



# ALUMNI Magazine

**NOVEMBER 2022**

In this edition of the Alumni Magazine I will be handing over the reins to a man many of you will already know. Warren Bishop comes to this position with a wealth of experience both in the RAAF as an Airframe Fitter and then as an Aeronautical Engineer with some great projects behind him, including the very successful acquisitions, including the F/A-18, C-17A and C-27J. In the AAFC Warren has been instructing cadets in Canberra, led the AAFC team to the UK for competition and is now Commanding Officer of our latest AAFC Unit in the ACT. With this background Warren will be a whole lot closer than someone who was a Cadet over 60 years ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Director of the Air Cadet Alumni and member of the AAFC National Council and AAFC Foundation. I would like to thank those members who have gone out of their way to provide material for our Magazine. In particular Paul Rosenzweig has been outstanding in his support.

Do you think it might be time for you to give something back to our Cadets? The AAFC is looking for Staff members but not only that, the AAFC would like to hear from you to share your life skills in your chosen profession. You might like to make contact with a local Squadron in your area. Do you have industry experience?

Your feedback helps to shape the content we include in each edition so please keep it coming. So, why not share your knowledge and experience with other Alumni members? We look forward to your contribution.

Remember, if you like what you read in your magazine, you are most welcome to share and invite your friends who are ex Cadet or Staff members to join. If you don't like what you are reading please tell us, [AlumniDirector@aircadetsalumni.org.au](mailto:AlumniDirector@aircadetsalumni.org.au) We love to receive your letters. We hope that our magazine can remind you of your time in our great organization. We are always on the lookout for articles and photographs that you may like to share.

If you think you have missed out on some of the earlier Alumni Newsletters, the good news is you haven't! They are available on the Air Cadets Alumni website, AAFC Web page, <https://www.airforcecadets.gov.au/> and go to the Bulletin Board.

We need material that can be circulated to those who are no longer in touch with their old Squadron or in receipt of material from the AAFC. I am aware that the Newsletter is rather large and many readers would like me to cut back on the length. I certainly don't anticipate that you will read the entire magazine, I know I don't read the entire copy of The Australian, but I scan the paper and read what interests me.

## **BIO FOR GPCAPT WARREN BISHOP**

Group Captain Warren Bishop joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1977 as a trainee aircraft technician. Group Captain Bishop was commissioned as an Aeronautical Engineer in 1987.

As a junior engineering officer, Group Captain Bishop enjoyed postings to the RAAF F/A-18 Acquisition Project and the RAAF F-111 Avionics Update Project over the period 1988-91.

In 1992, he was posted to RAAF Base Townsville as the Officer in Charge of Support Equipment and Special Purpose Vehicle maintenance. Two significant events during this assignment included site and recovery commander at two separate F/A-18 crashes in Far North Queensland.

Group Captain Bishop was posted to New Zealand in 1995, as an international Defence co-operation exchange officer with the Royal New Zealand Air Force, where he commanded the Deeper Maintenance program of the RNZAF A4K Skyhawk fleet.

He was promoted to Squadron Leader upon return to Australia in 1997, where he was appointed as a Flight Commander at the RAAF Officers' Training School.

In 2000, he was appointed Senior Engineering Officer at Number 2 Flying Training School at RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia to manage the maintenance program of the RAAF PC9 fleet of 43 aircraft.

In 2002, he was appointed Senior Engineering Officer at Number 32 Squadron at RAAF Base East Sale in Victoria as the Senior Maintenance Manager for the HS748 and B200 Kingair aircraft used for ACO training.

Promoted to Wing Commander in 2003, he was posted to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter project as the Industry Engagement Facilitation officer.

In 2007, Group Captain Bishop was posted to study at the University of New South Wales, Australian Defence Force Academy campus, in Canberra to complete a Master of Management Studies Degree, incorporating a double major in Technology & Innovation and Logistics.

In Dec 2007, Group Captain Bishop was appointed Project Manager of the Heavy Airlift Project Office, to acquire the C-17A Globemaster III capability.

Promoted to Group Captain in January 2012, he was appointed Project Director of the New Airlift Project Office, managing the acquisition of both, the C-27J Spartan Battlefield Airlifter, and C-17A Globemaster III Heavy Airlift program.

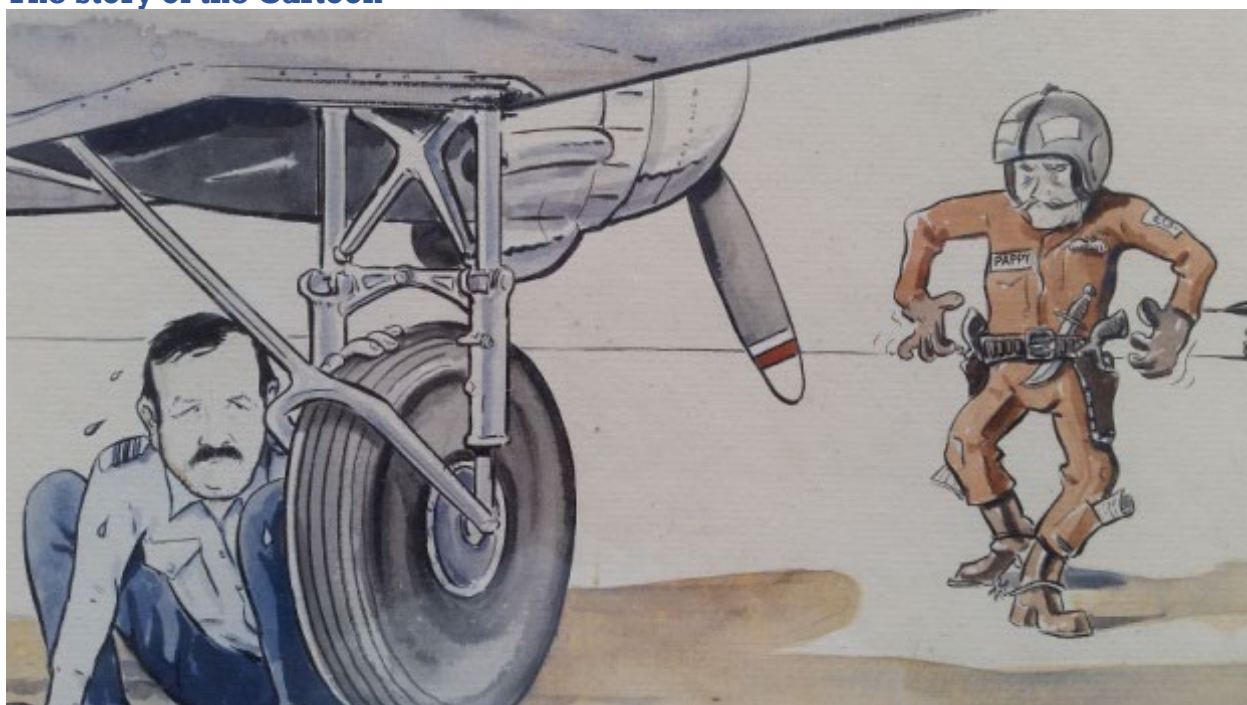
Group Captain Bishop has supported the AAFC since he was a cadet in the mid-1970s. He was appointed AFLO 7WG whilst SENGO 2FTS and is currently an ADF Auxiliary Instructor and XO at no 315SQN AAFC in Canberra. Group Captain Bishop was appointed CO of the AAFC's newest SQN, no 327SQN Gungahlin in Canberra, in 2019. Group Captain Bishop was appointed as Director AAFC Alumni in 2022.

