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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION – TOWNSVILLE BRANCH

FLIGHTLINE

Volume 22 No. 3

Next Branch Meetings

Sunday 11th September 2022
(Monthly Meeting)
1000 Hours
Bolton Clarke Community Centre, Rowes Bay

Next Branch Event

16th September 2022
Stage Door Theatre Restaurant
Magnetic Island
(Details soon)

★ “Look back and be grateful. Look ahead and be hopeful. Look around and be helpful.” ★

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

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

August

3rd Laurie Darwin
13th Angus McDonald
22nd Wayne Melrose
27th Tony Fifield
31st Michael Krink



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MEMBER PROFILE

If you have not already appeared in the "Member Profile" section, all you have to do is answer the questions below and send them, with a smiling headshot, on an email to tvlsec@raafagld.org.

Lisa Power



Where were you born?

Townsville

Where did you go to school?

Garbutt State School (grade 1-6), Aitkenvale State School (grade 7), Kirwan State High, Pimlico State High, Parafield Gardens High, SA, Muirden College, SA and back to Pimlico State High. **I wasn't naughty – my parents moved**

What are your interests/hobbies?

Cruising in my Hot Rod (hubby thinks it is his), my falcon or 4WDing. I love all things motorsport but mostly Supercar events, and attending car events in support of various charities. Kayaking, Bushwalking and Travelling.

Do you have a favourite book/movie/song?

Book: The Diary of Anne Frank. Movie: 12 years a Slave. Song: I was only 19 by Redgum.

When did you join the military?

RAAF 2006 – present. Australian Army Reserve – 1996 – 2002.

Where was your favourite posting?

36SQN (C-17's), Amberley

What is on top of your bucket list?

I don't really have a bucket list as I am constantly changing what I want to do. At the moment (Post COVID), I would like to return to the USA with my hubby to attend the Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Event, and drive Route 66 in a Mustang convertible.

What do you like about Townsville?

It's home - (Family, Castle Hill, The Strand, Magnetic Island, gateway to FNQ). I have lived in a few places (including overseas) over the years which has made me appreciate the paradise and lifestyle we have in Townsville.

Air raids on Australia, 1942–1943

During 1942 and 1943 the Japanese conducted a series of air raids on Australia designed to prevent the Allies from using bases in northern Australia to contest the conquest of the Dutch East Indies.

The Attack on Darwin - On 19th February 1942 the Japanese mounted the first and the largest attack against mainland Australia by bombing Darwin. Four Japanese aircraft carriers (*Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Hiryū* and *Sōryū*) launched a total of 188 aircraft from a position in the Timor Sea inflicting heavy damage on Darwin and sinking eight ships. Later the same day a raid conducted by 54 land-based army bombers inflicted further damage on the town and RAAF Base Darwin and resulted in the destruction of 20 military aircraft. Allied casualties were 235 killed and between 300 and 400 wounded, the majority of whom were non-Australian Allied sailors. Only four Japanese aircraft (all navy carrier-borne) were confirmed to have been destroyed by Darwin's defenders.



Dense clouds of smoke rise from oil tanks hit during the first Japanese air raid on Australia's mainland. In the foreground is HMAS Deloraine, which escaped damage

Broome Attacked – The northern WA town of Broome was attacked on 3rd March 1942 by nine Japanese A6M2 Zero fighters. Although Broome was a small town, it had become a significant air base and route of escape for refugees and retreating military personnel, following the Japanese invasion of Java. The attack consisted of strafing runs only by the Zeros on the lightly defended town. At least 88 Allied civilians and military personnel were killed and 24 aircraft were lost, with only light Japanese losses. Only a single Zero was shot down over Broome with another one failing to reach its base.

