

THE CLIPPED WINGS



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AIR DISPATCH ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA

AUTUMN 2019

President's Report



Hello everyone. Are you all looking forward to relief from the heat?

Firstly, a Happy New Year and welcome to our first edition of the Clipped Wings for 2019. This coming year we have quite a few things planned and amongst these is our ANZAC Reunion in Brisbane. Another event that took place at the end of last year. Our Vice President, Anthony Eddie, was posted back to the Sydney area. Great to have you back Ed 'cause the work has been piling up.

Our first trip for the new year, on the 9th of March, is a day trip from Penrith to Newcastle or more realistically, Williamstown. We have a visit to Fighter World, lunch at Stockton RSL and on to historic Fort Scratchley. See inside for details.

The next item on the agenda is the ANZAC Reunion in Brisbane from 23rd to the 26th of April. This year we are to march directly behind the Army Transport Association, which is to be led by George Hunter, Ex SQMS of 176 AD Sqn in the late 70's. There will also be the ANZAC March in Sydney where big Ed and Fozzie will be attending. Another event involving Ex Air Dispatchers is planned over the ANZAC Day period and is to be held in Deniliquin, NSW. More information is on the inside and we look forward to the story behind this event.

We have put our name forward to conduct a BBQ at the "Wings Over the Illawarra" air show over 4th to 5th. If we get this, it should be a major fund-raising activity for the association. More to follow on this one.

Between May and August, we are planning a trip down to RANAS Albatross, Nowra and a visit to the Fleet Air Arm Museum and Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) at Albion Park Airport on the way home.

The first Saturday in August is the "Myola Ball" at Panthers, Penrith. These are usually big nights with everybody enjoying themselves. Tickets will be subsidised again by the Association.

THE CLIPPED WINGS

14th of September, the ADAA has been invited to attend the 7th Light Horse Dining In Night at Merimbula RSL. This is a formal dining in night and more information will be made available in the next edition

October brings us the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, at Olympic Park in Sydney. If it is as good as the last Tattoo we had in Australia, it will be on par with the real thing in Scotland. I'm sure everybody who attends will be pleased with the event.

This month we usually have the old boys reunion in Richmond, the date to be advised.

We also have the information regarding the Kiwi Reunion in 2020, and it looks like it will be something totally different. I am aware of some of the Brits and Americans that have already booked their cabins. The details of this International Reunion are also inside.

So, the year is shaping up to be pretty active with a few things to interest nearly everybody. Our fund-raising BBQ's at Bunnings are still being held, in Katoomba (fourth Sunday of the month) and Wollongong (first Tuesday of the month), at this stage. We have had contact from Bunnings Wollongong and they may be cutting us back on our days, so more to follow on that. We have a dedicated team that work between both sites and it would good to see a few new faces helping out to share the load. If you are interested in doing a fund-raising activity, of any type, let us know and we will support you where we can.

The end of the year usually brings pre-Christmas functions, particularly in Penrith and Brisbane and last year in Melbourne. If you want these functions to continue, I suggest you start planning now. Have a chat with the State Rep and a few mates and see what you can organise. If its planned, we can post it to everybody in your area.

Grant Foster, one of our Committee Members has been prodding me to get new coins and plaques for the Association. The prototype artwork has been passed around the Committee and should be shown in the near future for comment. Our other Committee Member, Geoff Cutts is working towards a 176 AD Sqn display at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Philip Island, Victoria. We did canvas this before to our members, but we got nil response. We are looking at a grant from DVA to build our display, so I put it to all Ex-Vietnam Veterans again, photos, stories and memorabilia would be gladly received for this display. (I wonder what response from members we'll get this time?).

This year (2019) marks my fifth year as President of the ADAA. When I first took the role on, I discussed it with my wife about the time and commitment required. The milestone I wanted to achieve was to attend four International Reunions as the President representing the ADAA. The Kiwi Reunion in 2020, will be my fourth and I will be looking at standing down from the President's position not long after this event.

I am looking for somebody with drive and a can-do attitude to take the reins over from me, somebody with the passion to get the job done. I therefore invite anybody who is interested in taking on this role to contact me and discuss this matter. The role is rewarding, and the Committee is outstanding. If anybody does contact me regarding this, all conversations will be strictly confidential.

Until next time, Take care
Cheers, Nicko
Feb 19

THE CLIPPED WINGS

Treasurer's Report

Shown below are summaries of each of our bank accounts. These are the figures sent to the Australian Taxation Office when we reported our GST activity for the 4th quarter of the 2018. If you would like further information, please send your request by email to treasurer@adaa.net.au.

