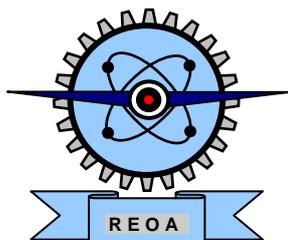


Volume 3, Issue 1

Newsletter Date: December 2009

RAAF ENGINEER OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (REOA)


**Seasons
Greetings**



Welcome to our Christmas 2009 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 2009 and a healthy, happy and fulfilling 2010.

2009 was a year of happenings for the REOA with a very successful and popular mid year lunch in the Melbourne Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess for the second time 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 our own Peter Jupp the MC.

Unfortunately, our Chairperson elect, GPCAPT Tom Douglas passed away following a long illness and Kevin Lesley our founding father announced that he is moving north to NSWs in the new year. On a more positive note the REOA were successful in obtaining a DVA grant for some \$8,000 and we designed and manufactured an REOA metal lapel badge which has proved to be very popular.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2010 in good health. Presented on page x are the next years planned activities along with a few new proposals to consider.

SQNLDR Ron Ledingham

Chairperson

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Click on the link below for Christmas greetings-turn sound on.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DfdED1SWX8>

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

By Ron Ledingham

On Wednesday 17 June 2009, some 43 REOA members visited the Officers' Mess at Victoria Barracks in Melbourne, our second year of running this very popular luncheon. We exceeded the numbers limit for use of the main dining room, however, the mess management arranged for us to make use of the dedicated PMC room which, although being isolated from the main function dining room, allowed us to accommodate all those who wished to attend.

We were also graced with the company of guests John Geary and Helen McMurtry representing respectively the offices of the Federal Minister and local Minister for Veteran Affairs in recognition of the support in preparing and the subsequent approval of our recent grant .

Following lunch at the Officers' Mess, the group was split into small groups with a guide allocated to each group, who were escorted on a shortened formal tour of the Victoria Barracks complex including the old war rooms. Again this tour was very popular and well attended.

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 Nagy Sorial, 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 2010 conducted on similar lines.



**Seasons
Greetings**

REOA Members' 2009 MidYear Lunch and Tour of the Victoria Barracks Complex





REOA Members' Annual End of Year Lunch 5th November 2009.

Once again, this year we held our annual lunch on Oaks Day or Ladies Day in Melbourne Thursday 5th November. 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 plus our two lady guests, Janice Henry and Rosemary Robertson, who attended our luncheon.

For the second year in a row 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.

Peter Jupp volunteered to be our Master of Ceremonies for the event and our guest speaker was Gary Harwood from the CFA.

The overview on the CFA communications and events from the Victorian bush fires detailed by Gary Harwood was very well received and many questions followed demonstrating the raw emotions and great interest in the bush fire tragedies during 2009.

Many thanks to Gary and Peter.

Despite the **"Bartram backing group of one"** being a late withdrawal this year, Peter still managed to pull together the REOA choir for the ever popular "The Wild West Show". The entertainment consisted of rowdy singers Rick Toholka, Kevin Lesley, Laurie Lindsey and our MC Peter Jupp. As in past years Peter's melodious overtones and entertainment was well received by all.

The opportunity was also taken to recognise the recent senior appointment of one of our members, Colin Muir as a District Governor in Rotary-well done Colin and congratulations on your appointment.

Of significance to the REOA organisation and all members, Kevin Lesley formally announced that he and his wife Helen are pulling up stumps in Melbourne and moving permanently to sunnier surrounds in NSWs to be near family. Kevin was our founding father for the REOA and was formally recognised on the day as well as being presented with some REOA mementos.

We wish Kevin and his family the very best of health and a long and rewarding time in NSWs with the expectation of seeing an "REOA northern chapter" in the near future ?





Our MC Peter Jupp leading the "REOA choir" in merry song much to the delight of all.

Our MC Peter Jupp orchestrating the day.



Our two lady guests Janice Henry and Rosemary Robertson much to the delight of the members.





Members enjoying the companionship and meal at the Batman's Hill on Collins Melbourne.



Our founding father Kevin Lesley (right) with MC Peter Jupp (left) following the announcement of his permanent move north to settle in NSWs closer to family.

Note: A free CD containing a number of photographs taken during all of the REOA functions during 2009 will be 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.

REOA 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **REOA bi-monthly committee meeting for committee members** at Batman's Hill on Collins-first Monday in the month commencing February 2010 unless we decide otherwise due to a conflict in dates/activities.
Monday 1 Feb 2010
Monday 12 April
Monday 7 June
Monday 2 Aug
Monday 4 Oct
Monday 6 Dec
- **Mid year lunch by popular demand**: 1200 Hrs Wed 16 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 4 Nov.
- **Anzac Day**-same as past years but to be finalised.

For further consideration-perhaps 2010 ?:

- RAAF Point Cook visit (box kite project) and catered lunch in the old Os' Mess.
- Family day visit and tour of the Shrine of Remembrance-Ron to investigate.
- Visit to RAAF Wagga Wagga and the Temora aviation museum-see <http://www.aviationmuseum.com.au/museum/>

Orbituary 2009

Dave Smith 25 December 2008

Tom Douglas 4 February 2009

Bob Holsken 7 May 2009

Alan Quick 2009

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 Shirts and Lapel Badges for sale

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

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

Metal single pin lapel badges @\$10 each.

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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Telephone: (03) 9511 7775

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.