

# **THE CLIPPED WINGS**



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF  
AUSTRALIA

**MARCH 2018**

## **President's Report**



Hello Everyone,

We had a few dramas with our last edition and again, my apologies for the delay in getting the newsletter out to you but our editor, Andy Cornish, had a couple of family issues that were a priority and I thank everyone for their understanding in this situation.

Our new year has started with a major event on Australia Day where the lady to accompany us to the tour and Reunion in the UK was announced. Wanda Deacon, Ken's widow was the lucky lady and we will be having discussions with her to ensure she gets the most out of the trip in August.

Our Vice President, Anthony Eddie is deployed at the present, so our committee is running one person short. All things being equal we will keep the ship afloat during his absence and wish Ed all the best during his deployment. In other news, we have received a grant from DVA for more bus trips and we have two lined up already. The information on these proposed trips feature further on in the newsletter.

In the last few months, I have been made aware of one or two people complaining about not being kept in the loop, in regards to our members having illnesses and deaths. In the committee's defence, I would like to point out to everyone the following;

1. As soon as we hear of a death or illness, the information is posted on our Facebook page and then usually on the website and always in the Clipped Wings. These are the three main media outlets we have available and electronic media is more efficient and less expensive than print or telephone. We endeavour to keep our members aware of news and events as soon as we are informed.
2. I fully understand some of our members are not on Facebook and a few do not own computers. This is the individual's choice. However, if you want to be kept abreast of the issues such as

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those previously mentioned as soon as possible, get yourself onto Facebook as it is the quickest form of communication we have available.

3. If the idea of Facebook doesn't appeal to you, the other alternatives is the web site or the Clipped Wings. Only in extreme circumstances will phone calls be made to advise people. Unless somebody would like to volunteer their services to phone people, I can't think of any other options.
4. Finally, when we speak to people who are ill or have had the death of a loved one, sometimes they do not wish the situation to be broadcast. This is fully understandable, and we must respect their privacy.

I fully expect somebody to complain about the points just raised, that's fine, but if you feel you must complain, feel free to give me a call and don't use somebody else to voice your opinion. Remember, we will have committee elections later this year so step up and nominate yourself for a position on the committee. Rant over.

At the AGM last year, it was decided, because this year was an International Reunion, not to march the banner in the 2018 ANZAC Day March. This was formally agreed to and voted on. I would expect those wishing to march this year would form up with the RACT Assn or Army Transport Assn. If any state or member would like to arrange for the banner to be marched in 2019, let us know so we can put it to the members at the next AGM.

The 10-day tour of Scotland and Ireland and the UK ADA Reunion has come together well. Those identified for the trip have had the artwork for shirts and spray jackets passed to them and we await confirmation from them. As we are travelling with Kiwis, we are looking at the idea of an "ANZAC Contingent" and our Public Officer, Ned Miller is applying through DVA for the use of the word "ANZAC" on our apparel.

In closing, as we head into 2018, I expect there will be a few changes within the association. Remember, the association is only as strong as its members. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the organisation, let us know. None of us are mind readers.

Take care

Cheers

Nick

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## **Treasurers Report**

I hope everyone has had a good start to 2018. Another Financial year for the Association is over and the books are being prepared for our Honorary Auditor Bill Hardman. Bill has been the Associations Auditor for over 20 years and is retiring from his role this year. I would like to say thank you to Bill for all the years he has contributed to the Association and for the valuable assistance he has given to myself and Kim within the role of Treasurer of the ADAA.

The time has come for me to hand in my resignation from the Treasurers role with the Association, I will be standing down from the position at this year's AGM in April. Due to both myself and Kim's fulltime work commitments and personal family issues, we are unable to give the role of Treasurer the time and commitment it requires. Kim will also be handing over the Merchandise Officers role as well, to Rusty Towers.

Fundraising efforts are continuing at both Bunnings Wollongong and Valley Heights, thank you to all that have given a helping hand at any of these BBQ's. After expenses we have raised over \$15,000 this year. The fundraising efforts from the BBQ's have enabled the Association to pay for a widow to travel over to England later this year for the UK Reunion, as well as subsidising the UK Reunion costs to the Members who are attending this year. We hope that everyone going to the Reunion later this year has a great trip.

Just a reminder Memberships run to the financial year, so 2018 means you are current for the 2017/18 financial year and will be due renewal in June.

Regards

Geoff Harris

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## **Fund Raising Report**

### **Sausage Sizzles**

Listed below are the fund-raising activities planned for the next 3 months. If you can, please contact the arranger to notify them that you are coming along and pick up a pair of tongs to help sell a few snags, you won't be disappointed.