The following deposits were made over the counter at Westpac branches. We are not able to obtain any details of who they have come from. If you feel that one of them is yours, or you know of anyone who might have made these deposits, please let us know the date and the amount, so that your membership records can be brought up to date. Either email memberships@adaa.net.au or treasurer@adaa.net.au or call Nicko on 0407942904.

- Richmond NSW
- Cleveland Qld

Regards
Rob Ward

ADMINISTRATION		
Income		
Interest	3.54	
Membership Fees	1,125.00	
Total Income		1,128.54
Expenses		
Asset Purchases	179.00	
Office Supplies	189.00	
Presentations	33.88	
Website & Internet	434.50	
Total Expenses		836.38

MERCHANDISE		
Income		
Donations	2.70	
Interest	0.54	
Merchandise sales	1,082.91	
Postage Recovered	85.15	
Total Income		1,171.30
Expenses		
Bank charges	10.49	
Merchandise Purchases	952.05	
Postage	112.84	
Total Expenses		1,075.38

THE CLIPPED WINGS

FUNDRAISING			
Income			
BBQ		4,038.10	
Donations		200.00	
Interest		0.72	
Total Income			4,238.82
Expenses			
Discounts given		125.14	
Awards, Plaques, Wreaths		3,881.87	
Functions & Trips		200.00	
Training		380.00	
Welfare		335.30	
Total Expenses			4,922.31

GRANTS			
Income			
Interest		1.29	
Total Income			1.29
Expenses			
Total Expenses			0.00

Payment options for payment of membership fees	
Online by bank transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westpac Banking Corporation • BSB 032-814 • Account number 485891 In the name of "Air Dispatch Association Administration Account" • Use your surname and initial as your reference
Deposit over the counter at any Westpac Bank.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the bank does not allow any letter in the payee's details, send me an email with the details of the date, branch and amount of your payment
By cheque or money order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made payable to Air Dispatch Association of Australia • Post to PO Box 483, Helensburgh NSW 2508
Online by credit card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If this is your payment choice, send an email to treasurer@adaa.net.au so that you can be set up with this facility. Charges will be passed on to you when our invoice is sent.
You may also be able to deposit at the Post Office, but fees may be payable	

THE CLIPPED WINGS

Membership Report

Welcome to New Members

Since the last edition of "The Clipped Wings", the following member has joined our Association:

CUPITT, Geoffrey

Life Members

BABER, Kemm
COLE, Gary
EDDIE, Anthony
FERGUSON, David
GANNON, Barry

HUTTON, Bob
IRVING, Brian
McCANN, Denis
SLEE, Pat
VARLEY, Nev (deceased)

Financial Members

ARMSTRONG, Len	2019	LEE, Dennis	2019
BAINES, Ian	2019	LIEBEN, Gerry	2020
BARNES, John Cecil	2020	LUSCOMBE, Kerry	2020
BARNET, John	2019	MACDONALD, Blair	2019
BATES, Paul	2019	MARKI, Imre	2019
BEAVEN, David	2019	MARTIN, Raymond	2019
BERMAN, Gary	2020	McBAIN, Sean	2019
BLAKELY, Ron	2020	McGEOCH, Gordon	2019
BOWDEN, Denis	2019	McMASTER, Robert	2019
BUCHANAN, Graeme	2019	McNULTY, Anthony	2020
CAMPBELL, Bill	2019	McPHERSON, Roger	2019
CHRISTIE, Graham	2019	MILKE, Peter	2020
CLEMENTS, Rodney	2019	MILLER, Eric	2020
COCHRANE, Dan	2019	MULFORD, Barry	2019
COHEN, Peter	2019	MUNSON, Peter	2020
COOPER, David	2020	MURPHY, Peter	2019
CORMACK, Will	2020	NELSON, Jack	2019
CORNISH, Andrew	2019	NEWMAN, David	2019
CUPITT, Geoffrey	2019	NICOLAI, Mark	2019
CUTTS, Geoff	2019	O'BRIEN, Graeme	2019
DALTON, Alan	2019	PAPWORTH, Graham	2021
D'ARCY, Bill	2019	PATERSON, Bruce	2019
DOWD, Anthony	2024	POPE, Jeff	2019
DUFFY, Ed	2019	PRAGNALL, Alan	2020
DURNEY, John	2019	REASON, Terry	2020
EVANS, John	2020	ROGERS, Kevin	2019
FARMER, Raymond	2019	RUSSELL, Peter	2019
FELKIN, Chris	2020	RUTLEDGE, Allen	2019

