



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH



Newsletter July 2020

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**REGULAR
COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
 Janet Bates
 Stephen Brown
 Ken Marsh
 Bob McDonald

ELDER STATESMEN
 Dr Tom Roberts OAM
 Gordon Jarvis
 Tom Jobling
 Keith Pitman
 Stan White
 Newsletter Editor
 Noel Hutchins

The **Restricted Number** openings of our rooms continue to provide members with four opportunities each week to have somewhere to gather for some chatter and some music to listen to and opportunities for members to exercise or dance, (with their own partner only), or to sit and watch others dance while enjoying the great music and while others gather and chat in the committee room.



Left (Front to back) : Member *Annette Lloyd*, Elder Statesman and our longest serving branch member *Stan White*, Member *John Ooi* and partner *Liz*.
Right (Front to back) : Members *Ernie and Margaret Chapman*, *Heather Vickers*, *Bob McDonald*, *Alice Christie*.

The photo at right is from our Tuesday 7th July rooms opening. Different members

were able to join us at the Tuesday night opening on that same day. To ensure social distancing we extend the distance between members sitting opposite each other by butting tables together face to face. Length-wise, these tables are 1.8 metres with partners seated together at one end and individual attendees the other end. While photographs can make things look more compressed, seating arrangements enforced ensure that social distancing guidelines are strictly met.

COVID-19 AND CONTINUING NEED FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS

Sadly, the Covid-19 figures coming out of Melbourne on the last two days of this month show that a return to a situation where social distancing will no longer be with us is being pushed further and further away and taking with it any opportunity for us to return to the normal social and other functions of our branch.

While the box at the right shows the details of **Restricted Number Rooms Opening Times for August**, the continuation of these is subject to no Covid-19 community transmission cases in the Ballarat region. Should evidence of such cases show up or I have reason to believe that continuing to have these rooms openings is putting anybody's health at risk, I will quickly withdraw my availability to continue the opening of the rooms.

Saturday	1st Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm
Tuesday	4th Aug:	11 am to 2 pm (Luncheon)
	AND :	7.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Thursday	6th Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm
Saturday	8th Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm
Tuesday	11th Aug:	11 am to 2 pm (Luncheon)
	AND :	7.30 pm to 9.30 pm
Thursday	13th Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm
Saturday	15th Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm
Tuesday	18th Aug:	11 am to 2 pm (Luncheon)
	AND :	7.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Thursday	20th Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm
Saturday	22nd Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm
Tuesday	25th Aug:	11 am to 2 pm (Luncheon)
	AND :	7.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Thursday	27th Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm
Saturday	29th Aug:	2 pm to 5 pm

I ask members to read the conditions for attendance at the rooms openings appearing on the next page. (NH, Pres)

CONDITIONS FOR ATTENDING RESTRICTED NUMBER ROOMS OPENINGS

YOU MUST NOT ATTEND OUR ROOMS OPENINGS IF :

You do not feel comfortable about being out.

You are feeling unwell with Flu or Covid-19 like symptoms

You do not think that Covid-19 is a serious problem

You have travelled further than 30km from centre of Ballarat in the previous 14 days

You have not observed social distancing on any occasion in the past 14 days

You are not prepared to strictly adhere to social distancing guidelines while attending and with absolutely no physical contact other than between you and your own partner.

If you have had any visits from anybody from Melbourne in the past 14 days, whether family, friends or whatever

WHEN WISHING TO ATTEND ONE OF OUR ROOMS OPENINGS YOU NEED TO ADVISE OF YOUR INTENTION SO THAT NUMBERS ARE NOT EXCEEDED

~ ADVISE NOEL ON 0439 929 322 ~

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**OUR ROOMS OPENINGS ARE NOT PUBLIC EVENTS. THEY ARE FOR AFA MEMBERS AND THEIR PARTNER ONLY**

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PLEASE NOTE : AT OUT TUESDAY 11 AM TO 2 PM OPENINGS WE WILL BE COMMENCING SIT~DOWN LUNCH AT 11.15 ALLOWING MEMBERS TO BRING HOT FOOD FOR THEMSELVES IF DESIRED AND ENABLING THE TABLES TO BE SET UP READY AND THEN PACKED UP FOR MUSIC BY 12 NOON

SOME THANK YOU'S : Thank you to those members who are constant attendees at our openings. Members Annette Lloyd, Alice Christie, John Ooi and Partner Liz, John Whittle and partner Kirsten make up the core group attending on Tuesdays, Thursdays AND Saturdays, happy to contribute their '\$5 each' 3 times each week and always showing their appreciation of the opportunity to attend. Thank you also to our Head Librarian Stephen Brown who takes the opportunity to attend several openings to continue working on the setting up of the library. Thanks to Senior Vice President Leigh Harvey OAM for being at the rooms early each Tuesday for set-up and also for his generosity in bringing several packets of biscuits each Tuesday. Thank you to Annette Lloyd for her assistance with attendance sheets and Tuesday raffle ticket sales and for assistance with clean-up as I pack up after each opening. Also nice to see Stan White coming along for some of our openings as well. Stan has been a member of our branch of the Air Force Association since 1946 and he is still coming in to support us whenever he can.