- Sunday, 11 March                      Bunnings Valley Heights – arranged by Fozzie
- Tuesday, 6 March                      Bunnings Wollongong – arranged by Nick and Joyce
- Sunday, 8 April                        Bunnings Valley Heights – arranged by Fozzie
- Tuesday, 3 April                        Bunnings Wollongong – arranged by Nick and Joyce
- Tuesday, 1 May                         Bunnings Wollongong – arranged by Nick and Joyce
- Sunday, 13 May                         Bunnings Valley Heights – arranged by Fozzie

Nick and Joyce have decided to cease the sausage sizzles at Kirrawee due to their time restraints.

It would be great to have another couple of weekend fund-raisers as these bring us the best return, with more volunteers able to assist. If you wish to organise an event in your area, please let us know and we will assist as much as possible.



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## Interest

### The Good Luck Story

Over the past years, its not often we hear a good luck story. Well, here is one. After our International Reunion in 2016, our fundraising events continued with a specific aim for the 2018 reunion in the UK.

The aim was to get one of our deceased members widows to attend the trip, with the 10 day Tour and the Reunion, travel and accommodation paid for by the Association.

Letters were sent to our 27 Honorary Members, widows of former members, some declined to be in the draw, some identified medical issues which made them unable to travel, some “threw their hat in the ring” and some did not bother to respond.

Those who “threw their hat in the ring” were identified and notified the draw would take place in January 2018. To ensure absolute integrity and security, our Patron, Brig Mick Ashleigh was asked to conduct the draw at Army Office, Canberra, as close as possible to Australia Day, of which he complied. It was pleasing to pass the buck higher up the food chain and get somebody else to do some work.

Ably assisted by Maj Gina Rasmussen, our Patron conducted the draw from a slouch hat. Sometimes the old ways of doing a draw are the best.



Brig Mick Ashleigh draws the winners name from the ceremonial slouch hat

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At 12:37 on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, I received an email from Brig Ashleigh. The draw had been completed and the photos were attached.

Brig Mick Ashleigh holds up Wanda's name after the draw



The winner was Wanda Deacon. It took a lot of self-control keeping the name a secret till the next day.

The next morning, Australia Day around 10:00, I commenced to ring the other entrants and had to notify them they had been unlucky. When I called Wanda, she was excited, and I think I detected a little sob in the background when I told her the news. I spoke to Wanda in mid February and she said her initial reaction was "Disbelief" and she did have a little tear, even the next day she wasn't sure if she had dreamt it until she received a call from Pam Barnes to congratulate her.

Planning is now underway for Wanda's trip and she looks like having an extended tour possibly over to France and Switzerland.

I have included a copy of a letter from Wanda, thanking the association and I would also like to thank everybody who has given up their time and energy to make this trip possible. I would also like to thank Brig Mick Ashleigh and Maj Gina Rasmussen for conducting the draw.

2 Feb 2018

Air Dispatch Association Of Australia.

Dear Nick,

Thank you so much for including me in your draw for the reunion . I was most surprised when I received the call to say that I was drawn out for the trip. I really could not believe it, I woke up the next morning and thought had I dreamt it, Pam Barnes, my friend of many years, rang me and assured me it was definitely true. Only then did it start to seem real to me. I thank all of you for the timeless hours you have all spent working on your Bunnings sausage sizzle to raise the money for this trip, I really appreciate it so much.

I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and thank you one and all.

*Wanda Deacon*

Thanks for your thoughts Wanda and enjoy your trip. More to follow

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## **People Behind the Scenes**

Over the past three years, the Air Dispatch Association has done considerable fundraising to support the 2016 International Reunion, the 2017 Melbourne ANZAC Reunion the 2016 and 2017 Myola Day Balls as well as other events and causes. Our major challenge was to raise enough funds to enable us to take one of our deceased member's widow to the 2018 International reunion and Tour in the UK.

None of the fund raising would have been possible without the dedication of association members, partners and in some cases, their children giving up their time to cook and serve at these BBQs.

The support and guidance from various Bunnings stores and the Bunnings staff has also been fantastic. One such Bunnings staff member has been a major supporter for us in these activities. Ms Nicole (Nic) Wetzel, the Activities Organiser, from Bunnings North Wollongong store has been always there for us.

Nic is due to be transferred to the Bunnings Warrawong store and then eventually to the new Kembla Grange store when it opens. She will be sadly missed at our Tuesday Sausage Sizzles in North Wollongong.

As a token of thanks, we presented Nic with some flowers, chocolates and a card (all the things ladies like) at our BBQ last Tuesday 6 Feb. Thanks Nic and good luck in your new posting. I can only imagine the help and support you will give to the local community groups in that region.