Until February,

Fly Safe and stay Covid Safe.

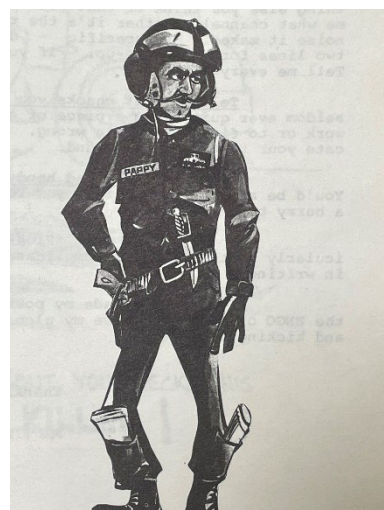
John Griffiths, MBE  
Alumni Director

### The story of the Cartoon



As this is my final Alumni Magazine, I thought you might be interested in the story behind this cartoon.

Way back in 1982 I was the Editor of the Air Force Flying Safety magazine, Spotlight. In that time there was a requirement for those undertaking the Flying Safety Officers course to submit an article that could be used in Spotlight. Well, just like this magazine, it was always difficult to find out if anyone was reading the mag. Enter, Flying Officer Graham Butterworth who submitted a rather controversial piece about senior officers flying Air Force aircraft. Well, we thought it might work. It surely did, we had so many calls from senior officers asking how on earth did we hear about that event... Flying Safety Spotlight 2/82.



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# Regular Features

## What our Foundation is up to

To Alumni and Friends of the AAFC,

The AAFC is definitely getting back to normal after the semi-hibernation of the COVID period! As well as most units now having a full calendar of activities, training and parades, I am also seeing the benefits of the hard work and significant investment by the AAFC leadership and Air Force. We have had about 5,000 cadets fly in the Diamond aircraft, mainly on 'air experience' rides, and this is ramping up with 14,000 flying hours planned for this financial year and more expected in future years. The drone program is being rolled out – and many cadets now have a recognised drone pilot qualification. We are seeing the fieldcraft and shooting exercises, activities and competitions getting underway again. Also, I am very pleased to say that the Foundation is on track to fund the International Air Cadet Exchange program in 2023 – a program which last ran in 2019 pre-COVID.

I regularly speak to cadets and visit units, and I am struck by the great experiences that the cadets are able to tell me about. For example, I recently spoke to about 130 cadets that included cadets from all the Wings who visited Canberra for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Parade on 2 October 2022 that was reviewed by Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Chipman. Each cadet I chatted to told me of how they had been visiting RAAF units, undertaking personal development activities and learning new things. Some of the cadets from 8 Wing proudly showed me photos of their unit in front of an F-35 at RAAF Tindal! My point, is that even though the AAFC has yet to hit its full potential post-COVID, it is already delivering great experiences and opportunities for the Cadets. It will only get better over the next few years!

The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade (delayed to 2022 due COVID) was a great celebration of this important milestone. CAF spoke well to the Cadets on parade and noted the long and illustrious history of the AirTC/AAFC and its bright future. I am biased, but the drill and ceremonial on the day was equal to the best I have seen in 45 years around Defence. Very well done!

The AAFC is well funded in some areas by Air Force, but there still remain many activities that can not be funded by the public purse and which need funding by the AAFC Foundation. This includes the International Air Cadet Exchange Program, more advanced flying scholarships and awards and prizes for the various annual competitions. All in all, the Foundation needs to raise about \$95,000 a year into the future. Obviously Defence Industry has been generous, but still we are only about 33% towards the target for the next 12 months, and so would welcome any support that can be provided. To all of you, I wish a happy and healthy festive season and hope you all get the chance to connect with family and friends over the Christmas period.

Cheers, Koz

**Air Vice-Marshal K. Osley AM, CSC**

Chair

Australian Air Force Cadets Foundation

[Kym.osley@defence.gov.au](mailto:Kym.osley@defence.gov.au)





**AM Chipman (Chief of Air Force) with AVM Osley (Chair Foundation), AIRCDRE Heap (DGCB-AF), GPCAPT Dorward (CDRAAFC) and the Wings Officers Commanding at the 80<sup>th</sup> Parade on 2 October 2022 at ADFA, Canberra**



**GPCAPT Mark Dorward, CDRAAFC; AM Rob Chipman, Chief of Air Force; and AVM Kym Osley, Chair AAFC Foundation at the post-parade reception at ADFA for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade**



**The AAFC Colours were proudly displayed on parade!**



**AVM Osley Chair AAFC Foundation speaking to the Cadets in Canberra for the 80<sup>th</sup> parade**





A flypast by a Wedgetail E-7A was a highlight of the parade.



