



March 2011

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Welcome to the Museum of Australian Army Flying Newsletter

Chairmans Chatter Jon Martlew



Dear Members

It has been a very slow period for the MAAF and our visitor numbers are down. This is consistent with the experience of most tourism operators throughout Queensland as a consequence of the January floods.

Helen has been working hard with the myriad of Tourism/Heritage bodies throughout the region to try and turn this around. On that note, congratulations are in order for Helen who, on 12 March, was voted Vice-President of the Cultural Heritage Network - Toowoomba Region. This is a great achievement for Helen and acknowledges the esteem in which she is held throughout the local heritage/museum community. It is also a wonderful opportunity for the MAAF to raise our local profile.

On 13 March Peter Ford, Helen and I attended the formal launch of the new regional tourism guide "Explore" at the Cobb & Co Museum in Toowoomba. The launch was conducted by The Hon Jan Jarrett MP, Minister for Tourism, Manufacturing and Small Business, and aims to showcase local attractions and increase visibility throughout Queensland and other states. The MAAF is one of the attractions featured within "Explore".

The Army Aviation Centre Officers Mess had limited edition prints produced of a commemorative painting acknowledging the 40th anniversary of AAAvn in 2008.

There were 250 only produced with a certificate of authenticity, and each is numbered and signed by the artist. The cost has now been reduced to \$80 each (unframed) for members of the mess and of the MAAF and they are available for immediate delivery. Please contact the Museum with enquiries or to place your order.



Managers Musings

WO1 Paul Schrodter



Visitor numbers to the Museum have been very poor since before the Christmas Holiday period. This has been the same for a number of tourist destinations for that same period. The reasons for this are probably both economic and the need for the general public to reorganise their lives after floods, fires and cyclones. We anticipate that numbers will improve in the school holidays in April, as school holiday periods are usually very busy at the MAAF.

On 12 March the MAAF received some very good and free advertising on Channel Seven's, 'Creek to Coast'. The star of our segment was our very own Maintenance Manager, WO1 Gary Watson. Organisations such as ours just cannot afford to buy advertising that good. Well done Gary!

At the end of last year the workshop area of the MAAF was closed down for removal of asbestos. This included the rebuild of affected areas only. The volunteers and staff who work there returned this year to a much better work environment,

however there is still a lot of work to do, to make all areas useable. It was noted that the first room that was reorganised and set up was the Brew Room and what a marvellous job they did! Well done to all involved! Should enough funding become available it is the aim of current staff to turn these facilities into a World Class tourist destination and research centre. Let's see if dreams can come true!

The Curatorial Team of the MAAF has been working at preparing a display from this Museum which will be on display at Cobb & Co Museum in June 2011 for 6 weeks. This is another golden opportunity to advertise this Museum free of charge and I look forward to seeing the end result.



It is also very pleasing to see new presentations and displays finding their way to the Display Hangar and know that our Curator WO2 Scott Downs has approached all Army Aviation Units and requested display items and unit signs, for display in their Corps Museum.

If any readers who do have significant items of relevance to this Museum and would like to donate or even loan the items for display, please contact Scott at the Museum.

Curators Corner

WO2 Scott Downs



G'day Everyone

It has been a stop-start period on the curator's front this month; however we have had some go forward in several areas, one of the most important of which has been the arrival of the stores to begin the process of conservation of the image collection. Training will begin for the volunteers next week and hopefully we can press forward very soon after that.

With the approval of the purchase of a forklift, the sorting and clean up of C-40 can begin. Big job in the future, but it will be like a Pygmy eating an Elephant, small bites at a time.

The Museum has retrieved the AFC Banner from the SGTS mess. The volunteers are currently working on a stand so that this important part of our heritage can be displayed in the Main Hangar. Approval has also been given to create a replica of the Banner that will be hung in close proximity to the original to demonstrate how it was carried and so on.

Progress continues on A02-149. This is going a little slower than I had hoped, but the aircraft should be complete before the end of the financial year and on display in the Main Hangar.



I will be travelling to 5 AVN REGT in Mid April to meet with the RSM, and to address the soldiers and officers of the REGT about the desperate need we have for them to be our collectors in the field (particularly overseas). This is a super opportunity for the Museum, and I hope that I can make the most of my time there.

Continuing with that theme, I have approached all three regiments and BDE HQ for support in completing our unit sign collection. 5 AVN REGT have already committed to creating a regiment sign and all 5 SQN signs for us, a very positive outcome.

Overall, lots of positive outcomes for the period, however the hard work now begins as we have now gathered the equipment and store necessary for our next big tasks. I look forward to the challenge and hope that in the future we can become, as we need to, a world class conservation and preservation facility for our capabilities heritage.

CU next month

Scotty

The MAAF Spanner Bangers (MSB) Club
WO1 Gary Watson



“A little less conversation a little more action please!”

Yes we are finally back! After recovering from the tear down and rebuild of the Bellman complex it was time to get back to work (minus DRN and telephone services) and do what we do best. Recycle, reclaim, fabricate, manufacture, construct, restore, paint car parks and rebuild stuff. Museum stuff that is!

It was also the time for yet another round of discussion on that most desired piece of equipment by the MAAF, being a forklift. The quest to obtain this seemingly **“Holy Grail”** of equipment continues as we are forced to endure another round of questions and proposals from some who seriously believe we can just borrow one when needed. It’s a bit like borrowing a hammer when you need it and then waiting for your neighbour to deliver and use it on your behalf. In the words of **‘The King’** *“all this aggravation ain’t satisfacting me”*. I can see an MSB award coming on from this for the end of year social.