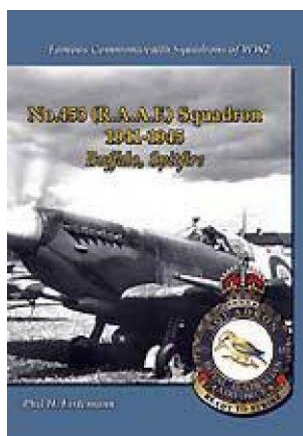
Attacks on north Queensland - In late July 1942, Japanese Kawanishi H8K1 "Emily" naval flying boats operating from Rabaul, conducted four small air raids on the north Queensland city of Townsville and the town of Mossman. On the night of 25th/26th July, Townsville, as an important military base, was attacked by two flying boats but did not suffer any damage as the six bombs dropped by these aircraft were misdirected and fell harmlessly into the sea. Townsville was attacked for the second time in the early hours of 28th July when a single flying boat dropped eight bombs which were also misdirected, landing in bushland outside the city. Six P-39 Airacobras unsuccessfully attempted to intercept the Japanese aircraft.



P-39 Airacobra

(continued on page 4)

A BOOK IN REVIEW



Authors

Listemann & Laird

ISBN

9782953254419

Published

20/02/2009

Binding

Paperback

Pages 96

QBD Price: Check your local store for price & availability

No.453 Squadron was a fighter unit set up explicitly to defend the British colony of Singapore in 1941/42. Though the pilots were highly motivated and skilled, they were unable to prevent one of the worst military disasters suffered by the British Empire, and probably the most catastrophic defeat of World War II. The Japanese attacked the RAF airfields and nearly all frontline aeroplanes were lost before the fight had even begun. The squadron was disbanded after its evacuation from the island following a very difficult and costly struggle over the Malayan jungle where the Japanese troops had landed to take Singapore. It was reformed a few weeks later in the United Kingdom, to represent the Australians in Europe, after the departure of its two sister squadrons.

More than 60 photographs (some published for the first time) and 10 colour profiles illustrate this 96-page book which contains, like all other titles of this series, a full pilot roster and appendices covering claims, losses, maps, airfields and an operational diary

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

TRANSITION SEMINARS

After a long break due to Covid, Transition Seminars have recommenced. As we have done on previous occasions, we manned a stall at the Townsville Transition Seminar held at the Townsville Entertainment Centre on Wednesday 8th June.

This event saw a significant increase in the number of RAAF personnel who attended, resulting in an increase in the number of visits to our stall. The free Lunch and morning/afternoon teas were pretty good as well! 😊

A big thank you to Ted, Lindsay and Bas who manned the stall throughout the day.



This year we assisted Cairns in running their first stall at the Cairns Transition Seminar. This was held on Wednesday 3rd August. Bas was able to provide Cairns with material for their stall before the event, with their members being ably supported by Lindsay on the day. Although there were only 3 RAAF members who registered for the seminar, Lindsay and some Cairns members were able to network the room allowing them to get to know locals who work in support of veterans.

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We need your input to fill this space. Send your contributions to tvlssec@raafaqld.org with "NEWSLETTER ARTICLE" in the subject line

AVIATION HUMOUR

AN OLDY BUT A GOODY - Problems reported by Pilots and Solutions noted by Aircraft Engineers in aircraft Technical Logs.

- | | |
|---|---|
| P - Left inside main tire almost needs replacement. | E - Almost replaced left inside main tire. |
| P - Test flight OK, except Autoland very rough. | E - Autoland not installed on this aircraft. |
| P - No 2 propeller seeping prop fluid. | E - No 2 propeller seepage normal - No 1, No 3, and No 4 propellers lack normal seepage. |
| P - Something loose in cockpit. | E - Something tightened in cockpit. |
| P - Evidence of leak on right main landing gear. | E - Evidence removed. |
| P - Engine noise at an unbelievable high level. | E - Volume set to more believable level. |
| P - Dead bugs on windshield. | E - Live bugs on order. |
| P - Autopilot in ALT HOLD mode produces a 200 fpm descent. | E - Cannot reproduce problems on ground. |
| P - IFF inoperative | E - IFF always inoperative in OFF mode. |
| P - Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick. | E - That's what they're there for. |
| P - Number three engine missing. | E - Engine found on right wing after brief search. |
| P - Aircraft handles funny. | E - Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious. |
| P - Target Radar hums. | E - Reprogrammed Target Radar with the words. |

Attacks on Australia – continued from page 3

TOWNSVILLE'S LONE AIR RAID
"CASUALTY"



The third raid on Townsville occurred in the early hours of 29th July when a single flying boat again attacked the city, dropping seven bombs into the sea and an eighth which fell on an agricultural research station at Oonoonba, damaging a coconut plant. This aircraft was intercepted by four Airacobras and was damaged. The fourth raid on north Queensland occurred on the night of 31st July when a single flying boat dropped a

bomb which exploded near a house outside of Mossman, injuring a child.