## **DGCADETS-AF AIR FORCE CADETS UPDATE**

An update from our Director General Cadets – Air Force, Air Commodore Craig Heap, covers the year so far and announces some exciting developments ahead:

[\(6172\) Air Force Cadets Update - YouTube](#)



# What our Alumni are up to

## Story on the MV Blythe Star



The vessel *MV Blythe Star* was a [coastal freighter](#) which foundered off south-western [Tasmania](#) in October 1973, here is another article from one of our alumni, Ray Gibson. You may remember Ray from our August newsletter writing about the Dakotas to Indonesia.

In 1973, I was an instructor at the School of Air Navigation at RAAF Base East Sale, Victoria. A fellow Nav instructor, Peter May, held the secondary role of Base Search and Rescue Officer. In mid-October there were reports of a missing coastal shipping freighter, the 'MV Blythe Star' off the Tasmanian coast and when a decision was taken to employ RAAF aircraft in a search, Peter became involved in local coordination and tasking of the base assets that included the HS748 Navigator training aircraft.

At this point I should point out that National Search and Rescue coordination and control then was nothing like it is today. Overall search coordination was at best *loose*, and for this particular search, there was very little reliable information to work on. Nevertheless, search operations began on 17 October using a HS748 aircraft to circumnavigate the Tasmanian coastline as a precursor to a more thorough search. The next day, Peter tasked one of our HS 748 aircraft to search an ocean area off the east coast of Tasmania for the missing ship. Nav Instructor, Paul Goodwin (RIP) and I were crewed with two SAN pilots and additional observers to fly the search mission. It was going to be a long day!

We launched from East Sale very early in the morning, flying directly to our designated search area where I recall there was a generally low cloud base with a heavy sea below, making search conditions less than ideal. After about 5 hours on task in the area we recovered to Hobart to refuel and then resumed the search until we ran out of daylight. We then returned to Hobart for a second refuel before flying back to East Sale, arriving later that night.

I recall a PR photographer climbing on board the aircraft after engine shutdown to take some photos. We were not impressed. Having just logged 14 hours 40 mins flying time for an unsuccessful day of searching, all we were looking forward to was a *cold one or two!*



At the end of an unsuccessful day of searching for the MV Blythe Star

Over the following days, other RAAF aircraft, including Orions, Hercules, together with additional HS748s from East Sale continued with the search effort. At the time, it was the most extensive air search over a one week period ever conducted in Australia. Despite the large effort, no trace of the Blythe Star or its crew was found during the search operation. The search was hampered by many factors including the lack of route information from the ship and the failure of the crew to make any distress call.

Later investigation found that all ten crew members of the Blythe Star had abandoned ship to a life raft after the vessel listed heavily and began to sink. Sadly, one of the crew died at sea and another two perished on shore after they made landfall at Deep Glen Bay south of the Freycinet Peninsula following some 10 days at sea. The remarkable survival of the crew members who were eventually found is a compelling story in itself.

The inquiry that followed the loss of the MV Blythe Star led to wide ranging changes in ship reporting procedures and National Search and Rescue coordination arrangements.

A full account of the Blythe Star tragedy can be found on Wikipedia [here](#) if anyone is interested.

Ray Gibson

**Yes some of our Alumni flew in Vietnam , we are that old**

<https://www.facebook.com/Robertstjohn64/videos/463219822517040/?idovravity=201811689978552>



# Our History Page

This page is not Intentionally Blank.

It's just waiting for your story.

## Aviation Museums and Collections

This is where we have a look at what our Aviation Museums are doing around Australia. We try to highlight the latest news from some great locations including the South Australian Aviation Museum, HARS at Albion Park, QAM at Caloundra, Aviation Heritage Museum of Western Australia; RAAF Association, the Darwin Aviation Museum and many more great collections. If you see some good displays, please let our new Editor know about them.



<https://www.saam.org.au/> The South Australian Aviation Museum.



HARS <https://www.saam.org.au/>





<https://aviationmuseumwa.org.au/> Bullcreek WA

### **Queensland Air Museum – Acquiring, Restoring, Preserving.**



By Christopher Rees – QAM Tour Guide and Technical Writer

#### **The largest display of historic aircraft in Australia**

Since the early days in 1974 when the museum purchased its first aircraft, a Canberra bomber designated A84-225, the number of aircraft on show has grown to an impressive 80. Located on a 2-hectare site in Caloundra, the museum boasts a unique collection of military and civilian aircraft from the thirties to the present day. Run entirely by volunteers, it has been a long and often tortuous journey to achieve the iconic collection visitors see today.



*Where it all started - Canberra A84-225 at Pioneer Park, Kuraby in March 1975. Photo Ron Cuskelly*

The move to the Caloundra site in 1986 was forced upon the museum as they could not afford the rent for the area they occupied at Brisbane airport. Looking for their fourth home since the museum's conception 12 years earlier, they struck lucky with Landsborough Shire Council offering them land at Caloundra.

At that time the collection had grown to six aircraft, although they had others awaiting renovation. Moving aircraft was no easy task, requiring an army of volunteers to prepare the exhibits for trucking to the new home and then re-assembling wings and tailplanes.

Finally with a settled home, the volunteers commenced the arduous task of growing the collection, which meant recovering written off airframes without wings, bidding on aircraft that were being disposed of, making offers for complete aircraft, and of course accepting donations in any condition.

