



# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH



Newsletter August 2019

President : Noel Hutchins - 0439 929 322  
Vice President : Leigh Harvey OAM  
Junior Vice President : Peter Schoutens  
Secretary : Rob Petty - 0407 891 281  
Treasurer : Josie Reasons  
Chaplain : Rev. Keith Lanyon - 0411 512 160

REGULAR  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
Janet Bates  
Stephen Brown  
Michael Lake  
Ken Marsh  
Brian Reasons

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

## MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETINGS

Our **Social Luncheon Meetings** are held on the **FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, (except January)**, with **Arrival time by 11.45 am for a 12 Noon commencement**. All meetings are held at our rooms at Airport Hut 48, Airport Drive, Mitchell Park (ie : Ballarat Aerodrome).

## MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETINGS

Our **Business Meetings, open to all members**, are held at 3 pm on the **second** Tuesday of each month. These meetings immediately follow a monthly Committee meeting enabling members to be promptly aware of decisions taken by the committee, enabling members to ratify, or otherwise, decisions taken.



We were privileged to have as guest speaker for the first half of our **July Social Meeting**, Mr Alan Crute and Best Friend and Companion "Mave". Alan spoke of the joys as well as the trials and tribulations of taking on the training of a seeing-eye-dog puppy. Our meeting was a luncheon one and Mave's training showed through as she was not interested in the food that we were eating.



It was nice to see a number of our members brave the snow and freezing conditions to attend the **Vietnam Veterans Association's 2019 Commemorative Service**. My car still had snow packed on it after a very slow thirty five minute drive from home. The laying of our wreath was delegated to Vietnam Veteran, Senior Vice President Leigh Harvey OAM. Air Force Association member Rev. John Furness was the Chaplain. *(A couple of very nice photos by Branch member Ken Marsh)*. Junior Vice President Peter Schoutens laid a wreath on behalf of No 2 Squadron RAAF with whom he served in Vietnam. *(NH, Pres)*



## BATTLE OF BRITAIN LUNCHEON

If you have not booked yourself in for the Battle of Britain Luncheon by paying the "\$34 per head", then please make sure that you do that at our Social meeting on Tuesday 3rd September. The luncheon will be held at the Barkly Restaurant as per last year with a choice from 3 main meal options plus sweets and also includes a glass of house wine or soft drink. Drinks other than that you will need to pay for.

### STAN WHITE, SECRETARY FROM 1988 TO 2016 ~ 28 YEARS STRAIGHT

At our July Social luncheon meeting we acknowledged the long service to our Branch of the Air Force Association of one of our Senior Statesmen, Mr Stan White. Stan joined the Air Force Association in March 1946. Stan maintained his membership of our Branch while pursuing a career in accountancy. He studied accountancy at the School of Mines and relates that Jack Hewitt was the sole teacher for the entire class. Stan's continued studies saw him qualify as an Accountant, Secretary and Cost Accountant and is now a Fellow Certified Practising Accountant, (FCPA). Stan's qualifications would serve the Air Force Association well in later years when he took on the Secretary job.

During the years from 1946 the membership slowly declined and by 1988, in Stan's words, the Branch "fell away". It was then in 1988 that Stan and five others decided to "reactivate" the Branch. The members of that group became the committee. As well as doing the Secretary job, he eventually had to take over producing a 'bulletin' when the member doing this began having vision problems.

By 2016 Stan White had seen twelve changes of Branch President involving eleven different people, while he continued on as Secretary for that TWENTY EIGHT YEAR period. One of those Presidents during Stan's incredibly long period as Secretary was Gordon Jarvis and Gordon presented a written tribute to Stan. Our Secretary Rob Petty read that out. A letter of thanks from AFA Vic State President Mr Max McGregor to Stan in respect of his long AFA membership and incredibly long period as Secretary was also read to Stan and the meeting and the letter then presented to Stan.

As it was Tom Roberts that moved a motion at our AGM in February that we recognise Stan's service in some way, I felt that it was appropriate for Tom to make the presentation of the plaque that had been prepared to be a permanent tribute to Stan. This plaque now hangs in our Committee Room beneath a photo, (in which Stan appears), from some years back of our Branch marching at an Anzac Day Commemoration. That photograph and Stan's Honour Plaque now hang beside the Honour Board listing all Branch Presidents from 1945. All those presidents share an Honour Board, Stan has one to himself. Stan, you deserve nothing less than what we have been able to put together for you. (NH, Pres.)



