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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION – TOWNSVILLE BRANCH

# FLIGHTLINE

Volume 20 No. 6

**Next Branch Meeting**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

1000 Hours

RSL Committee Room

**Next Branch Event**

Stagedoor Theatre Restaurant

Magnetic Island

19<sup>th</sup> September 2020

1730 Hours

(SeaLink Ferry departs TVL at 1630 and  
departs MCI at 2200)

NOTE FROM THE ED – I'm sorry that it has taken so long to produce this edition of FLIGHTLINE but life in general has taken up much of my time. Hopefully we are back on track for the next edition.

★★★★★★ This publication relies on you for its content ★★★★★★

★HAPPY★  
BIRTHDAY!

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

**August**

3<sup>rd</sup> August Laurie Darwin  
13<sup>th</sup> August Angus McDonell  
18<sup>th</sup> August Alan Johnson  
22<sup>nd</sup> August Wayne Melrose  
27<sup>th</sup> August Anthony Fifield  
31<sup>st</sup> August Michael Krink

**September**

3<sup>rd</sup> September Wayne Dixon  
6<sup>th</sup> September Bruce Hurst  
12<sup>th</sup> September Lindsay Gordon  
21<sup>st</sup> September Ted Mildren  
30<sup>th</sup> September Lisa Power

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

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## MEMBER PROFILE

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

### Matthew Harvey



*Where were you born?*

**Adelaide, South Australia**

*Where did you go to school?*

**Adelaide, Colonel Light Gardens Primary School and Daws Road High School.**

*What are your interests/hobbies?*

**Golf, bushwalking and reading**

*Do you have a favourite book/movie/song?*

**Book – Bulldog Drummond by Sapper, Movie – Big Trouble in Little China, Song – Where Eagles Fly by Van Halen/Sammy Hagar**

*When did you join the military?*

**Joined the Air Force on 19 Jan 1990.**

*Where was your favourite posting?*

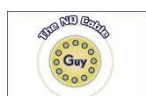
**Commanding Officer No. 27 (City of Townsville) Squadron and Senior ADF Officer, RAAF Townsville.**

*What is on top of your bucket list?*

**Don't have a bucket list – probably should make one.**

*What do you like about Townsville?*

**The people and the sense of community, the fact that you have everything and can get around without battling traffic, and just the area in and around Townsville: Castle Hill, Magnetic Island, Charters Towers, Ross River.**



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## WHAT IF – Hawker Hunter F3



The project to find a replacement jet fighter for the RAAF's CAC P-51 Mustangs and Vampires (which had yet to enter service), began in 1949 with a large assortment of types evaluated. The list included the Grumman F9F Panther and F-86 Sabre from the USA, the home grown CAC-23, and from Britain, three products from Hawker, the P.1052, P.1081 (04 Feb), and the P.1067, an aircraft that would be known as the Hunter, one of the most successful jet fighters of the period.

### The Contenders



Hawker's experience with jet fighters started with the RR Nene powered Sea hawk and progressed through the similarly powered P.1052 and P.1081. The three had moved from the straight wing forms of the Sea Hawk through to the fully swept wings and tail plane of the P.1081, however, all three were rather portly due to the centrifugal flow Nene, so the next step was to fit the narrower axial-flow Avon engine. Not only did this make the aircraft way more streamlined, but the engine was much more powerful and had greater development potential.

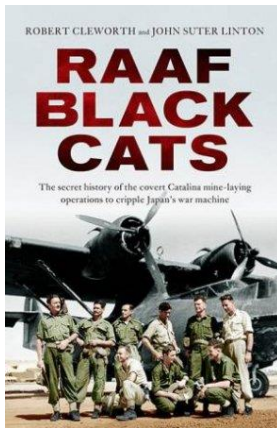


The prototype P.1067 took to the air for the first time on 20 Jul 51. While the Hunter was a great aircraft, the performance of the F-86 Sabre in Korea had enhanced its desirability. This left the RAAF in a bit of a conundrum, so the obvious solution was to marry the Hunter's engine to the F-86's airframe to produce the CAC Avon Sabre.

### The Winner



## A BOOK IN REVIEW



### Authors

Joseph Cleworth &  
John Suter Linton

### ISBN

9781760633066

### Published

03/09/2019

### Binding

Paperback

### Pages 288

### Price \$32.99

RAAF Black Cats chronicles a little-known, yet crucial and courageous chapter in Australia's war history. While this story involved Australia and the United States, very few people on either side of the Pacific know of the significance the RAAF Catalina Squadrons had on the outcome of the war against Japan, and General Douglas MacArthur's triumphant 'return' to the Philippines.

Between 22 April 1943 and 1 July 1945, the crews of the RAAF's PBY Flying Boat (Catalina) Squadrons in coalition with the US 7th Fleet, conducted top-secret covert mine-laying missions in the South Pacific to disrupt Japanese naval supply and military operations. General Douglas MacArthur, particularly, believed mine-laying would be an effective weapon to stop the Japanese from supplying their forces, feeding their war-machine and, therefore, softening the enemy for US Army and Marine landings. He was proved right.