As the museum expanded so did the number of volunteers, adding a multitude of skills and experience enabling more ambitious renovation tasks to be taken on. The museum was not averse to pursuing lost causes even if it meant digging up a tailplane from a salt marsh or sending a team of 14 for eight days to recover a Lockheed Neptune in Northern Queensland.

The most ambitious recovery mission, though, happened around three years after the move to Caloundra, it became notoriously known as the Sentosa Rescue Mission.

## **Sentosa Island – a journey into the unknown**

Barely a hundred meters from mainland Singapore, Sentosa Island is now a playground with adventure activities, aqua water parks, a sky walk, shopping mall and many other tourist attractions. Going back to 1989, conditions on the former British military base were totally different, but the makings of the development plan for the island were starting to come to fruition, and this led to the availability of four aircraft.

The four aircraft, a DC3, De Havilland Sea Vixen, Gloster Meteor and Hawker Hunter had been left on the island by the Singapore Air Force and were exhibits in a display park. However, the new island development plan didn't include these aircraft and they were consequently sold to a scrap

merchant. Finding out that these aircraft may be available negotiations commenced with the scrap dealer for the museum to buy them back. Having agreed a price, they then needed permission from the Sentosa authorities to leave them in place until they could retrieve them. This would give them time to set out a plan to recover the aircraft and bring them back to Caloundra.

It was also agreed with the scrap dealer that only three would be recovered, the DC3 being too large to disassemble and transport back.

Six volunteers put their hands up to go, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1989 they set off on a journey, complete with toolboxes, into the unknown, not knowing whether this rescue was even possible.



*Meteor on Sentosa on 24/2/83  
Pictures Ian MacFarlane*



*Hunter on Sentosa 24/2/83*

Conditions on the island when they arrived were not favorable for dismantling three aircraft in the humid heat of Singapore, only made worse by the daily afternoon thunderstorms.

Access to the island was by ferry or cable car, only one of these options was feasible with heavy toolboxes but taking toolboxes on board the ferry was not permitted. Looking back this was just a minor inconvenience, future events would prove far more challenging. Singapore Bumboats were available specifically for taking goods across.

Accommodation was sparse, having managed to rent a unit left over from the British occupation. With only cold running water and no cutlery or crockery it was a case of 'make do and mend' avoiding the cat sized rats that roamed the island in the drainage system.

This set the tone for the mission, working to specific conditions laid out by the Sentosa authorities they managed to borrow a Bedford truck used by the scrap dealer that had a crane with a grab bucket. Not the most auspicious of starts as during the second day the rear axle split. This led them on a journey by taxi around Singapore, carrying the broken axle with them to try and find a replacement. Finding a replacement axle for an old Bedford truck could have proved daunting, but they were directed to a dealer who had exactly what they wanted. It would be a late night to get the truck up and running again.

Illness and injury struck some of the group as they toiled in the heat to dismantle the aircraft. All parts had to fit in containers so there was no option of taking larger sections. Removing the Vixen's twin booms was particularly challenging taking 2 days alone. The whole operation remarkably only took 4 weeks, but the reward was seen some 3 months later when the containers arrived at Caloundra and the painstaking task of putting them back together again could commence.





*Sea Vixen on Sentosa 24/2/83, picture Ian MacFarlane*

The DC3 was inevitably broken up but the propellers were salvaged and have been fitted to the museums Lockheed Ventura, another challenging restoration from derelict fuselage to a creditable display. This exhibit can be seen in Hangar 2 at the Queensland Air Museum and at the time of writing is the only Ventura on show throughout Australia.

To date, around 20 missions have been undertaken to retrieve aircraft from being scrapped or going into permanent disrepair although none matches the Sentosa expedition for conquering adversity.



*The Ventura before  
Picture Nick Sayer*



*and after  
Photo Ian McDonnell*

## **Queensland Air Museum today - Update**



*The diversity of exhibits on display covers propeller and jet powered aircraft from 1937 to 2018, fighters, bombers, surveillance, transport, helicopters all displayed throughout the 2-hectare site.*

Queensland Air Museum is wheelchair friendly and can be visited in inclement weather as many exhibits are under cover.

The museum is consolidating its collection with a focus on a continuing improvement of facilities and attractions along with the ongoing maintenance of the existing aircraft.

The popular once a year ‘Open Cockpit Weekend’ is to be replaced by more regular smaller events focusing on different aircraft groups. This will include the opening of aircraft and conducting guided tours on the day. This will provide an educational and inspiring experience for all age groups.

Specific aircraft experiences will be added to the program following the successful Ultimate F-111 Experience which has been running for most of 2022. For bookings, please email [tours@gam.com.au](mailto:tours@gam.com.au)

To reach out to a wider audience our Podcast Mach One can be accessed through our website below or through your normal listening source. Hear inspiring aviation stories each week with your host Garry Hills.

The museum attracts many youngsters who are keen to learn about the technology that existed in earlier years. An understanding of how this technology has evolved will prove useful for their training, especially with air cadets and trainees. Plans are also in place to develop the museum as a learning center covering specific STEM training programs.

In line with more training opportunities the museum is pursuing the installation of a Boeing 737 flight simulator which is sure to attract budding pilots or anyone who just wants to learn. Visit the museum on any day and you can request a guided tour, most days there will be two or three guides available to show you round, embracing the history and stories that go with each aircraft. Larger groups for tours will need to be booked in advance.

As the museum expands, the need for more volunteers increases in all areas. From front counter staff to our workshops there are roles for anyone who just wants to get involved, contact by email [admin@qam.com.au](mailto:admin@qam.com.au) or drop in and talk to our friendly front counter staff.

There is much more to the Queensland Air Museum than historic aircraft. Exhibits of aviation memorabilia, informative story boards to our well stocked shop selling books, new and second hand, plus aviation merchandise makes for a highly enjoyable visit for families and aviation enthusiasts.

