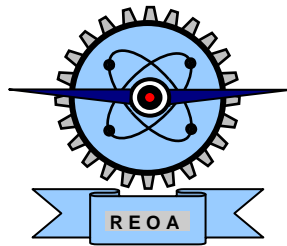


Volume 2, Issue 1

Newsletter Date: December 2008

RAAF ENGINEER OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (REOA)



Welcome to our Christmas 2008 RAAF Engineer Officers' Association (REOA) Newsletter.

On behalf of the committee members:

We wish you the members, your family, friends and loved ones a very Merry Christmas 2008 and a healthy, happy and fulfilling 2009.

2008 was an exciting year for the REOA with a very successful and popular mid year lunch in the Melbourne Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess followed by a tour of the historic buildings. Our end of year lunch at the Batman's Hill on Collins hotel was also well patronised and attendees were entertained by melodious song and tune from our own Peter Jupp.

Unfortunately, our Chairperson elect, GPCAPT Tom Douglas has not been of good health lately and entered hospital for exploratory surgery last week. We all wish him the very best and a speedy recovery.

Look forward to seeing you all in 2009 in good health. Presented on page x are the next years planned activities along with a few new proposals to consider.

SQNLDR Ron Ledingham

Acting/ Chairperson

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Click on the link below for Christmas greetings-you will need sound option to appreciate it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ooc5eJc5SHA>

REOA Members' Mid Year Lunch and Tour of the Victoria Barracks Complex-St Kilda Road Melbourne (The old HQSC).

By Ron Ledingham

On Wednesday 9 July 2008, some 31 REOA members visited the Officers' Mess at Victoria Barracks in Melbourne. The lunch was conducted with the written approval of the MPC of the Mess and was run very like a formal dining-in night in very traditional surrounds with the dark wood and table settings. I personally enjoyed the meal and lunch and based on the feedback received this appears to have been the general feeling of those who attended.

Following lunch at the Officers' Mess, the group was split into three groups. With a guide allocated to each group, we were escorted on a shortened formal tour of the Victoria Barracks complex including the old war rooms. For many of us this brought back fond memories of time spent here under the old HQSC structure. I myself had three terms of duty here and then spent time in the "glass house" in DSD following my retirement from the RAAF in 1987.

Lunch at the Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess provided a welcome opportunity to partake of good food and refreshments and bring back memories for a large number of us... And, even more importantly, to catch up with friendships which had developed over many years service in the RAAF.

All those who attended agreed that it was a great way for our members to refresh memories of their career in the RAAF and time spent in the Victoria Barracks complex and surrounds.

To the PMC of the Mess Colonel Russell Hodson, the Officers' Mess Manager Joanne Bartholomeusz, and Transfield Services Australia, who catered and ran the lunch, and staff and the voluntary support guides, we express our thank you for the day.

By popular demand we look forward to another visit during 2009 conducted on similar lines.

Note: A free CD containing a number of photographs taken during the luncheon was produced and made available to members. If you would like a copy of the CD please contact myself on Mobile: 0409 420 458 and/or rledingh@bigpond.net.au.



Seasons
Greetings

REOA Members' Mid Year Lunch and Tour of the Victoria Barracks Complex



REOA Members' Annual End of Year Lunch 6th November 2008.

This year we held our annual lunch on Thursday 6th November which turned out to be Oaks Day or Ladies Day in Melbourne. Any concerns about this clash of events was quickly dispelled by several of our members who expressed delight at the increased pleasant attraction of the many well adorned ladies in Melbourne for this very popular racing carnival event.

A change from last year was the venue. This year we held the event in the rooms of the Batman's Hill on Collins Melbourne which is where we conduct the regular Committee meetings. The facility is centrally placed being opposite the new look Spencer street railway station and is well serviced with transport links, amenities and services.

Rick Toholka volunteered to be our Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Bob Bartram, who has carried us on many occasions in the past, was relegated as REOA chief Karaoke songstress which he performed on the evening with gusto if not embarrassment to us all which are not in the character make up of "our Bob".

As all of you who attended commented, Rick carried the role of the Master of Ceremonies most professionally and with ease and he has obviously picked up some skills from our past Mess PMC HQSC and MC REOA Bob.

Many thanks Rick.

