



Branch Patron

Air Commodore Tony Jones

President

Trevor Beams
4 Pullen Court
KIRWAN QLD 4817
Phone: 07-4773 4310 or 0455 940 615
email: raafatvlbranchpres@gmail.com

Vice President/Secretary

Basil Nelson
PO Box 4031
KIRWAN QLD 4817
Phone: 07-4773 7175 or 0456 992 621
email: raafatvlsectr@gmail.com

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION – TOWNSVILLE BRANCH

FLIGHTLINE

Volume 19 No. 2

Next Branch Meeting

Sunday 10th November 2019

1000 Hours

Townsville RSL

Board Room

Next Social Event

Sunday 15th December 2019

Christmas Luncheon

1100, Mercure Hotel

After several submissions for a newsletter name we finally have a winner. The members at our last monthly meeting voted for "FLIGHTLINE" as the preferred name.

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

On behalf of all members, we wish the following members a very Happy Birthday.

November

4th November Gary Young
14th November Debra Fifield

December

2nd December Paul Howard
3rd December Bill Norton
4th December Paul Gallagher
8th December Basil Nelson

If we have missed anyone, please forgive us and have a Happy Birthday.

CONTENTS

Volume 19 No. 2

- 2 Member Profile
- 2 Dutch Dakota Memorial
- 2 Social Function
- 2 Meeting Venue
- 3 Challenge Accepted
- 3 Townsville History
- 3 A Short Story
- 3 Butterworth Service
- 3 Branch Breakfast

Please let us know if you want to see something specific in this newsletter. If you have a short story you'd like included or maybe even a joke or advertisement, sent it to raafatvlsectr@gmail.com. This publication relies on you for its content.

MEMBER PROFILE

Learn some interesting facts about your friends with this insightful probe into a member's life.

Tony Jones



Where were you born?

Born in Ipswich (a RAAF brat).

Where did you go to school?

Too many schools to mention (RAAF brat).

What are your interests/hobbies?

I play tennis and ride motorbikes (two Nortons, a Royal Enfield Bullet and a Honda CTX1300).

Do you have a favourite book/movie/song?

No favourites I can think of.

When did you join the military?

Joined in 1972 out of school. Left the PAF in 2008 and still working in the Reserve

Where was your favourite posting?

Lots of great postings, but Butterworth would be my favourite. I was there three times, one as a RAAF brat (60-62), once at IADS (89-91) and last time as CO (98-00).

What is on top of your bucket list?

No bucket list.

What do you like about Townsville?

We have family and great friends here and the weather is perfect.

Dutch Air Force C-47 Memorial

On 7th September 1944 , a Royal Netherlands East Indies Air Force C-47 Dakota with 20 persons on board went missing and subsequently crashed near Mossman. It was on a flight from Merauke to Cairns. There were no survivors. Among the 20 persons on board were 2 Australians, SQNLDR Leslie "Smokey" Dawson (RAAF) and Lt Horace Armstrong (AIF)

It was initially thought that the aircraft may have gone down in the Trinity Beach area. The wreckage was eventually found in January 1989 by an Australian/New Zealand scientific expedition NW of Mossman.

On 21st January 1989 FLGOFF Pat Kenny (RAAF Museum Curator), WOFF Bruce Hurst aided by a member of the Aus/NZ Team were winched down near the wreck and were able to confirm that the wreck was indeed that of the Dutch Dakota.

The recovery was approved on 24th January and the operation started on 5th February. Personnel from 27 SQN RAAF supported by a UH-1H Iroquois from 35 SQN were tasked with the recovery. This operation was completed on 10th February. The remains of those killed were recovered and interred at the Cairns War Cemetery.

On 7th September 2019, Branch Historian, Bruce Hurst, attended a small gathering at the Mossman memorial and addressed those who attended with a history of the crash.



SOCIAL FUNCTION

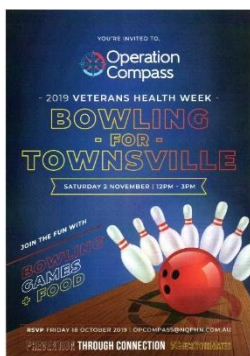


As we near the end of the year it's time to get ready for our annual Christmas Luncheon. The function has been planned for Sunday, 15th December, at 1100. Please let me know no later than 6th December if you will be attending. This function is open to members, families and friends.

Branch Monthly Meeting Venue

As you will now be aware, our monthly meetings will be held in the Boardroom of the Townsville RSL. We encourage members to attend these meetings and to be involved in the important decision making process. You will also hear information that affects you as a valued member and have the opportunity to ask questions or comment on anything that is important to you.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



Let's Go Bowling

4 enthusiastic (but not necessarily highly skilled) members have nominated for the ten pin bowling challenge.

The "All Star" teams is:

*Trevor Beams,
Bas Nelson,
Ted Mildren, and
Doug Millican.*

Stay tuned for the results in the next edition of FLIGHTLINE.

History in the Townsville Area

The latest wartime historical information involving the RAAF in the Townsville area produced by member Bruce is now posted on the website. If you are unable to access it please let us know & we will get a hard copy to you.

Branch Breakfast

A Branch Breakfast was held on Sunday 20th October at the Bushland Beach Tavern. The small group who attended tucked into a wholesome breakfast with some going back for seconds (no names – this time 😊).

The usual banter was evident with a definite need for tin hats and flak jackets.

Hope to see a bigger turnout next time.

A SHORT STORY *(by Basil Nelson)*.

It was one of those marginal weather nights with some low cloud and passing rain showers. As the ATC on night duty in the tower I was preparing for the arrival of the evening "jets" from Brisbane. To try and keep noise to a minimum, larger aircraft arriving from the south-east were positioned to track east of the city then over water until on final for Runway 19 (landing into the south). On this September night the cloud was such that a landing on RWY19 might put the aircraft into cloud over the island. I could see the lights on the TV towers on Mt Stuart so I processed the aircraft to land on RWY01 (landing into the north) via a Right Base (over Laverack).

The arrival of the first jet was uneventful. The second jet followed the same route and landed safely. As the aircraft taxied along the parallel taxiway to the terminal the captain got my attention when he transmitted "*Tower, are you aware that there is someone walking along the taxiway?*" The murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics by the Black September group had recently occurred and we were ordered to be vigilant identifying any unusual occurrence that could be terrorism related. Well I thought this may fit the bill so I called down to the firies and the Tactical Rescue was dispatched with the Shift SNCO, CPL and an LAC on board.

In the glare of the headlights a sole male was spotted weaving his way along the taxiway. The vehicle stopped, the male was instructed to get in. He started to comply then propped - "*You'll put me in jail*" he said just as one of the firies hopped off the vehicle brandishing the section shotgun. In a flash the culprit rushed to the vehicle and jumped aboard.

Enroute to the Service Police at the front gate, the following info was obtained:

1. He was drunk.
2. He was with his mates (3 guys) in a car looking to pick up girls.
3. They had a case of beer in the car.
4. They picked up 2 girls and drove to the Town Common.
5. They kicked him out (1 too many blokes), kept his beer and told him to get lost.
6. He saw lights on a road (the RWY), got over the 4 strand barbed wire fence and crossed the road.
7. As he was walking up this other road (TWY) along came this BIG truck (the jet).

It was a huge relief that we weren't being attacked but I still made sure that the door to the tower was locked after that.

Butterworth Service

Did you serve at RAAF Base Butterworth between 1970 and 1989 then you may be interested in a facinating article written by Ken (Swampy) Marsh.

Because the article is several pages long it is too large to reproduce here but you can access it at

<https://vietnamvetssc.org.au/butterworth-service/>