Thank you again from the Air Dispatch Association of Australia



Joyce Nicolai presents Nicole with her goodies

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## Open for Business



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### *RAAF C-27J deliveries hit the halfway point*

By Paul Sadler  
May 2017 Australian Aviation

The RAAF has received its fifth C-27J Spartan battlefield airlifter at RAAF Base Richmond. The aircraft, A34-004, arrived at Richmond on March 30 following a two-week ferry flight from Waco, Texas via Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

A34-004 is the aircraft which sustained minor damage in a hard landing incident at Waco in May 2016 during a night training flight.

Ten C-27Js are on order for the RAAF, with the first aircraft arriving at Richmond in June 2015. The type achieved initial operating capability with 35 Squadron in mid-December. The sixth C-27J is due to be delivered shortly and the full complement of 10 will arrive in Australia by early 2018, Commander Air Mobility Group, Air Commodore Richard Lennon explained at the Avalon Airshow on March 1.

“2017 is going to be a big year for 35 Squadron as we take delivery of more aircraft and bring our training on to home soil,” said AIRCDRE Lennon. “Essentially we’re open for business providing transport for government and Australian Defence Force requirements.”

For the past 18 months, 35SQN has been training its aircrews and developing maintenance procedures and has spent a lot of time working with the Army’s 5 Aviation Regiment in Townsville, Queensland aligning procedures and understanding how both services operate. “Our focus is to work very closely with Army Aviation and with the Special Operations Command to ensure the integration of the air mobility operation works seamlessly and is integrated within the battlefield, particularly with Army’s heavy-lift helicopters,” AIRCDRE Lennon said.

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The squadron's big focus moving forward is to establish its ground and flight training systems in Australia ahead of attaining full operational capability (FOC) with the aircraft, which is expected to occur in December 2019.

"We will continue to use simulators overseas until we get our own simulator established at Amberley in the next few years," said AIRCDRE Lennon.

"The squadron will do ground and flying training themselves and look to use a commercial provider for the simulator support. We will slowly bring that whole capability onshore ready for the final operating capability which we expect will be towards the end of 2019."

While the Spartan might look like a smaller Hercules on the outside, its role is more of an embedded aircraft in the battlefield area.

"I refer to it as a 'fixed-wing Chinook'," quipped AIRCDRE Lennon.

"That gives you the image of it being a battlefield capability rather than a strategic airlifter. It can operate into short airfields in remote locations and get into those airstrips that C-130J and C-17 cannot."

35SQN has been conducting a bulk of its training at regional airfields around NSW and in WA. However, the squadron is putting a lot of attention on ensuring the aircraft can work in our region and with partner nations.

"We will soon take the C-27J up into Papua New Guinea for the crews to get accustomed to operating the aircraft in the harsh and mountainous environments and begin operating the aircraft locally on exercise," noted AIRCDRE Lennon.

"We have adopted the crawl, walk, run procedures with implementing the aircraft into service. We have gone through the 'crawling' stage and we are up to walking," he said.

"The C-27J will feature in this year's Exercise Talisman Sabre and we will be looking to work with special forces and, in general, air logistics support roles supporting this exercise."

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## Upcoming Events

### Singleton and Hunter Valley Wineries

Sat 17th March 2018 bus trip to the new, Infantry Museum Singleton.

For those who remember, the old museum, this is a totally new two storey building.

Then on to lunch at Singleton RSL.

The afternoon activities will be a visit to the Hunter Valley Distillery, who are specialist in Gin, Vodka and Schnapps and a wine tasting at McGuigans Winery before returning to Penrith

The tour will be departing Penrith Panthers at 6 am Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Final numbers to be confirmed by 3rd March so that I can order correct size bus. More trips to follow.

Cost has been kept to a minimum, subject to numbers, but should be less than \$20.00 per person, ADAA will subsidise.

Please contact Fozzie Email at [gaf176@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gaf176@optusnet.com.au) before 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.



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## Upcoming Events

### Annual General Meeting

It is that time of year again! This year's AGM will be on **Saturday 14 April 2018** at **10:00am**.

Location: **Penrith RSL, 8 Tindale Street, Penrith**

Positions required to be filled are that of the **Secretary** and **Treasurer**.

Please ensure apologies are sent to [secretary@adaa.net.au](mailto:secretary@adaa.net.au).

Please see ADAA website ([click here](#)) for further details.

We look forward to seeing as many members there as possible.





## Vale

### Keith Bently

Keith served in 36 platoon at Randwick and finished up in 40 platoon at Walgrove, including a stint in Papua New Guinea

### Bryan Algie

Bryan was a member of 177 AD in Randwick and Silverware.

*Our condolences to the families.*



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## CONTACT DETAILS

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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<b>Patron:</b>	Brigadier Mick Ashleigh
<b>Past Patron:</b>	Major General David Ferguson

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