To keep up with all activities at the museum check out our Facebook page or visit [www.qam.com.au](http://www.qam.com.au)

Queensland Air Museum is open 7 days per week except Easter Friday and Christmas Day.  
Opening hours 10.00am – 4.00 pm (07) 5492 5930  
7 Pathfinder Drive, Caloundra Aerodrome, Caloundra 4551

*Sources – Mach One Podcast, Cliff Robinson, Sept 2022 – The Sentosa Orphans*

## What are Our Cadets up to?

[Australian Air Force Cadets](#) This is a link to the AAFC page

### 4 Wing

404SQN DUKE OF ED AWARD // SILVER & BRONZE PRESENTATIONS

CSGT Tisha Shah and CCPL Paarth Verma of 404SQN were presented with their [The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award](#) Bronze and Silver Awards respectively, by SGT(AAFC) Marcus Ho from National Headquarters. Congratulations to both on their achievement!

Many of 4WG cadets are currently undertaking this internationally recognised award through their AAFC involvement. To participate, contact your SQN Duke of Ed Award Coordinator.





On 11 Aug 22, 401 Squadron – Surrey Hills celebrated a belated 80th Anniversary, at the original formation point of the squadron, Box Hill Town Hall.

Current cadets and staff were joined by Alumni and friends of the squadron, to honour the legacy and traditions forged in over 80 years of history.

The Guest of Honour for the evening, Mayor of Whitehorse, Cr. Tina Liu, spoke about her own passion for aviation, and thanked 401 Squadron for their service to the City of Whitehorse. In the Cadet Executive address CUO Polgar commented “Like so many cadets we are excited to march through the gates of 401 Squadron every Friday night, now the leaders of the team that we once aspired to be a part of. That is what 401 Squadron means to us and so many others, and we as the Cadet Executive team would like to acknowledge the major role that 401 Squadron has played in our lives”

The formalities of the evening were followed by cake, dancing and plenty of photos.



**Like to give something back? Being a Staff Member can be so rewarding.**

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is looking for adult volunteers to lead and inspire young people as part of the Navy, Army and Air Force Cadets. ADF Cadets is Defence's leading youth development program, supporting 13 to 18 Just follow the Link...[\(20+\) Facebook Just hit the Enter Key for these two great links.](#)

**AAFC 80 National Parade**

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

**Australian Air Force Cadets is at Australian Defence Force Academy**

It may have been delayed a year by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Australian Air Force Cadets finally commemorated 80 years of youth development with a national parade at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra on Sunday October 2, 2022.

Inspecting the parade was the Chief of Royal Australian Air Force, Air Marshal Robert Chipman with our Commander Australian Air Force Cadets, Group Captain (AAFC) Mark Dorward. Approximately 140 members gathered from every State and Territory across Australia representing from each of our eight Wings, with all eight banners displayed together for the first time since the 75th anniversary in Canberra in 2016. The fly past by a Royal Australian Air Force E-7A Wedgetail made it a day to remember.

Images courtesy FLTLT Dion Isaacson, [Royal Australian Air Force.](#)

[#AAFC80](#) [#NationalParade](#)

[www.airforcecadets.gov.au](http://www.airforcecadets.gov.au)









CAF with some very happy cadets.

### **AAFC80 // TOUR: AWM**

During the #AAFC80 Australian Air Force Cadets 80th Anniversary National Parade weekend, Cadets and Staff representing each of our eight Wings (states & territories) had the opportunity to participate in the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, ACT.

In the Last Post Ceremony for October 1st, we joined members of the public to remember Private Alec Mann & Sergeant William Mann who served Australia in the First World War.

The Last Post Ceremony streams live from the Memorial in Canberra at 4.45pm every day and is proudly supported by RSL & Services Clubs Association, RSL Victoria and RSL Queensland.

Lest We Forget





*Aviation trainee CSGT Jesse Isaac, wearing his First Solo Badge (powered flying) during rehearsals for the 2022 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration in Adelaide on 26 August 2022.*

## **HONOURING THE FALLEN**

### **Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day**

In August, the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc, South Australia & Northern Territory Branch held its annual Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration.

The ceremony was once again supported by Air Force Cadets from No 604 Squadron, supplemented with volunteers from No 601 Squadron. The Catafalque Party used innocuous .303-inch SMLE rifles, representative of the era of the Malayan wars of the 1950s and 1960s.

Of note, the Catafalque Party Commander was aviation trainee Cadet Under Officer Kshitij Sapdhare. Members of the Catafalque Party included two other gliding trainees – Leading Cadet Tegan Revolta and Cadet Sergeant Jesse Isaac, who already holds the First Solo Badge for powered flying through training undertaken privately.

The ceremony in Adelaide on 26 August honoured those Australians and members of Commonwealth forces who served during the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) and the Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia (1962-1966), as well as in Singapore; in Ubon, Thailand; on the Thai-Malay border; on the Malay Peninsula post-1966; with Rifle Company Butterworth; and in East Timor and Timor Leste.

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of SA and SA/NT Branch Patron, and Mr Rod Bunten were the principal guests of honour, and placed a wreath together.

The veterans and Air Force Cadets especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet and interact with Her Excellency and Mr Bunten after the ceremony.

Among those commemorated were thirteen RAAF personnel who lost their lives on operational service during the general period of the Malayan Emergency and Confrontation:

A22152 Flight-Sergeant Gordon John McDonald, No 38 Squadron, RAAF:	31 August 1950
A197 Warrant Officer George Robert Tait, No 38 Squadron, RAAF:	22 April 1951
A31167 Warrant Officer Heathcote Byron Brown, No 1 Squadron, RAAF:	9 April 1953
A51076 Leading Aircraftman M Murphy, No 1 Squadron, RAAF:	3 December 1956
A32323 Corporal John Marcus O'Donnell, No 2 Airfield Construction Squadron, RAAF:	17 March 1957
A312847 Leading Aircraftman D J Hall, Headquarters No 78 Wing, RAAF:	4 March 1959
O52768 Flight Lieutenant Dennis St George Greaves Oates, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth (Detachment 'A', Hong Kong)	10 July 1959
A218384 Leading Aircraftman William Patrick Duffy, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:	26 July 1959
A312178 Aircraftman John George Lawson, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:	26 July 1959
A217227 Leading Aircraftman Colin John Rowe, Base Squadron, RAAF Butterworth:	18 September 1959
O3606 Wing Commander Norman Henry Nixon DFC, Royal Australian Air Force:	9 February 1961
O15609 Flying Officer M V Curtis, Royal Australian Air Force:	16 June 1961



O19993 Flying Officer Victor John Cowen, No 2 Squadron, RAAF:

19 September 1965

In honouring the service and sacrifice of Australian and Commonwealth Service personnel during these two undeclared Malayan wars, the SA/NT Branch shifted the focus slightly from generic tributes to a more select group including veterans and family members honouring specific named personnel.



