



April 2011

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Welcome to the Museum of Australian Army Flying Newsletter

Managers Musings WO1 Paul Schrodter



The month of April has seen an improvement in visitor numbers to the MAAF. There has been a noticeable improvement on the first three months of the year and trade has been more consistent with previous years. We have also had a few group visits.

On April 5 we had a visit from the Zonta Club which is a group of Professional Ladies. They were booked in after hours and some brought their partners with them. The group held a meeting and also received a guided tour.



Zonta Club Group

On the evening of April 13 the Oakey Chamber of Commerce held their "Beer and Biccies" get together at the Museum. This group try to hold these

social meetings at a different members venue each month and I have received some very positive feedback about the Museum from this group.

Oakey Chamber of Commerce Group

On Saturday April 16 we also had the Lions Bike Ride attend. This is a Charity event and there were 57 people in the group.



If any readers 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.

As the old saying goes – someone else's trash could be very much our "treasure"!



Bike Group

The MAAF Spanner Bangers (MSB) Club
WO1 Gary Watson



“HANG ON..... HELP IS ON IT'S WAY, WE'LL BE THERE AS FAST AS WE CAN.”

As another month reaches its conclusion the MAAF Workshop expended just over 400 man hours in both project work and support to the base. From picnic tables to aircraft re-assemblies, from supporting the Base Gardeners (Earl and the lads) to even helping out the Facilities Kings with car park line marking (they discovered we are a cheaper option), nothing is too hard for the MSB. Like an

Army of **“Can Do Men”** even Campbell Newman would be proud of, in the words of the **“Little River Band”** to our many clientele, **“don't you forget who will take care of you, it don't matter what you do”**.

It was a month where the military component of the MAAF quadrupled with the MAAF Manager weaving his magic and pulling not one but four rabbits out of his hat. Well actually not rabbits, but extra reserve staff in the form of **SSGT Gary Worner, SGT Bruce Wilks, SGT Greg Poole and CPL Roberta Hudson** . We appear to have got the cream of the crop with this lot (not sure who is actually running the Base Q Store anymore) and so a big MSB welcome to these members. Well at least there is one techo amongst this bunch and Greg is quickly coming to terms with dealing with both antiquated people and machinery within the Workshop. Watch the duty list team and also Monday morning dress inspections!

One of the many unsung heroes within the Workshops would have to be **Marg (don't mess with me) Ford**. Better known as the publication Nazi, Marg looks after many things (aside from Peter) working (more like surviving) in building C41 also referred to as **“The Hovel”**. This amazing woman has mystic powers including the ability to cause tables to extend their legs. You have to see it to believe it! I can recall recently venturing down to the Southern end of the Bellman precinct and was amazed to see half of my workforce trying to work out how to remove a wall of the building simply to cater for the needs of Margaret. Influence even a seasoned Warrant Officer would be proud of. I am not sure whether it was fear of failure or dedication to the task asked by Marg, the crew were determined to get something the size of billiard table through a space the size of a desk personnel (“persy” desk to some). At least we now know the building can be moved!

Work continues on all major aircraft projects albeit at a reduced pace (table tennis injuries are taking their toll) with **Danny (is it lunch time) O'Brien** leading the way with some excellent work on the Winjeel Canopy of A85-406. Although it has been noticed he seems to be able to cleverly mix bodgies in with work and we have a sneaking suspicion he is rebuilding his horse float on the side. Not sure which project will be completed first.

(Capt) Andy Bligh has become re-acquainted with his beloved Porter aircraft (A14-704) and was recently spotted giving the old girl (that is the aircraft) a big hug. Like Gollum, Andy has found his own precious and spends many hours in the cockpit section talking to

the instruments. This is in between keeping a watchful eye on and maintaining tool board Nazi duties. Somehow I think this aircraft is going to end up out at Dalby.



It has been a busy month for the **“Tractor Mechanics”** with our second Huey A02-149 progressing along nicely. With the main rotor head, blades and stab bar fitted it was time to arrange new accommodation for this majestic old girl. She was gracefully escorted from the RAMS Hangar over to the Bellman and after a bit of a squeeze and much pushing and shoving did come to rest in the Hangar Eastern Work Bay, taking up all of it and some! Certainly makes an impressive display item for Workshop Tours. Once the horizontal stabs are fitted it will be full steam ahead with fitment of the armament (M21 & M23) systems. This definitely rates in the realm of big boys toys! Hopefully the aircraft should be ready for display in D21 next month, after we manufacture the gun mounts for the twin GPMG M60s. We just may have a little difficulty getting the volunteers to give her up to the



The MAAF crew doing the car park line marking



A85-406 canopy

Curator when finished.

A58-27 our beloved Spitty is moving along with some final skinning work on the cockpit section just about completed. Really pleasing to see our youngest volunteer **Brendan (the rivet bender) Johnson** at 16 years of age, doing battle with **Mick (the Tin Basher) Scott** nailing together (sorry riveting) the cockpit section instrument panel firewall. They are the unstoppable duo who love making noise as much as they love riveting. Pretty much one of the same thing really. In actual fact I think just about every member of the crew has their name on some of the rivets in this assembly. The Spitfire wings sit patiently in Hangar C36 awaiting



A02-149 being moved to the Bellman Hangar after having rotor blades re-installed

the time for when they will be butterflied to allow replacement of corroded wing spars. The crew are looking forward to bringing these back into the Bellman hangar to line up with the airframe.

The Sunday crew has also seen some new recruits with **Tracey (the navigator) Butler**, **Simon (love the lathe) Jackson**, **Lauren (the box monsta) Schneider** and **Brendan (Bad Boy) Johnson**. Welcome to all new members.



Before I go just a quick reminder that the David Hack Day is on again Sunday May 1 so get on down to the Aerotec Hangar Toowoomba Airport and come in say g'day. We will be there with our travelling road show and will have part of the Spitty on display. With raffles and plenty of things for sale (the stuff has to go) come on down and let us make a deal with you. Hope to see you there!

And last but not least, what everyone has been waiting for:
Round 1 results from the MSB Table Tennis Tournament:
Quambies went down to the Zimmer Framies 2 – 3;
Cellar Dwellers lived up to their name being flogged by the Dunderclumpins 0 – 3; and
Umpa Lumpas short game style was no match for the Dalbyites 1 - 3.

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

WOIC MSB



Our Sunday Spitfire Volunteer Crew

Editors Edits



Membership of the MAAF

I am still conducting a membership drive for the Museum. 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.

Anzac Day in Oakey

This year I was honoured in being asked to Second Resolution No 1 at the Anzac Day service in Oakey. LTCOL Michael Millar was reviewing officer and delivered a very impressive address, so the MAAF Board was well represented. It was a warm sunny day and fortunately a breeze to keep the conditions to comfortable.



ROTORS, WINGS n WHEELS

FLY-IN

1 - 2 OCTOBER 2011

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.