## **THE 'BATTLE OF BRITAIN' AND THE 'BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA'**

In our July newsletter members were invited to respond to a proposal to introduce a combined Battle of Britain and Battle for Australia commemoration. Thank you to the many members who responded.

The majority of responses were in favour of the proposal with few comments other than that they 'were in favour'. However, the only two objections, which came from two of our Elder Statemen members were very strongly worded, feeling that such a move was 'watering down' the importance of the Battle of Britain. While I don't agree that it would do that, consideration needed to be given to their strong feelings on this. At the other end of the scale were a couple of very strong plea's for a 'stand alone' Battle for Australia commemoration. This I must admit was my own preference from the start but I considered that a joint commemoration might extend the longevity of the Battle of Britain commemoration, but the strong objectors do not see it that way.

So the 'exercise' shows that the overwhelming majority of members support a Battle for Australia commemoration in one form or another. After consideration, the Committee has determined that the Battle of Britain Commemorative Service and Luncheon will follow along similar lines to previous years and a stand alone Battle for Australia Commemoration will be introduced.

On Wednesday 4th September I will be attending, by invitation, the Battle for Australia Commemoration at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne. Our Chaplain Rev. Keith Lanyon will be a part of this commemoration.

On Sunday 8th September we will be holding a **Battle for Australia Remembrance Gathering and Afternoon Tea** in our rooms at Airport Hut 48. This will be 'by invitation' as we will need to know numbers for catering purposes, *so members wishing to attend need to inform me asap if you want a seat.* Guest Speaker will be **Lieutenant Colonel David Arden RFD, Deputy Chair, Battle for Australia Foundation (Vic)**. David will travel from Melbourne.

From 2020, on a Sunday *either side of* the first Wednesday in September, (Battle for Australia Day), but avoiding Fathers' Day, a full **Battle for Australia Commemoration** will be held at the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial commencing at 11 am and, in the afternoon, from 2 pm to 4 pm, will be a **Battle for Australia Afternoon-Tea Dance**. So our 2020 commemorative event would be on Sunday 30th August, (3 days before the first Wednesday ~ Battle for Australia Day). At our 2020 AGM in February members will be given the chance to ratify, or otherwise, our 2020 Battle for Australia and Battle of Britain commemorative programme. (NH, Pres.)

## **BATTLE FOR AUSTRALIA REMEMBRANCE AND AFTERNOON TEA**

**GUEST SPEAKER : Lieutenant Colonel David Arden RFD  
Deputy Chair, Battle for Australia Foundation (Vic)**

**2 pm Sunday 8th September 2019**

**at Air Force Association Ballarat Branch rooms**

**Airport Hut 48, Airport Road, Mitchell Park, (Ballarat aerodrome)**

**Please register interest to attend to Noel Hutchins  
0439 929 322 or email: [noelhutch@bigpond.com](mailto:noelhutch@bigpond.com)**

# BATTLE OF BRITAIN 79TH ANNIVERSARY

## SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

**10 am : Church Service at the Skipton Street Uniting Church**  
525 Skipton Street Redan (Cnr Skipton and Darling Sts)  
followed by morning tea provided by Church Ladies.

**12 Noon : Battle of Britain Commemorative Service**  
Sebastopol Cenotaph, Neville F.D. Donald Park, Albert Street Sebastopol.

**1.30 pm : Battle of Britain Luncheon**  
Barkly Restaurant at the Barkly Motorlodge 43 Main Road Ballarat (Cnr Main Rd & Barkly St).  
Guest Speaker : Squadron Leader Max McGregor (Ret'd) State President,  
Air Force Association Victoria

A couple of tables of members at our 23rd of August **Poppy Club evening at the Midlands-Ballararat RSL Sports and Services Club**. This is now a monthly event held on the third Friday of each month.



A great night of chatter with some of our newer members having the opportunity to get to know other members of our group. While the band playing on the night were probably competent musicians, consensus was that they were far too loud and not playing music that encouraged dancing; however, I did have the pleasure of a short time on the dance floor with accomplished dancers in Secretary Rob Petty and his wife Anne and Dorothy Nunn, wife of member Tom Nunn. With member Ernie Chapman having his 83rd birthday on the day and a much younger Heather Browning having hers on 25th, they cut a cake and shared it with the rest of us. Our September Poppy Club evening will be on Friday 20th September. Why not join in? Sorry about poor quality iPhone photos, should have taken my camera. (NH, Pres)



**Don't forget our Monthly Social Meeting on 3rd September and please advise by Monday 2nd if you require taxi transport to and from the meeting.**

**An excellent turn-out for our August meeting and we hope to see even more of you in September.**