*The AAFC Catafalque Party at the Malaya-Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration in Adelaide on 26 August 2022, commanded by Cadet Under Officer Kshitij Sapdhare.*

One of the guests at the ceremony gave the following feedback: *“It was an excellent service! I found the wreath laying section very moving. You made it mean so much more by sharing the individual stories. Thank you to everyone for your contributions in making it a great commemoration!”*.

Another said of the Cadet participation: *“Absolutely brilliant to see the catafalque party using the SMLEs . . . that the cadets have learnt the drills using those firearms is simply fantastic”*.

The Catafalque Party Commander, CUO Sapdhare, is a Bronze and Silver Award recipient, and a current Gold Award participant, in The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award.

CSGT Isaac is a Bronze Award recipient, and a current Silver Award participant. LCDT Revolta is currently completing his Bronze Award, and will soon be commencing the Silver Award.

In each case, these Cadets’ efforts to improve their aviation skills through the AAFC home training curriculum and gliding training contributed to the Skills section of their Awards.





*In Sarawak, Malaysia, the name of Flying Officer Victor John Cowen of No 2 Squadron, RAAF is honoured on the SA/NT Branch NMBVAA memorial plaque in the Sarawak Heroes Memorial Park in Kuching, which was unveiled on 29 August 2016.*





*Catafalque Party Commander and gliding trainee, CUO Kshitij Sapdhare, following the 2022 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration in Adelaide on 26 August.*



*Catafalque Party member gliding trainee, LCDT Tegan Revolta, during rehearsals for the 2022 Malaya & Borneo Veterans Day service of commemoration in Adelaide on 26 August.*

Among the other Cadets who participated in the activity were Leading Cadet Jerom Cooray (Bronze Award participant and gliding trainee) and Cadet Corporal Lachlan Hennessy (Bronze and Silver Award recipient, and current Gold Award participant). CCPL Hennessy had the privilege of opening the door for Her Excellency the Governor upon the arrival and departure of the vice-Regal vehicle.

Just a few days later, his parents and sister were meeting Her Excellency when a Gold Award Ceremony was held at Government House Adelaide on Tuesday 30 August.





*Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of SA, and Mr Rod Bunten at the Cross of Sacrifice in the West Torrens War Memorial Gardens on 26 August with AAFC Cadets who supported the activity.*

Her Excellency the Governor is Patron for South Australia of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Australia. Congratulations Amelia!

The AAFC is a recognised Award Unit, and Cadets are permitted to wear the insignia of their highest achieved level on their Service Dress uniform. Current serving AAFC members who would like to participate in the Award should contact their squadron Award Leader or Wing Manager. For further information:

<https://www.airforcecadets.gov.au/what-we-do/activities/duke-of-edinburgh>

Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Paul A Rosenzweig OAM  
Public Affairs & Communication Officer  
Aviation Operations Wing || Australian Air Force Cadets

PACO-AOW 041/22  
29 September 2022

## **AVIATION OPERATIONS**



*Cadet Warrant Officer Luke Yaxley standing in front of a Cessna 172. Image supplied by Sergeant (AAFC) Michael Thomas, Headquarters No 7 Wing.*

Congratulations to Cadet Warrant Officer Luke Yaxley who has been awarded a prestigious Western Australian Government flying scholarship.

Sergeant (AAFC) Michael Thomas, Social Media Coordinator with Headquarters No 7 Wing, said: *“A strong commitment to aviation studies and a flying career has resulted in Air Force Cadet, Cadet Warrant Officer Luke Yaxley, becoming this year’s recipient of the Minister for Education Aviation Scholarship”*.

This will certainly give CWOFF Yaxley a boost in realising his aspiration to become a commercial airline pilot.

Valued at \$5,000, the scholarship is awarded annually to a Year 12 student studying aviation at a public high school in WA.

In a media release, the WA Education and Training Minister the Honourable Sue Ellery said, *“Luke displays strong integrity, leadership and determination, making him a deserving recipient of this scholarship”*.

CWOFF Yaxley, a Year 11 student at Melville Senior High School, is a senior member of No 703 (City of Fremantle) Squadron.

Melville Senior High School is one of four public schools in Western Australia that offers an aviation specialist program which caters for students seeking a career in aviation, science, engineering or other related pursuits.

The school reported that Luke was a ‘standout entrant’ according to the three judges on the panel, and proudly noted *“This now makes it two years in a row that Melville SHS has won this award”*.

Minister Ellery said, *“It’s fantastic that WA public school students have the opportunity to develop real-world skills and gain a head start in reaching their career goals through approved specialist programs such as aviation”*.