THE CLIPPED WINGS

FILEWOOD, Richard	2019	RYMAN, James	2020
FOSTER, Grant	2020	SCOTLAND, Jim	2020
FRACARO, Lyndon	2020	SMILEY, Graham	2020
GELLER, Michael	2019	SMITH, Barry	2019
GODDARD, John	2020	SMYTH, Kenneth	2019
GRIMSHAW, Max	2019	SOLOMON, David	2020
GUSTER, Tony	2020	SUMNER, John	2019
HAYES, Bill	2023	TAYLOR, John	2021
HEAD, Vince	2020	THOMPSON, Gordon	2019
HEIDENREICH, Lou	2023	THURGOOD, John	2019
HEYDON, Terry	2019	TOWERS, Russell	2020
HILSBURG, Stuart	2019	WAHLEN, Gary	2019
HOLECEK, Brian	2020	WAHLEN, Mark	2019
HORDERN, Anthony	2021	WARD, Robert	2019
HOWARD, Roy	2019	WARE, Stuart	2019
HOWES, Alan	2019	WARWICK, Norm	2019
HUDDLESTON, John	2020	WATSON, Keith	2019
HUGHES, Ron	2019	WEIDNER, Edward	2019
HUNT, John	2019	WHITTAKER, John	2022
JANSON, Ken	2020	WILLIAMS, John	2019
JOHANSEN, Michael	2021	WOLFF, Mark	2020
KIRKHAM, Jim	2019	WORLAND, Trevor	2019
KOOL, Shaun	2019	YOUNG, Ian	2020
LE SUEUR, Peter	2023	ZAFFINO, Zeek	2019

If you don't see your name on the list below and believe it should be, or if you think these records are incorrect, please send an email to memberships@adaa.net.au, or call Nicko on 0407 942904

THE CLIPPED WINGS

Fund Raising Report

We have had 2 sausage sizzles at Bunnings Katoomba so far. Not as successful as we had hoped for. We have committed to the 4th Sunday of each month and believe that things will pick up as more people know about the opening of the new store.

Bunnings Wollongong have decided not to give us the 1st Tuesday of the month. They say that they have a lot of community groups to accommodate, so they are cutting back on all of them. We have asked them for a weekend to compensate and are still in the negotiation stage.

We have been approached by Bunnings Warrawong; they have offered us the 1st Friday of each month. A bit further to travel for those that give a hand; but it is worth considering.

Dates are as follows:

- Katoomba Sunday 24th March
- Wollongong Tuesday 9th April (this is the 2nd Tuesday as they double-booked the 1st)
- Katoomba Sunday 28th April
- Katoomba Sunday 26th May
- Katoomba Sunday 23rd June

As always to make these fund-raising events work, we need volunteers to man the tongs and help out. If you would like to come along for a shift, at either of the venues, please contact "Grant Foster" for Katoomba and "Nick Nicolai" for Wollongong. (see contact details on last page).



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THE CLIPPED WINGS

Upcoming Events

DENILIQVIN ANZAC GET TOGETHER

As you know, a few of the 176 Air Dispatchers are getting together at Deniliquin for Anzac this year and we really appreciate the opportunity to put a note in your newsletter welcoming others to join us. It is an informal and casual get-together where we will let it unfold according to what people wish to do at the time. The main purpose is for mates to be together for Anzac.

We are booked at the Riverside Caravan Park in Deniliquin from 23 April to 27 April. This park is pet friendly, has a variety of accommodation and it is walking distance to the town. They have a recreation room equipped with a table tennis table, pool table, foosball table, air hockey table etc. There is an inground saltwater swimming pool, free wifi throughout the park, provision for camp fires near the river and a large camp kitchen. We would envisage that some of our evening meals could be in the camp kitchen if it is not too noisy. Anyone interested in joining us should book their own accommodation and Shelley at the Riverside Caravan Park will be happy to assist. Easter is immediately before Anzac this year and the Deni Fest is held 18-22 April. It may be worth keeping in mind that the Caravan Park could book out early for this period.

During WWII Deniliquin was host to the No. 7 Service Flying Training School. There is a local group working to preserve and record the history of 7SFTS and to date there are history panels on display at the Deniliquin Aerodrome. The existence of this school possibly contributed to the numerous war graves in Deniliquin and they hold an Anzac service at the War Cemetery. The usual schedule organised by the RSL for Anzac Day is:

- 5.45am- march from the Commonwealth Bank
- 6.00am- Dawn Service
- 6.30am- Breakfast for those who attended
- 8.00am- War Cemetery Service
- 10.20am- form at Town Hall
- 10.45am- march to Cenotaph
- 11.00am- Civic Service
- 12.15pm- Lunch at the RSL Club Dunlop Room, approx \$10
- 7.00pm- Two Up

It is also Race Day in the afternoon. The ANZAC Day Races are one of the club's main events and looked forward to by locals. The Riverside Caravan Park has a shuttle bus going to and

THE CLIPPED WINGS

from the races. If anyone is interested in entering the Fashions on the Field, I'm happy to frock up and join them. We could investigate hiring a marquee if there are enough people interested in attending, otherwise there is grandstand viewing.

