
RAAF Association (ACT Division)

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

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NEWSLETTER

June 2011



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 20 June 2011. General Meeting and lunch, Commonwealth Club, 25 Forster Crescent, Yarralumla. 1200-1230 Cost \$25 per head. Guest Speaker: GPCAPT Peter Campbell from the New Air Combat Capability Office on "The JSF Program".

Note: See below for details of changed booking, payment and dress arrangements.

Monday 8 August 2011. Luncheon Meeting, 1230 – 1300.

Monday 10 October 2011. Lunch meeting cruise – Southern Cross Yacht Club. Details TBA

Saturday 10 December 2011. Christmas lunch, Southern Cross Club. Details TBA

20 June Luncheon GM

Please read the following carefully. Not only has the date and venue changed, but booking, payment and dress arrangements have also all changed. With our usual venue the Canberra Services Club destroyed by fire your committee looked at temporary arrangements for our next lunch and chose the Commonwealth Club. This was possible because our new treasurer, John Magro, has arranged for us to attend the Club on 20 June 2011. This arrangement will give us a good meal, at very reasonable cost, in one of Canberra's best clubs noted for its old-style

ambience and un-rivalled setting. Options for further meetings and lunches will be discussed at the 20 June meeting.

The Commonwealth Club address is 25 Forster Crescent, Yarralumla. There is ample parking at the rear. Lunch time will be 1200 for 1230. Cost is \$25, for which you will get the roast of the day, coffee or tea. Pre-lunch drinks will be available at the cash bar.

There is no capacity for last minute arrivals and lunch can only be provided for those who have pre-booked.

Payment and booking arrangements. If you wish to attend contact Len Bowen by Thursday 16 June on 6292 3204, 0417 669 543 (outside office hours) or via email at plbowen@bigpond.com or len.bowen@defence.gov.au Payment will be cash on the day – please have the right amount.

Dress. Please note – Club dress rules state: Gentlemen are required to wear a jacket and tie, ladies are to wear tailored trousers, skirts or dresses.

Guest speaker Group Captain Peter Campbell from the New Air Combat Capability Office on "The JSF Program".

The Defence White Paper 2000 identified the need, and made provision for up to 100 new combat aircraft to replace the current fleets of F-111 and F/A-18 aircraft under project AIR 6000 New Air Combat Capability (NACC). In October 2002 Government decided to join the US in the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program and announced its expectation that the JSF would be acquired to replace the capabilities provided by the F-111s and

the F/A-18s and will involve expenditure of over US\$500 billion for the global JSF fleet. This will a great presentation: come along and bring a friend!



Super Hornet



Joint Strike Fighter Photos: DMO Website

Commemorative/Special Events ahead for 2011

Sunday 5 June 2011. Bomber Command Commemorative ceremony – see below

Queen's Birthday Weekend 11-13 June. Military Air Traffic Controllers' reunion. Sunshine Coast.
Details: gejoan@tadaust.org.au

Wednesday 15 June 2011. RAAF Engineer Officers' Association lunch, Collins Hotel, Melbourne.
Details: www.reoa.org.au

Saturday, 6 August. HMAS Canberra commemorative ceremony. HMAS Canberra Memorial near Carillon by the lake - TBA.

Thursday 18 August. Vietnam Veterans' day. VV Memorial ANZAC Parade - TBA.

Wednesday 7 September. Battle for Australia ceremony. AWM - TBA

Thursday 15 September 2011. Battle of Britain ceremony – we run this one.

Bomber Command Commemorative Ceremony, Sunday, 5 June, 1100 hrs

The ceremony will be sponsored by the AWM and held at the Bomber Command Memorial in the Sculpture Garden of the AWM, beginning at 1100 hours. Attendees are asked to be seated by 1040 hours.

As well as the memorial service, a 'meet and greet' function on Saturday evening and a lunch after the Sunday service will be held. Details are:

The 'meet and greet': at the AWM, in the G for George area, \$45, refreshments and finger food, 1800-1930 hours Saturday 4 June 2011.

Luncheon: Rydges Lakeside Hotel, \$50, starts 1300 hours Sunday 5 June.

Bookings are essential, with contact via Ross Pearson on 02 9416 1445, or Annette Guterres on 02 9743 5794. Time is short, and if you wish to attend these function ring without delay.

Air Force Cadets Alumni proposal

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Air Force Cadets in Australia. The Air Force Cadets National Council, a Working Group of former cadets, is developing a proposal to form an Air Cadets Alumni which would be launched as part of the 70th Anniversary celebrations. The WP's first step is to gauge interest in forming an alumni of former cadets, staff and others throughout Australia and invites input from interested parties. Further information can be obtained from website <https://sites.google.com/site/alumniofaircadets70/home>, or by contacting David Dunlop or Julie Hammer on julieanddavid1@bigpond.com

79 Squadron 'Spitting Cobra' sculpture

When 79 Squadron flew sabres at Ubon, Thailand, during 1962-68 it adopted a 'spitting cobra' shoulder patch worn by pilots and squadron members. The patch is still worn by the squadron, now an advanced fighter training unit at Pearce, in WA. A new squadron HQ building is being built next year, and a bronze statute of a spitting cobra is planned for its forecourt.

A problem, as always, is the expected cost – some \$6600 – and to help pay for the statue the RAAF Ubon Thailand Group in WA is asking for donations. If you would like to help, contact their secretary, Vic Carbone, on 08 9343 1235 or by email: carbs@iinet.net.au or by post at 40 Elm Street, Hamersley, WA 6022.

SCALEACT 2011 – President’s Prize

SCALEACT 2011 featured 48 RAAF models. The high standard made selecting a winner for the RAAF Association ACT President’s prize a challenge, but the judges eventually awarded the prize to Peter Mahoney for a model of a 34 Squadron Dakota, being the most interesting and representational of the RAAF of that period.

Len Bowen, himself a modeller, presented Peter with his prize and a \$50 trading voucher for Crusader Trading.

SCALEACT not only helps keep our heritage alive, but produces a high quality and entertaining display every year. Those who missed it this year should consider putting it on their list of coming attractions for 2012.



The winning model: a 34 Squadron Dakota.



Winner of the RAAF Association ACT President’s prize, Mr Peter Mahoney (left) with SQNLDR Len Bowen.

CONTACTS

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Vice President - Arthur Skimin 6254 8666 for Memorial Grove management and Veterans’ Program
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Events Officer – Len Bowen 0417 669 543 or 6292 3204 (preferred)