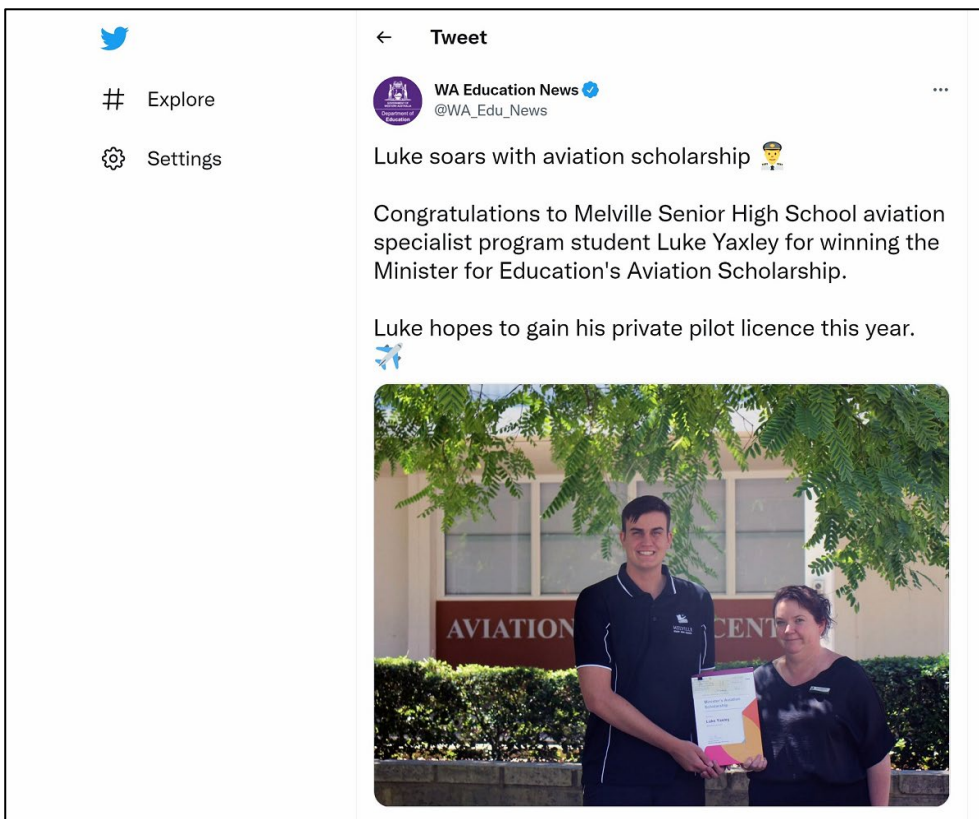
CWOFF Yaxley said his experience in the Air Force Cadets had developed his leadership and character, and made him a better person.

*“As well as helping me in my studies, the Air Force Cadets built my self-confidence and encouraged me to pass on my learnings by developing leadership abilities in the junior Cadets in my charge”*, he said.

*“Without the training and experience gained through Cadets, I would never have become the person I am today”*.

CWOFF Yaxley has already achieved his Recreational Pilot’s Licence, and will be putting this award towards gaining his Private Pilot’s Licence.

We join with Minister Ellery who said, *“I congratulate Luke on his dedication to his aviation studies and wish him all the best for his future career as a pilot”*.





*The announcement of Luke's award by the WA Department of Education*



*No 703 (City of Fremantle) Squadron is based at Leeuwin Barracks on Riverside Road in East Fremantle. See more here: [No 703 \(City of Fremantle\) Squadron, AAFC](#)*

Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Paul A Rosenzweig OAM  
Public Affairs & Communication Officer  
Aviation Operations Wing || Australian Air Force Cadets

PACO-AOW 040/22  
3 September 2022

## **GLIDING OPERATIONS**



*Pre-solo flying trainees CSGT Jesse Isaac (left) and CUO Kshitij Sapdhare preparing for a day of continuation flying at Balaklava Airfield (YBVA) on 3 April 2022. Image by FLTLT(AAFC) Ian Wright.*

Balaklava Glider Training Flight continues to offer flying training opportunities to South Australian Cadets.

The current cohort of aviation trainees have attended a series of continuation training weekends, and then they joined gliding courses held at Balaklava Airfield during the school holidays, commencing their pathway to their first solo flight.

Balaklava Flight is a unit of the Gliding Training School (GTS), which is a subordinate unit of the AAFC's Aviation Operations Wing (AOW). GTS delivers flying pathways through gliding experiences and training using the AAFC's fleet of DG1000S gliders.

The DG1000S is a two-seater, high performance basic soaring trainer, with a two-piece canopy. It is perfect for giving Cadets a positive, safe and educational aviation experience.



*Flying trainee LCDT Jerom Cooray lands his DG1000S glider after a training flight at Balaklava Airfield (YBVA) under the supervision of Warrant Officer (Defence Support) Dave Bradshaw. Still image from a promotional video produced by Air Force Headquarters.*

Gliding trains pilots to be very well coordinated on the aircraft controls and develops a high degree of in-flight situational awareness and respect for other airspace users. Gliding activities offered by the AAFC are designed to inspire Cadets' interest in the aerospace industry.

Earlier this year, Flight-Lieutenant Christopher Moon, a Strategic Communications Advisor and Digital Content Producer at Air Force Headquarters, attended one of Balaklava Flight's continuation training weekends.

He produced a video clip which shows the excitement of gliding, and shows the gliding trainees talking about gliding:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goVHoK6npU4>

Pre-solo flying trainee CUO Mithusha Kulatunga said, “*Ever since I remember, maybe since I was about 12, I’ve always wanted to fly. I just wanted to be part of the Cadets*”.



*Pre-solo flying trainee CUO Mithusha Kulatunga from No 613 Squadron (RAAF Edinburgh) was interviewed during a continuation training weekend at Balaklava Airfield (YBVA) in April. Still image from the video produced by Air Force Headquarters.*

CUO Kulatunga described the winch launch: “*You’ll be going up at 45 degrees, very very very quick, then you’ll be feeling quite a bit of Gs. It’s just quite breath-taking*”.

The Flight Commander of Balaklava Glider Training Flight, FLTLT(AAFC) Wright said: “*Following completion of a theory training course, the ab initio trainees have progressed to Continuation Training Weekends. Then in the school holidays they have attended residential Gliding Courses, flying each day at Balaklava Airfield and accommodated overnight at RAAF Edinburgh. The Defence support provided for these activities has been outstanding*”.

