscription now due is: \$45**

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### I wish to pay \$45 by

- Cheque or money order (made out to **RAAF Association ACT Division**) or
- Credit card: **Visa Mastercard** (please circle one)

CC Number

Expiry Date:

Name on card ..... Signature .....

Name: (Block Capitals).....

Address: .....

**Please post to: Treasurer, RAAF Assoc (ACT Division), PO Box 331 MAWSON ACT 2607**

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If you require a receipt, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment. Membership cards will be issued for each renewal.

**Note on privacy:** Personal details are used for Division queries and mailing lists only. Credit card details are used only for the transaction on this form and are destroyed following crediting to the RAAF Association account by the merchant bank.