This is the powerful story of the brave Australian crews who flew some of the most dangerous missions of the Pacific War.

*Have you read a good book lately that you think other members may enjoy? Then write a brief review and send it in for inclusion in our newsletter*

## OUR 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On 29<sup>th</sup> August 28 members and partners celebrated the Branch's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We were able to celebrate this milestone at the Boulton Clarke Villas in Rows Bay where the Social Committee ladies from the Villas served us a lovely roast dinner and dessert. Of course COVID-19 restrictions limited our interaction but "not too much".



To commemorate the occasion our Patron, AIRCDRE Tony Jones spoke to the gathering about his understanding of the role the association plays within both the veteran and general communities. Despite only given minimal notice (sorry about that) he did a sterling job that was well appreciated by all.

Of course a birthday is not a celebration without a cake. Judy Nelson kindly cooked and decorated a cake for this special occasion which was cut by Tony and the youngest person present, Kristy Corbett.



Several foundation members were able to attend the celebrations as well as past and current Branch Presidents. Overall a good night was had by all as we look forward to the next milestone



Past/Current Presidents

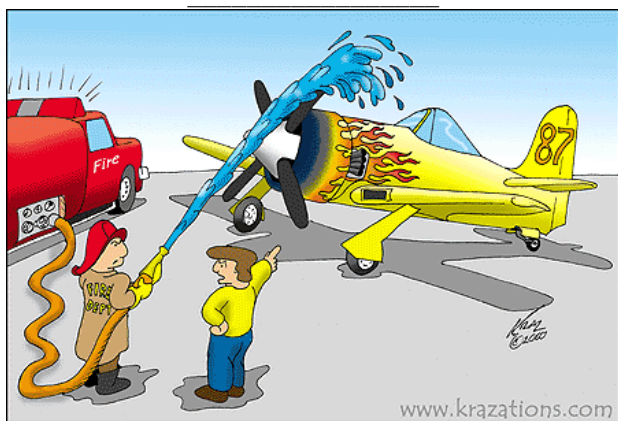


Foundation Members



The Mob

## AVIATION HUMOUR



I told you, it's *not* really on fire. That is only the paint scheme. Now will you please stop hosing down the plane every time I land?

### An Airline Pilot Wrote . . . .

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his aircraft into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy, which required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, give a smile, and a "Thanks for flying with us." He said that in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment, but no one seemed annoyed.

Finally everyone had gotten off except for one little old lady walking with a cane. She approached and asked, conspiratorially, "Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?" "Why no Ma'am, what is it?" "Did we land or were we shot down?"

## Padre in the Sandpit

One of the most memorable people on my sandpit deployment was our medical officer. "Doc" was very caring and a real nice bloke to be with, but he did have a couple of problems. The first one was that he was very prone to falling asleep. During his doctoring there was never a problem but put him in a lecture or a briefing he would almost instantly be asleep. That included pre-flight briefings into "tiger territory" where a lot of important safety information was given out. We even tried making him stay standing. He still went to sleep! As a result, I had to take notes for him that he could read later.

On one flight he stayed asleep during a very rough, turbulent airfield approach when we were firing buckets of flares to ward off any missile attacks - the noise was incredibly loud. He awoke on landing, looked at the white faces around him, and said "did I miss something?"

His other problem was his addiction to coffee, very expensive coffee, six or more mugs a day. I was never much of a coffee person until I met Doc and I returned home an addict too (resolved quickly, I could no longer afford it). Doc was also prone to playing pranks. One morning I switched on my computer and was confronted by a flashing notice saying "EMERGENCY" in large red writing accompanied by loud beeping noises - not what you want to see when you are in a war zone! A careful look at the screen showed in much smaller writing "the price of coffee has gone up."



Padre Wayne Melrose,  
Townsville Branch Chaplain



From Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> August to Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September members of our Branch along with members of RAAF Base Townsville assisted Townsville Legacy in manning a stall at The Avenues Shopping Centre, for Legacy Week.

As reported in an earlier edition, stock was limited this year however, we managed to sell a good amount of merchandise as well as receiving significant donations in the “Legacy Bucket” from very generous shoppers.



We were given the opportunity to sell a large “Air Force” Bear that had been left over from previous years. Unfortunately, because of the floods, the box it was in was irretrievable but the bear was totally intact. Legacy weren’t sure what to do with it so they considered it a bonus when we advised them that we had sold it for \$75.

A big thank you to Ted Mildren, Lindsay Gordon, Trevor Beams, Pat Mildren, Dave Cowie, Doug Bower and Pam Gebran, as well as those serving members who were along-side us, for giving up their time to support this great organisation and making the week the success that it was.

Do you have a story to tell, a joke to make us smile, a poem, an event you want to tell us about or anything else you think our readership would be interested in? Then send it to [raafatvlsectr@gmail.com](mailto:raafatvlsectr@gmail.com).

You never know, you could be the next Walkley Award winner.