Things have also got rather busy around the Bellman Precinct recently with car parks appearing faster than hormonal teenagers at a Justin Bieber concert. With more cars than Grand Central on Christmas Eve, life has become rather exciting for the volunteers dodging the Brabhams and Agostinis vying for prime position in the new car park adjacent to the Bellman Hangar. We were thinking of holding up a hair dryer to slow them down somewhat, however none of the volunteers have enough hair to need one. As **they** say (not sure who **they** are), if you can’t beat them then join them and so the turf war was to commence. It was out with the MSB car parking team, heavily armed with aerosol packs lead by **Geoff (the Graffiti Kid) Lance** and his faithful side kick **Bob (Overspray) Turl**. And so it came to be that everything copped a flogging. Some of the paint actually ended up as car park lines and signs. Apparently white walled tyres are back in fashion. Stay tuned for the introduction of parking meters and shopping trolleys.



This month saw us tackle the first of our travelling road show destinations, this time at the Charlton School Fete. Unfortunately for the organisers, rain dampened the spirit and reduced the exhibitors somewhat, but we still managed to entertain a reasonable size crowd. The Porter aircraft seat and SP4 Helmet were a hit with the kids for photo shoots. The hardest part was getting **Boss Ross (AKA Ross Ebzery)** to give the helmet up and get out of the seat. With **Geoff (c’mon kid buy a model) Lance** and **Pete (I’ll go find a bargain) Ford**

holding the fort the MAAF once again waved the flag in a professional manner and was able to do some more recruiting. Well done to all who supported this event!

Our second Huey, this time a gunship in the form of A02-149 arrived from Brisbane last month. Thanks to the good will of fellow spanner bangers (AKA RAMS) the aircraft was positioned in their hangar to allow us the use of their overhead crane. If we could work out a way of taking the crane with us then we would. We have commenced reassembly of the mast, head and blades. Once completed, we will fit the armament systems and then deliver her to where her sister (A02-649) is currently resting in D21. This will be an impressive display once we learn to convert the Curators' ideas and intentions into reality.



Ross Ebzery showing "budding pilot" Sam Delander what it is like to make believe he is flying a Porter



But the best news of all is;..... the workshop table tennis table is up and running with the tournament about to commence. We are a bit concerned about **Daryl (Ping) Richter** and **Danny (Pong) O'Brien** teaming up, although with **John (The Sledger) McCormack** and **Craig (Blocker) Roberts** no doubt they will ensure nothing gets past. Our specialised referee **Bob (same height as the net) Bell** will ensure all is above board (or above the net at least).



So until next time, keep bangin those spanners! (and belting those balls).

WOIC MSB

Graduations



March 4 saw the first Wings Graduation at the Museum for 2011, where seven graduates received their wings.



March 10 saw the first Aviation Aircrewman Course Graduation with four graduates



Editors Edits



Birthdays

On 9 March the two BB's (B Squared's), Bob Bell and Barry Bawden celebrated their birthdays. We had a cake and some goodies to celebrate in the Brew Room at lunch time. Photo shows Bob and Barry "making a wish". I promised not to divulge their ages!



Membership of the MAAF

I am still conducting a membership drive for the Museum. We have gained two new members during the month of March. Many of you who are already members of the Museum must know of, or are in contact with many who are not as yet members of the MAAF. We would like to see many more serving military members as part of the MAAF family. This is your Museum and with your help and input we can obtain a comprehensive coverage of the ongoing history and heritage of Army aviation.

There is over 100 years of history out there, many have helped us with memorabilia and photos; but there must be so much more that we still need to collect and with your help we can gradually reach our goal.

Volunteers

Many retired ladies and gentlemen may not have thought of volunteering. To those who live in the Darling Downs area, we would welcome anyone with any skills (they can all be utilised) to consider joining our wonderful volunteer team at the Museum. Workshop volunteer working days are Wednesdays all day and Thursday mornings and the Spitfire Project team work on Sundays. We also welcome any one who can give up another day or half day at the

Display hangar to assist with cleaning, front office, stock taking and general duties from Wednesdays through to Sundays. Volunteering is very rewarding and a way of meeting new people along with helping your Museum. Workshop uniforms and safety boots are supplied to all volunteers.

As Jon, our Chairman said at the beginning of the Newsletter, I have had a busy month attending Workshops and meetings in conjunction with the Tourism Industry on the Darling Downs, Western Downs, South Burnett and Southern Downs and Granite Belt to entice visitors from down south to come over the border to visit Queensland again. Yes, we may have had some floods and devastation in the area; but we are now all up and running again, the roads are "reasonable" (Anna is still working at it), the rivers are dropping and the country side looks so green and lush. You definitely will not need to hire a boat once you get to the border!



And we would love to see you all visit us again!

Work is underway to get invitation letters out for the Fly-In the first weekend of October. Please put it in your diaries and if you are planning a holiday – the first weekend in October spent at the Museum will be well worth your while.

ROTORS, WINGS n WHEELS

FLY-IN

1 - 2 OCTOBER 2011

ADULTS \$5.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

OPEN 10am – 4pm

WARBIRDS & CURRENT MILITARY AIRCRAFT

CLASSIC CARS, CLASSIC MOTOR BIKES

MILITARY VEHICLES

FAMILY DAY OUT - FREE PARKING

FOOD STALLS

Museum of Australian Army Flying

Army Airfield, Oakey, Qld 4401. Phone 07 4577 7666

Open 10.00am to 4.00pm daily. Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Admission: \$5.00 adults, \$12.00 family (2 adults and up to 3 children) and \$2.00 children.