



AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA BALLARAT BRANCH



Newsletter May 2019

President : Noel Hutchins - 0439 929 322
Vice President : Leigh Harvey OAM
Junior Vice President : Peter Schoutens
Secretary : Rob Petty - 0407 891 281
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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 Monday 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.

A MOST GENEROUS GIFT

Mr Maurice Turner addresses our May social luncheon meeting with a display of a small number of his WWII model aircraft from his large collection which he is gifting to our Ballarat Branch, including his display cabinet.

We will create an appropriate plaque to attach to the cabinet acknowledging his very generous gift.



Following on from the talk by our special guest Maurice Turner, one of our members, Stephen Waddington, continued our D Day theme leading up to the 75th Anniversary of D Day next month. Stephen gave a talk on **two** very interesting operations relating to D Day. These were about PLUTO (not the Planet) and MULBERRIES (not the sort we eat).

Operation Pluto (Pipe-Lines Under the Ocean) : PLUTO was a Second World War operation by British engineers, oil companies, and the British Armed Forces to construct undersea oil pipelines under the English Channel between England and France in support of Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944.

Mulberries (Artificial Harbours) : The Allies needed harbours in order to land the hundreds of thousands of men and millions of tons of supplies that they would need if Operation Overlord, the code-name given to D-Day, was to succeed. And so the seemingly ridiculous idea was mooted of using artificial harbours to land and support what was to be the world's greatest invasion. Such was the scale of the operation that two harbours would be required, each the size of Dover itself. The harbours, code-named 'Mulberries', would consist of 73 individual prefabricated concrete blocks which when assembled would make up the ports, breakwaters and pontoons where ships could tie-up and unload their precious cargoes. Floating ramps would be used as roadways to allow the lorries to be driven directly on to the beaches. *Thank you Stephen for a very well presented and interesting talk.*

Members seemed to very much enjoy our very first social luncheon meeting at our new rooms so we will follow a similar format for our June meeting on 4th June where we will have our last talk surrounding the 75th Anniversary of D Day and which will be followed two days later with a commemoration at the Ex-POW Memorial on Thursday 6th June. In position please by 11.15 am for an 11.30 am commencement. *(NH, Ed)*

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT :** The number of General Committee Members has increased to five with the election of Stephen Brown at the May Business Meeting. Stephen Brown has now been allocated responsibility as our Librarian and our Senior Vice President, Leigh Harvey, as Assistant Librarian.

Our committee now numbers 11 members, a very healthy number to be discussing and managing the affairs of our Branch and with all members given the opportunity to ratify, or otherwise, committee decisions. Members are encouraged to attend our monthly business meetings if they wish to contribute.

At the May Committee Meeting the committee unanimously re-affirmed it's decision to separate our social and business meetings. This decision was unanimously ratified at the May Business Meeting. *(NH, Pres)*

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY

Arrangements are underway for a commemoration at the Ex-POW Memorial to mark the 75th Anniversary of D Day on 6th June 2019. It is fitting that it is the Air Force Association that is leading arrangements to ensure that this very special anniversary is appropriately commemorated, as Australian servicemen involved with the D Day operation were predominantly Australian airmen serving with RAAF and RAF squadrons.

Further details will be advised by email as arrangements are advanced. Intended time is 'in place' by 11.15 am for 11.30 am commencement. Major Neil Leckie RFD, Manager of Ballarat Ranger Military Museum has accepted my invitation to be MC for the event and Rev Keith Lanyon as Chaplain.

Please mark Thursday 6th June in your calendar and consider attending this commemoration. *(NH, Pres)*

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### DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ROOMS

My call for some assistance with assembling of storage cupboards was answered by these four members. Stephen Brown, Leigh Harvey, Tom Nunn and Steve Carter. Thank you guys, a great job. These storage cupboards are a start for us to store items and free up space in the allocated library space to soon commence assembling adjustable book shelves for the library. *(NH, Pres)*



**1WAGS Memorial Website :** With grant funds now in hand and part payment made to the web developer, (Ballarat Business 'UBC Web Design'), things are now underway and in the very capable hands of Peter Schoutens, Janet Bates and the web developer.

With our little bit of Press Coverage and AFA Vic State Head Office emailing information to all members of all Branches of AFA Vic, we already have some 1WAGS information coming into us.

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HERITAGE WEEKEND

As announced at our May social luncheon meeting, we will be opening our rooms to the public on both Saturday and Sunday 25 and 26 May from 10 am to 4 pm each day.

There will be a display of classic/vintage cars at the front of our building, the Military Brotherhood will be there with their B-B-Q trailer doing a sausage sizzle and selling cold drinks and bottled water. There will be a small number of military vehicles on display. Our neighbours the 'Ballarat Engine and Machinery Preservation Group' will have a display of 'running' engines and machinery on display on the grassed area beside the building.

We will be serving tea and coffee and a biscuit for a small fee. This will be served in the "long Room", the former dining hall of the former Officers' Mess.

While we have organised some volunteers for specific 'jobs' I would like to see as many members as possible to turn up, put on your AFA Branch name tag and '**Hang About**' and talk to any visitors about who we are and what we are all about.

Our State Head Office in Melbourne have been kind enough to email every member of every Branch in Victoria, (who have an email address), information about this Heritage Weekend event and we have already had messages from AFA members from other Branches letting us know that they intend to visit us on the weekend. So please come and 'Hang About' on one or both days as long as you can.

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With so much happening that I am needing to attend to, it is necessary to have a smaller newsletter this month and with so many members without an email address the cost of printing and posting needs to be kept in check as well, but will try to get back to a four page next month. (NH, Ed)

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REMINDERS

Saturday and Sunday 25/26 May : Heritage Weekend at our Airport Hut 48 Rooms

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**Thursday 30th May : AFA Vic AGM and State Conference, AFA Vic Offices Hawthorn East**

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Tuesday 4th June ~ Monthly Social Luncheon Meeting, Arrive by 11.45 for 12 noon start

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**Thursday 6th June ~ 75th Anniversary of D Day ~ Ex-POW Memorial  
In position by 11.15 am for 11.30 commencement**

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Monday 10th June ~ 2 pm Committee Meeting (For Committee Members)

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**Monday 10th June ~ 3 pm Monthly Business Meeting (Open to All Members)**

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Taxi Transport to Meetings ~ If you require taxi transport to and from meetings please advise me, (0439 929 322) the day prior to the meeting so that I can arrange it for you. (Noel Hutchins)