I am told there is a beautiful 18-hole golf course set alongside the forest, two bowling clubs, lawn tennis and a croquet club. There are lots of nice walking trails. For bird lovers there is a bird hide and a boardwalk with a couple of local bird enthusiasts we could possibly engage for a tour.

The Visitor Information Centre has been very helpful, and it seems local clubs will be obliging if there is a group of us wanting a tour of anything. David and I have never stayed in Deniliquin so we are not acquainted with the town at all but it certainly sounds like the people are friendly and that there will be something to interest everyone.

Ivy Goad

THE CLIPPED WINGS



ANZAC REUNION 2019

BRISBANE



At the 2018 AGM held in Penrith on 14 Apr 18. It was decided by those in attendance the 2019 ANZAC Reunion should be in Brisbane.

Accommodation has been arranged at the Airport International Motel on 528 Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton, QLD. 20 rooms have been allocated for the ADAA.

Itinerary is as follows:

23 Apr	1400	March in to accommodation
	1800	Welcome dinner
24 Apr	0800	Breakfast at motel
	TBA	Bus to Amberley, tour 9FSB (If 9FSB is unavailable due to tasking, we are looking at the AAAn Museum, Oakey)
25 Apr	AM	Those wishing to attend the Dawn Service in Brisbane make their own way to this event
	0800	Breakfast at motel
	0900	Bus to ANZAC March start point
	TBA	Bus return to motel. ANZAC Day Luncheon
26 Apr	0800	Breakfast in motel
	1000	March out of accommodation

Costings are as follows

Accommodation	\$125.00 per day per room
Hot Breakfast per person	\$15.00 per day per person
Welcome Dinner (3 Course)	\$45.00 per person
ANZAC Day Luncheon (3 Course)	\$38.00 per person

When booking motel please quote "Air Dispatch Association" for the above rate

Motel Bookings can be made on (07) 3268 6388 or email manager@airportmotel.com.au

Please email events@adaa.net.au or phone Nick on 0407 942 904 if you're attending



THE CLIPPED WINGS



Interest

Wallgrove

Late summer 1968, and we trundle through the gates for our first glimpse of Camp Wallgrove. First impressions are all negative, but the negativity is soon to turn to outright dismay.

After two exhausting months at Puckapunyal we are looking for the more secure and rewarding life as professional air dispatchers with its incumbent benefits of quality accommodation and razor-sharp training facilities.

But how could this random assembly of ramshackle wooden humpies possibly provide the necessary environment to train crew members of sophisticated RAAF aircraft? For that matter, where are the aircraft?

About the only items of equipment with any real function it seemed were the ancient wood-fired furnaces which provided hot water for the barracks. We would have to stoke those brutes every night while on piquet duty, and the consequences would be dire if the flames died and the troops forced to endure cold showers.

Barracks! It was rumoured they were built for the First World War and been given a coat of paint for the influx of National Servicemen. The paint, I am sure, was all that held them together. Home for the next 18 months.

But there were compensations. The nearby Namatjira Hotel at Rooty Hill was only a 10-minute drive away, and for more formal occasions the Blacktown RSL beckoned down the Great Western Highway.

Of course, we had the OR's canteen, our only on-site entertainment area. Canteen! Drinks were dispensed in cans only of course (The Army had long since discovered the dangers of glass in other ranks' canteens) and the only item of furniture was a pool table with a decided lean and cushions with the consistency of treacle.

The sharp players would concentrate their efforts on the lower corner pocket where there was a better than even chance of the balls rolling in with only the slightest assistance.

But the tour de force for me was the OR's mess. Gleaming rows of utensils in a state-of-the-art kitchen, sparkling silver benches and glossy bains-marie you might think. But we are still in a First World War time warp.

The only compensating factor was the doggedness of the cooks, who battled primitive conditions to turn out some pretty flavoursome meals. This may have been due to the fact that the kitchen also provided meals for the officers' mess only a few metres away.

In fact, the meals were taken by foot past the queuing OR's. Needless to say, there was heavy security as the temptation to add condiments of their own was strong!

THE CLIPPED WINGS

CO at Wallgrove when we arrived was Major Christopherson, a no-nonsense career officer who ignored the third-world conditions to get on with the job of training air dispatchers.

