



The Roundel



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The Newsletter of the RAAF Association – Tasmania Division

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ACTIVITY UP-DATE

The year started with the Hobart Branch AGM and Happy Hour drinks on Thursday 01 Feb 2024. Peter Crosswell was again elected as the Branch President for the ensuing year.

Sadly we lost a long serving member just prior to Christmas. John Bower passed away on 20 December 2023 at Glenview Aged Care facility. He was a member for over 50 years. RIP John.

Very shortly, extensive outside renovations will take place on the Memorial Centre. The outside will be painted and window seals replaced. The cost of this work will be in the vicinity of \$47k. We also plan to look at installing close circuit security cameras in an effort to reduce vandalism on the property.

We hope members will support the ANZAC Day activities this year. Past years have seen a decline in numbers marching so please make a special effort to us this year. It would be embarrassing to have no members available to participate in the March and not a good look for our image.

I stood down as the State President at the AGM on Saturday 23 March. It has been a busy and rewarding four years and I have largely achieved my goals at both a state and federal level.

I wish the new State President, WGCDR Jenny Robertson, the best of luck in her role and thank you to all the loyal supporters who helped me during the tenure of my office.

Alan Robertson OAM, CSM, RFD
SQNLDR RAAF (Ret)
Immediate Past President



New house for Jen

Jenny Robertson relocated to her new home at Penna (near Sorell) just prior to Christmas. Not all the boxes she opened were Christmas presents.

Her home overlooks tranquil waters and we are not sure if the residence is called Sea View, Ocean View, River View or 'Sea Esta'.!!!

Best wishes Jen for happy days by the water.

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PEARLS OF WISDOM

If you own a gun you can rob a bank.
If you own a bank you can rob everyone.

If you were given a choice of drinking wine every day or being skinny, what would you choose - Red or White?

CHANGE OF COMMAND 29 SQN



WGCDR Nick Fairweather accepts command of No 29 SQN and appointment as Senior Air Force Officer Tasmania (SAFOT) from GPCAPT Johnno Johnson 10 February 2024

DID YOU KNOW?

There are no Canaries in the Canary Islands and in the Virgin Islands, there are no Canaries either.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN – SOME INTERESTING FACTS

Of the 2,917 pilots that fought in the battle, 578 (one fifth) were not British. There were 145 Polish, 126 New Zealanders, 97 Canadians, 88 Czechs, 33 Australians, 29 Belgians, 25 South Africans, 13 French, 10 Irish, 8 Americans, 3 Rhodesians, and one Jamaican.

During the Blitz, 43,000 British civilians were killed, 1,500 seriously wounded, 16,000 houses destroyed, 60,000 uninhabitable and 130,000 damaged. Between May and October 1940 the Germans lost 1,733 aircraft and the RAF lost 915.

“Andrew Roberts – The Storm of War” Penguin 2009

OPERATION BARBAROSSA – THE GERMAN INVASION OF RUSSIA 1941

On day one the Germans demolished one quarter of the Soviet air force. Within 4 months the Germans occupied 600,000 square miles of Russian soil, captured 3 million Red Army troops and closed to within 65 miles of Moscow. Four months later, 200,000 German troops had been killed, 726,000 wounded, 400,000 captured and 113,000 incapacitated by frostbite. They also took 600,000 horses as auxiliary transport to support the invasion. None returned.



Bill Brown, the Crew Rear Gunner, found it hard to ditch old habits!!!

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The National President, GPCAPT Carl Schiller OAM, CSM, has indicated that he will complete his term of office as National President of the AFA in May this year, and will stand down.

Carl has been a most competent, capable and supportive President and the Association will be the poorer for his departure.

We wish him all the best for his retirement although knowing Carl he will maintain some involvement with the RAAF ESO community.

AN OLD RUSSIAN SAYING

There is no such thing as cold weather, only the wrong type of clothing.

JEN TAKES THE HELM

Wing Commander Jenny Robertson has been elected as the State President of Tasmania Division replacing Squadron Leader Alan Robertson who has completed a four year term.

Jen is a Life Member of the RAAF Association and has spent a considerable amount of time on the Hobart Branch Committee including three years as Branch President. She has worked assiduously to support Branch activities and has achieved splendid results in that arena.

The photo below shows the outgoing President presenting Jen with her Certificate of Appointment as State President.





At the Hobart Branch AGM, the Branch President, Peter Crosswell, called on the Almighty to help him control the unruly crowd who were eager to get to the bar for free drinks.

HOBART BRANCH BUS TRIP OUTING – A WELL-BEING GRANT FROM DVA BEING THE ENABLER – SAT 23 FEB 2024



Carroll James with Margaret and Bob Grey at the old Derwent Valley Railway Station.

About 23 members from Hobart Branch enjoyed an outing on Saturday 23 February. Two venues were part of the visit; The Derwent Valley Railway Preservation Society and the Salmon Ponds.

After the visits the group adjourned to the Greta Green hotel to enjoy an excellent lunch. In all it was a superb day which everyone enjoyed immensely.



Lunch was at the Gretna Green Hotel and Dudley and Pauline Barrow are with Pete and Stephanie Willows



Inspecting the old Tasman Limited Carriages were Carroll James, the Guide Bob Reay, and Margaret Grey.



The Hobart Branch Group photographed outside the Gretna Green Hotel after enjoying an excellent lunch. Roll on the next outing.

OUTGOING STATE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED

The outgoing State President, SQNLDR Al Robertson, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Deputy State President, WGCDR Charles Hill, at the conclusion of the Division AGM on 23 March 2024, to recognise his four years at the helm of the Division and for his leadership and dedicated service.



You know you are getting old when:

Your back goes out more often that you do,

You get in the car and can't remember where you are supposed to be going,

When you have to ask your grandchildren how to program your TV set.



ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 2024

All members are reminded that we would like your best support this ANZAC Day. The Memorial Centre will be open from 9.30am for morning tea and for those who wish, to view the various ANZAC coverage on the large screen TV.

Those marching are asked to assemble opposite Legacy House in Macquarie Street at 10.40a, ready to step off at 11am for the ANZAC March to the Hobart Cenotaph.

Following the March there will be a BBQ Lunch back at the Memorial Centre to which you are all invited.