



# AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH

## Newsletter



December 2022/January 2023

**PRESIDENT:** Peter Dowling

**SECRETARY:** Sue Alexander

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Sue Alexander

Phone 0418281775

Email: ballarat.afa@gmail.com

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### FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT

As most of you know, our President Noel Hutchins has moved to Maryborough in Queensland and will be spending around the next 12 months in Thailand prior to locating permanently in Queensland.

I have agreed to stand in for Noel until the next Annual General Meeting, to be held in February. I am more than happy to continue as President and Treasurer, however I encourage anyone who wishes to nominate to do so (see separate notice).

I am particularly pleased that we had happy and successful attendance at our new format Christmas party in December, held at the Ballarat Golf Club and that our New Year picnic lunch was a very enjoyable day.

I'm looking forward to a successful 2023 and hope to make the best use of our wonderful rooms at Hut 48 and the audio-visual equipment installed as a result of our grant from Catherine King.



I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

Peter Dowling,  
President



### IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP

**Social luncheons are held on the second Tuesday of each month**

#### Tuesday February 14

Monthly social luncheon at Hut 48 including the Annual General Meeting. 11:45 for 12 with AGM to be held at 1PM. Following will be a special presentation concerning the 1WAGS site.

An AGM advice and nomination form for Committee positions is attached.



#### Tuesday March 14

Following on from our Bruce Clifton audio interview in November, in March and April we will have associated follow up presentations, other audio interviews and films. Details are being finalised.



**2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE. ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT PETER DOWLING, TREASURER.**

### NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS—TRANSPORTATION

The Committee is aware that some members are no longer able to drive to monthly social meetings and may not have alternative transport.

If you have a medical condition preventing you from self-driving or accessing transport, please contact Peter Dowling on 0418281775 to arrange transportation assistance.

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE BALLARAT GOLF CLUB



Who wore the best hat?



Who had the best time?



Noel Hutchins was pleased to have the opportunity to say farewell to all.



# NEW YEAR PICNIC LUNCH

A number of members enjoyed a picnic lunch at the rotunda at Lake Wendouree on a perfect January day.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

You can take the cook out of the kitchen but...



Is there enough food for everyone?



Catching up with good friends



Just enjoying the day





# 1 WAGS REPORT

The 1 wags Memorial website continues to grow with over 80,000 hits from all over the world.



Jane Shennan was a recent visitor to Hut 48 at the Ballarat Airport. Jane's father Richard Shennan trained as a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner at 1WAGS Ballarat during WW2 completing course 36.



**Flying Officer Richard Shennan**

Flying Officer Richard Shennan was posted to England where he served with the 460 Squadron based at Binbrook England.

After enlistment at the age of eighteen until he turned twenty-one, Richard flew thirty-one bombing operations over Germany as a Rear Gunner in Lancaster aircraft and remarkably survived.

Jane is pictured at the 1WAGS Memorial Wall where her father is listed.

## 1WAGS Course 24



This Course 24 certificate is a new addition to our 1WAGS courses collection and was sent by Vicki Bowra on behalf of her uncle Paul Jacobsen, who completed Course 24 at 1WAGS.

### VALE Annette Lloyd

The association was sad to learn of the sudden death of member Annette Lloyd in December 2022.

### VALE Shirley Gribble

Former member Shirley Gribble passed away in November 2022 after a short illness at the age of 95.

Shirley's husband David Gribble trained at 1WAGS course 42 and served with the 462 Squadron in the UK a member of the Path Finders.