Our wandering minstrel, Peter Jupp, again formed the "**REOA Karaoke one man band**" and led the group in song with the support of the "**Bartram backing group of one**". As in past years Peter's melodious overtones and entertainment was well received by all.

We understand the difficulties Peter has to contend with in setting this up and wish to thank him for his efforts and look forward with some level of "groupie excitement" at Peter and his backing group of one being available for 2009.

We look forward to your company at the 2009 annual REOA lunch which we have tentatively planned for Thursday 5 November being Oaks Day once again at the threat of our own lives from some members, who shall remain nameless, if we didn't.



REOA 2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **REOA bi-monthly committee meeting for committee members** at Batman's Hill on Collins-every second Tuesday commencing February 2009 unless we decide otherwise due to a conflict in dates/activities.
Tuesday 10 Feb 2009
Tuesday 7 April
Tuesday 9 June
Tuesday 11 Aug
Tuesday 13 Oct
Tuesday 8 Dec
- **Mid year lunch by popular demand:** 1200 Hrs Wed 17 June at Os' Mess Victoria Barracks Melbourne (subject to getting booking and approval)
- **End of year lunch** at Batman's Hill on Collins 1200 hours Thursday 5 Nov.
- **Anzac Day**-same as past years but to be finalised.

For further consideration-perhaps 2010 ?:

1. RAAF Point Cook visit and catered lunch in the old Os' Mess.
2. Family day visit and tour of the Shrine of Remembrance-Ron to investigate.
3. Dakota flight from Point Cook- a bit expensive (\$180 per head) and need min of 28 people.
4. REOA Engineers annual prize (book)-perhaps to Academy graduate. Presented by one of the REOA committee members if available-or similar award/prize. To be discussed.
5. Trip to RMAF Butterworth paid by individuals for 2010-2011

REOA Membership-General Information Page

All,

1. **Renewal of Contact Details:** You would be aware that the REOA runs a communication e-mail service voluntarily run by Noel Hadfield.

Included in the data base of REOA membership contacts are a number of current RAAF serving members whose e-mail account is "@defence.com.au". Whilst you remain in the RAAF our e-mail communications will always find you. However, when you retire for the RAAF we have no easy way of knowing your private e-mail account details unless we are advised accordingly.

We are obviously keen to stay in touch with all of our membership as well as encouraging new and current serving RAAF members. If you have a change in your contact details could you please convey this to Noel or one of the current REOA membership and/or committee members so we do not lose touch with you. If you wish to be removed from the REOA data base, likewise we would appreciate if you could inform of this so we can arrange it for you.

2. **Reminder About Looking After Your Health.** (Repeat from earlier edition of the REOA Newsletter) The Department of Veterans' Affairs is also ready to help any ex-service member who has been diagnosed with cancer with the costs of medical treatment. The process of gaining DVA financial assistance is simply; you only need to establish Defence Service and have an oncologist provide a letter to DVA confirming the cancer. You do not need to establish any causal link between the cancer and Service to gain DVA acceptance. For more information contact either a member of the REOA committee or RAAFA (Victorian Division).

The Cancer Council Victoria', go to www.cancervic.org.au/FOBT or ring 13 11 20 for more information.) You owe it to yourself, your family and friends to stay in good health.

3. **Feedback/Suggestions.** The REOA Committee is always keen to hear from members with suggestions on how we should arrange our annual events and what form they should be as well as on contacts for potential new members.

Feel free to contact Noel Hadfield (contact details on page 7) or any of the committee members at any time on any matter you may wish to discuss regarding the REOA and how we can do it better.

REOA Caps and Shirts for sale

There are still a limited number of peaked caps and shirts with the REOA logo available for sale.

Caps @ \$15 each fit all sizes; adjustable.

Shirts @\$25 each size XL only-complete with collar and pocket.

Contact:

Ron Ledingham Mobile: 0409 420 458; E-mail: rledingh@bigpond.net.au

We're on the Web:

[http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/
raafreoa/web/index.html](http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/raafreoa/web/index.html)

Point of Contact (POC)

Noel Hadfield
Wing Commander (Ret)
RAAF Engineer Officers Association
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Editor

Any feedback/ comments and/or material for inclusion in the following editions of the REOA Newsletter contact Ron Ledingham on: rledingh@bigpond.net.au phone 03 97799291.