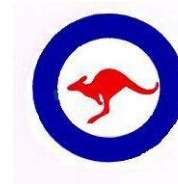




# The Roundel



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## The Newsletter of the RAAF Association – Tasmania Division

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### ACTIVITY UP-DATE

Hobart Branch participated in the ANZAC Day March and the Branch was led on the March by WGCDR Jenny Robertson. Launceston and NW Branches also participated in their respective ceremonies.

The Dambuster 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon on Sunday 21 May was a great success. We had three of Tom Simpson's four children with us while the fourth was in the UK at Woodhall Spa for the official 617 SQN celebrations.

The National President of the Air Force Association, GPCAPT Carl Schiller attended as did the RAF Air Adviser from the British High Commission in Canberra, WGCDR Tim Brookes RAF, and the UK Consul General from Melbourne, Mr Steph Lysaght. A total of 52 people were in attendance.

WGCDR Brookes proposed the Toast to "The Dambusters and to the memory of FLTLT Tom Simpson" at which time we played the last few bars of the Dambuster March and drank the Toast. A very moving moment.

It was with regret that we noted the sudden passing of Annette Vanston's husband, CMDR Myles Vanston USN (Ret). Annette held the after funeral gathering at the RAAF Memorial Centre. RIP Myles.

Planning is well underway for the annual Battle of Britain commemorations and flyers will be issued shortly,

**Alan Robertson**  
State President



### ANZAC DAY 2023



**WGCDR Jenny Robertson leads Hobart Branch onto the Cenotaph**

## WORDS OF WISDOM

With pressure these days to count your calories, your steps, your cholesterol and your blood pressure, perhaps it is time to count your blessings.

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

## NW PRESIDENT STANDS DOWN

WGCDR Stew Freeman OAM, CSM has stood down as NW Branch President after a period of 4 years at the helm. Ralph Brinkmann has taken over the Presidency.

Stew and his Wife Judy have made a huge contribution to the Branch and his guiding hand will be missed.

At the NW Branch AGM on 05 February I had the pleasure to present Stew with a Certificate of Service as Branch President. In addition a welcome to the new President, Ralph Brinkmann.

Alan Robertson  
State President

## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022



**RAAFA Members at the Hobart Cenotaph 11 November 2022. L:R WGCDR Andrew Johnson, AVM Peter Scully and Mr Frank McGregor, UK Hon Consul for Tasmania.**

## FAREWELL TO OUR CHAPLAIN

The Divisional Chaplain, Christopher Waterhouse, will depart Tasmania early in June to take up the appointment as Rector at St James, King Street in Sydney. It is a very prestigious appointment and we wish Christopher and his wife Marianne every happiness and success. He will be replaced as Divisional Chaplain by the Very Rev Richard Humphrey, Dean of Hobart at St David's Cathedral.



**THE DAMBUSTER 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON 21 MAY 2023**



**Top Table Group:** From Left. Clive Simpson, WGCdr Tim Brookes RAF, Carolyn Simpson (Mrs Hope) Pam Robertson, SQNLDR Alan Robertson State President, GPCAPT Carl Schiller, National President AFA and Helen Simpson (Mrs Pitt).



**Clive Simpson, Helen Simpson (with Tom's Flight Bag), Carolyn Simpson and SQNLDR Alan Robertson beneath the photo of FLTLT Tom Simpson**



**Clive Simpson, wearing Tom's medals, and WGCdr Tim Brookes RAF, from the British High Commission Canberra**



**GPCAPT Carl Schiller OAM, CSM, National President Air Force Association and Helen Simpson.**



**The Senior Air Force Officer Tasmania, WGCDR Andrew Johnson, his wife Gail and son Hamish.**



**Carl Berry, Chris Neilsen, Helen Watling and Lindy Berry.**





**Divisional Chaplain, Rev Christopher Waterhouse with his wife Marianne.**



**Carolyn Simpson and Pam Robertson, who were school friends, caught up for a long overdue chat as Carolyn has lived in WA for the past 35 years.**



**The Dining Room set up for 52 people. Table Flags from those countries from whence the Dambuster Crews came were displayed – Australia, the UK, New Zealand and Canada. Souvenir Place Mats were featured as well a souvenir Menu Cover. Each attendee also received a special 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dambuster Lapel Pin.**



A Lancaster overflies the Petwood Hotel at Woodhall Spa UK on Saturday 20 May 2023. It was part of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in the UK by 617 Squadron



Fraser Simpson (left) with Simon Foxlee, sons of Tom Simpson and Toby Foxlee, (who were in the Crew of AJ-P Popsie for the Raid). They were in the UK at Woodhall Spa for the 617 SQN official celebrations.



Frank McGregor, Hon UK Consul Tasmania with Steph Lysaght UK Consul General from Melbourne at the Luncheon at the RAAF Memorial Centre on 21 May 23.

*Rev Christopher Waterhouse, Divisional Chaplain, was presented with a farewell memento on his departure from Tasmania to become the Rector of St James Church, King Street, Sydney.*