### **Inspire Cadets through flying experiences**

The goal of the AAFC flying training program is to give Air Force Cadets exposure to, and inspire their interest in, the aerospace industry through education in theoretical and practical skills of aircraft handling, aircraft engineering and flight operations.



*A still image from the AAFC gliding video produced by Air Force Headquarters.*

More information on gliding opportunities may be found on the updated AAFC website:

<https://www.airforcecadets.gov.au/what-we-do/training/aviation-experiences/gliding>

Flight Lieutenant (AAFC) Paul A Rosenzweig OAM  
 Public Affairs & Communication Officer  
 Aviation Operations Wing || Australian Air Force Cadets

PACO-AOW 041/22  
 3 September 2022



*Balaklava Glider Training Flight is a unit of the Gliding Training School (GTS), which is a subordinate unit of the AAFC's Aviation Operations Wing (AOW). GTS delivers flying pathways through gliding experiences and training using the AAFC's fleet of DG1000S gliders.*



## Quiz August revisited

It looks like our readers are far too busy these days to try our Quiz. I will leave it to our new Quizmaster to see if he wants to continue with this light relief.



[\(6222\) The Australian Airman 1939 - 1945. War Experience. - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6222)

## Of Interest

### **CAF outlining his CAF Intent and strategic priorities**

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+raaf+CAF+INTENT&docid=608040930066385409&mid=869AD643DA5823F6485B869AD643DA5823F6485B&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

### **‘WINGS’ MAGAZINE Air Force Association**

The Spring 2022 edition of ‘Wings’ magazine has just been released by the Air Force Association and contains several stories on the achievements of our Air Force Cadets. This aerospace magazine is available online at no cost to AAFC staff and cadets – the digital version may be accessed through the AAFC Intranet (CadetNet) or the AAFC app by clicking on the ‘News’ link under the “Notice Board – Spotlight” section.

The Wings Spring edition is here and is bigger than ever. In this edition we feature The Red Arrows, the Royal Air Force’s formation display team, and continue to delve into early space

exploration and some of the unusual aircraft concepts considered during the early surge of air power evolution.

We also present an intriguing story on the Australian influence on early anti-g suit development. The Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) scientists outlines a research program to explore a process to enable military combatants to become battlefield 'prosumers', customers directly involved in the production of equipment and tools to be used in the battle taking place.

We look back at the effort applied to provide airfields and radar sites around Australia following the attack on Darwin in 1942.

For the youngsters we describe a virtual reality space simulation environment, SpaceCRAFT, designed by #NASA Astronauts to enable users to actively play with and experience the technology for future operations in space.

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#aviaitonmagazine #aviation #avgeek #raaf #space #avfan #aviationgeek #aviationlover #australianaviation #fathersday Royal Australian Air Force Aviation Operations Wing, AAFC 3 Wing Australian Air Force Cadets



Please feel free to send through any feedback or suggestions you may have to us at [AlumniDirector@aircadetsalumni.org.au](mailto:AlumniDirector@aircadetsalumni.org.au)

### **The only Australian Air Gunner Ace**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UILivpeKJYA&list=PLeEfmzz45Hqv6z5Ex565m6-hAQBIr0my&index=3>

**A very interesting podcast with ADM and Stewart Wilson talking about the 100 years of RAAF ops**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2aOjOkVwnY>



## Our Sister organizations

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we haven't seen our Air Cadet Exchange. However, we hear that Cadets are still going strong and looking forward to making new friends through IACE, International Air Cadet Exchange.



RAF Air Cadets



New Zealand Air Cadets

## Letters

Hi Brady

A tit bit of AAFC/RAAF Trivia which [your](#) may wish to publish.

On Sunday 11SEP22 the RAAF Roulettes presented an exciting 15 Minute display over Hobart Tasmania in support of the 2022 RAAFA (Tasmania Division) Battle of Britain Commemorative Celebrations.

One of the participating Roulette Pilots, FLTLT Ben Hepworth. In 2008 Ben was a CUO in the AAFC in Hobart (5 Wing Tasmania).

Ben was pleased to fly down to Tasmania and perform a display over Hobart.

Cheers

Dudley Barrow  
Retired Wing Commander (AIRC)

### **Keep in Touch // 2022 + Beyond**

Many of you are reading this Newsletter after logging on to our Alumni Web Site. You can come and join us, at no cost. Thanks to our friends at the AAFC for running our advertisement.

Are you leaving the Australian Air Force Cadets? You can keep in touch with mates through our network website & social pages. It's also a great opportunity to contribute your experience and ideas to help the Air Force Cadets of tomorrow.

Current and past staff are also welcome! Stay connected via the [Australian Air Cadets Alumni Network](#).

[www.aircadetsalumni.org.au](http://www.aircadetsalumni.org.au)  
[#airforcecadets](#)



## Leaving the AAFC? Stay connected..

The AAFC thanks the **Australian Air Cadets Alumni Network** for their support in this important 75th Anniversary year of the Cadets. In particular, it was the **Air Cadets Alumni Network** that created the commemorative 75th anniversary pin for presentation all staff and cadets who age expire in this milestone year.

The **Air Cadets Alumni Network** was also instrumental in the production of the official history of the journey of the Air Cadets Organisations so far.

These are just two of the worthwhile initiatives they have undertaken. And there is more to come in the years ahead. When your time as a cadet comes to an end you can stay connected though the **Air Cadets Alumni Network**.

You can keep in touch with mates through our Network website and facebook pages and also receive an *e-magazine* with news and other interesting stuff about cadet life. You will also have the opportunity to contribute your experience and ideas to help the air cadets of tomorrow.

Current and past Staff members are also welcome to join the Network.

**Joining the Network is easy and, most importantly, IT'S FREE.**

Just visit our website <http://www.aircadetsalumni.org.au> and look for the Register Link under the Network Information tab.





Time to pack the bag and handover to Bish. Fly Safe.