TIME TO TAKE EVEN MORE CARE THAN EVER IN BALLARAT

Do you think that the requirement for members not to attend our openings if they have journeyed further than 30 km from Ballarat or have had a visit from anybody from Melbourne in the previous 14 days is a bit 'over the top'? **Well consider this.** On 30th July a 50 year old Portland man died from Covid-19. Portland is 350 km from Melbourne. A lady from Melbourne had a legitimate reason to travel from Melbourne to Portland to care for her elderly mother. Let us call the Melbourne lady **Patient One**. Patient One tested positive for Covid-19 on July 17. Two days later her mother tested positive...**Patient Two**. It appears that Patient one attended a commercial business in Portland, (believed to be a 'financial institution'), which resulted in a deep-clean of the business and also resulted in another person attending that commercial business being diagnosed positive **Patient Three**. Patient Three, who works part-time as a nurse and also in another job, was diagnosed positive on July 20 and it was her 50 year old husband who became **Patient Four** and who **passed away on Thursday July 30**.

The two children of Patient Three and the deceased Patient Four became **Patient Five** and **Patient Six**. The deceased man was associated with a business in Heywood where one of his work colleague became **Patient Seven**.

Patient Eight is an older relative of the deceased man. These numbers will continue to rise as further tracing is continuing. Are you **REALLY** taking this seriously? **If not, WAKE UP.** (NH, Pres)

DO YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS BELONGING TO OUR BRANCH OF THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION ?

What a great job Stephen Brown is doing cataloguing the large number of books and setting up the Tom Roberts Library.

But Stephen is now to the stage where he is looking for any more books that any member has in their possession that belong in the library. The number of books in hand is not near the number of books that we were led to believe were in the collection.

PLEASE ADVISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE BOOKS IN YOUR POSSESSION SO THAT STEPHEN CAN FINALISE THE LIBRARY SET UP



THE 1WAGS WEBSITE ~ 1wags.org.au

Another committee member continuing to do great work is our 1WAGS Website Coordinator Janet Bates who has supplied the following update on the website. As Janet points out, the website continues as a work in progress. The time and effort that Janet puts in and the high standard of her work is very much appreciated. Janet did supply some images but with my rush to try to get this July newsletter out there was not time for me to get those photographs in a different format to enable me to use them. Anyhow, if I put them in this newsletter you might not bother to go onto the website and appreciate what a great job Janet is continuing to do. **Do you want to see the images that go with this update? Then :**

GO HAVE A LOOK AT THE WEBSITE

1wags.org.au



1WAGS WEBSITE UPDATE :

The 1WAGS website (1wags.org.au) continues as a work in progress. Over the month of June the **1 WAGS Prisoner of War** page was added in the MEMORIAL section. To date 139 1WAGS personnel have been found to have been held in captivity with 31 dying as POW's. These airmen were held in German, Italian and Japanese camps. 22 POW's died at the hands of the Japanese. The rest were prisoners of Italian/German captors.

The current FEATURE STORY on the HOME page honours the Centenary of The Arch of Victory Ballarat, **June 1920 to 2020**. Included in the story is information and iconic photos of the Arch, the Avenue of Honour, the Lucas Girls and the Official opening by HRH the Prince of Wales.

We have recently obtained Graduation Certificates and/or Graduation Menus for the following Courses :
– WAGS Courses 5, 26, 28, 48 and 49 as well as Navigation Course 4. These can be found in the COURSES section of the website. Many thanks to Facebook friend Lindsay Cheal and Jeff Stockdale for forwarding these to us via our **Contact Us** page on the website

During this difficult time of restrictions and uncertainty it is pleasing to note that since the websites launch in February, we have had 8,723 browsers to the site from all over the world. The online world has enabled us to honour those brave RAAF airmen who trained in Ballarat and went on to serve during WW2.
(Janet Bates, 1WAGS website coordinator)