Japanese Kawanishi
H8K1 "Emily" naval
flying boat

Sources: AWM, Wikipedia, OZATWAR

Padre's Piece

The interim report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and the tragic death of former North Queensland Cowboys coach Paul Green has brought suicide into sharp focus once again. In Australia, suicide is the leading cause of death for males and females aged between 15 and 44 and about 3,000 people in Australia per year take their own lives. That's almost eight people every day.

Male ADF serving members and veterans under 30 years of age higher have a suicide rate more than twice the national average for men the same age. In veterans of all ages, males have an 18% greater suicide rate than the general population and in female veterans it is 22% higher. The Royal Commission report identifies that long DVA claim processing times, difficulty in transitioning between ADF and civilian life, and unacceptable behaviour such as bullying, are major contributors to poor mental health and suicide, and it is imperative that RAAF-A and other like-minded organisations support all efforts to address these problems. Having said that, organisational and corporate changes cannot improve this sad situation without all of us accepting personal responsibility to "look out for our mates."

Asking are you OK, or picking up the often subtle warning signs that someone may be having a mental health crisis that could lead to suicide, may prevent a tragedy. These include changes in mood and behaviour, depression, aggressiveness and irritability, sloppy attitude to dressing and self-care, and participation in risk-taking behaviour such as binge drinking or drug taking. Morbid jokes or “black humour” about suicide should never be ignored.

The other side of the personal responsibility coin is acknowledging that you do have a mental health problem and accept the help that is available. Veterans, especially men, may feel ashamed and embarrassed to do that, perceiving mental illness as a sign of a weakness, or feel that it is possible to “tough it out.” Others may be concerned that acknowledging that they have a mental health problem may lead to difficulty in obtaining or retaining employment. Some are overwhelmed by the complexity of the system and give up trying to find a way forward. All these concerns can be addressed, but suicide is a dead end. This is a good resource for further reading:

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/Suicide>



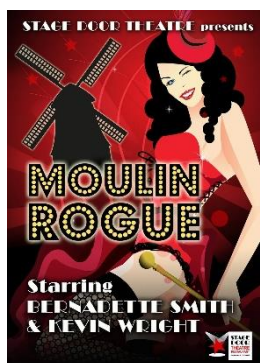
*Padre Wayne Melrose,
Townsville Branch Chaplain*

UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

Pilgrimage & Branch Anniversary Lunch

On **28th August** the Branch is holding a Pilgrimage to the Belgian Gardens War Cemetery (**0930hrs**) followed by the Branch's 32nd anniversary lunch at the Bolton Clarke Community Centre in Rows Bay (**1130hrs**). A number of invited guests will attend these events including RAAF, Army & Navy representatives, Deputy Mayor, Herbert MP and representatives from local ESOs. Poppies will be laid on all 222 headstones in remembrance of those interred in the war cemetery. Look for details in your emails.

Stage Door Theatre Restaurant



When - 16th September.

Billed as “The Greatest Little Show on Earth!” The Stage Door Theatre Restaurant has been wowing audiences since 2005 with beautiful live singing, hilarious comedy and tongue in cheek impersonations. Dazzling costumes and orchestral backing tracks add to the theatrical experience that has won them “Best Attraction on Magnetic Island”.

Throw in a delicious three course meal, great service and a fully stocked bar and you have The Best night out in North Queensland!...if not the world! It's a slice of Vegas in the tropics!

Pack your bags for a trip to Paris with Stage Door's hilarious, all-new show MOULIN ROGUE! The stage is set for an unforgettable night of comedy and cabaret, featuring all your favourite hits from Moulin Rouge such as Lady Marmalade, Sparkling Diamonds plus many more! Say

'Bon Voyage' to the mainland and 'Bon Appetite' to a delicious three course dinner and show at Stage Door Theatre Restaurant.

More information including prices and timings will be provided by email.

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 tvlsec@raafaqlld.org with the subject line “NEWSLETTER ARTICLE”