Our enigmatic sergeant, J.J. Liston, was to leave a lasting impression. Fiercely protective of his troops but with an unbending attitude on discipline, he was popular and respected. JJ was even known to extricate his charges from threatening situations in the various pubs and clubs in the vicinity.

But the consequences were dire for those who transgressed on base. I remember one particularly painful incident. A mate, Doug Carpenter, and I had obtained leave to visit his parents in Sydney, and we arrived back several hours' AWOL.

JJ promptly slapped charges on us, and we were paraded before Major Christopherson with all the pomp and ceremony of armed guards and polyesters. It was a daunting experience, resulting in several days' CB and a dose of the blues. We were never late for duty again.

Of course, the camp had its characters, but for me Alan "The Flea" McPhee stood out heads and shoulders above the rest. Not because of his size (he was five feet nothing) but for his sheer industriousness (for want of a better word) and ingenuity.

You may remember the character aptly named "The Scrounger" played by James Garner in the classic World War 11 flick "The Great Escape." The Flea was Wallgrove's equivalent, with all the guile and bravado of the famous film character.

I'm sure I still have a battle jacket – or whatever they were called – packed away somewhere. It was a superb fashion accessory in those days of military statements, beautifully made, waterproofed and fleecy lined. The Flea sold it to me at a "bargain-basement" price while on exercise at Shoalwater Bay in Queensland.

He seemed to have an endless supply of them, along with other items of sought-after military clothing and equipment.

I was sorry to learn that The Flea died a couple of years ago. He was an unforgettable character.

Of the officers, Lieutenant Reed stands out. I think he was a reg., but he showed no favouritism towards his fellow career soldiers, as was often the case in those days of National Service.

He mixed easily with the OR's, but commanded respect. You knew exactly where you stood, and many sought his counsel with personal problems and the like.

He often signed the pay books in his capacity as duty officer, and my fortnightly entitlement of \$38 was often accompanied by light-hearted banter from this likeable fellow (sorry, officer).

Thirty eight dollars a fortnight! Yes, that was the going rate for a fully-fledged air dispatcher with qualifications as a crew commander, with room and board thrown in.

But of all the skills acquired during two years of National Service the most useful, without a doubt, has been ironing. My wife can't hold a candle to my prowess on the ironing board, and even friends comment on the knife-sharp creases in my shirts and trousers.

THE CLIPPED WINGS

And it did not go unnoticed on the parade ground. The shoes may not have been mirrors or the haircut a Number 1, and my attitude quite frankly was dismal, but my shirts were good enough for a fashion shoot and the pants hung superbly. You could peel a potato on them.

I was only a private, but to all intents and purposes highly motivated and skilled. After all, how else could I have qualified for the crossed rifles? Doug Carpenter still reckons it was the guy next to me firing inadvertently at my target over 600 metres. I'm not sure because I couldn't see that far.

And JJ was reluctant to provide proof in the form of a badge because he didn't believe it either.

Of course, Wallgrove has long since disappeared, victim of Sydney's insatiable appetite for housing. But as I swept past it recently on the Wallgrove road, now a link in the monstrous tollway system, I couldn't help wondering what had become of those furnaces the diggers had kept burning brightly for all those years.

They deserved more than being consigned to the scrap heap. Perhaps they could have been incorporated in a memorial somewhere in that drab suburban landscape.

And I hope that wonderfully crooked eight ball table hasn't been trashed either. It still owes me 10 cents.



THE CLIPPED WINGS



THE SICK LIST

This year, there have not been too many on the Sick List in Australia to report on.

Lynnette Gill and Cheryl Beaven are both battling the dreaded C and our thoughts are with those two ladies.

Henry Fabisiak has resigned from the ADAA due to ill health – details unknown.

News from afar, some of our US friends and Brit friends have also been unwell.

On return from the international reunion in the UK, Sandy Kline was diagnosed with aggressive Ovarian Cancer. We have kept in touch with Dave and Sandy and at this stage, Sandy underwent the last of her chemo sessions and due to see the specialist in the near future. Both Dave and Sandy are looking forward to the Kiwi Reunion next year.

Elaine Whitby has just been diagnosed in the return of her cancer. I only got this second hand so cannot confirm.

Jim Kennebeck has been under the knife for problems with his bladder. Seems all is working now

Bennie Manning has been in hospital also but is out now.

Also from the other side of the Atlantic, Bill Alexander has been crook as well.

In all cases we our thoughts and best wishes go to those who are on the Sick List

If you are crook (“ill” to the Yanks and the Brits) or know of somebody who is, let us know so we can inform friends.

THE CLIPPED WINGS

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