



May 2011

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Welcome to the Museum of Australian Army Flying Newsletter

The lucky winner of our raffle drawn at the end of April was ticket 54A and this person lives in Warwick, Qld

Managers Musings

WO1 Paul Schrodter



Visitor numbers to the Museum have continued to improve over the past month.

There have also been some very unwelcome visitors in the form of mice. Yes we have a bit of a plague and they have caused some problems for us at the Museum. We are all hoping that our first frost comes soon to slow them down.

This month we were involved in three away displays, David Hack Memorial, Emu Gully and Watts Bridge. All three events were a huge success and more importantly, very good Public Relations exercises and advertising for the MAAF.



Well done to all involved in these displays and keep up the good work!

The MAAF Display Emu Gully on 14 May 2011

The MAAF Spanner Bangers (MSB) Club

WO1 Gary Watson



*“Ring the bells that still can ring, Forget your perfect offering,
There is a crack, a crack in everything, That's how the light gets in”*

Holey Guacamole! The stars finally aligned with the Lord smiling upon the MSB and so did cause to appear one fork lift. And the troops were truly amazed and grateful of this and so did spend many hours worshipping this monster of steel. And then it was back to work. With recent catastrophes happening around the world

we thought that we would create our own earthquake and so did decide to move our own piece of earth (or at least the stuff) between hangars. It was a sight to be seen with **WO2 Scott (the diesel cowboy) Downs** behind the wheel of our forklift; a tsunami of stuff exited and entered various buildings within the



Bellman Precinct. In the words of **“Leonard Cohen”** **“You can add up the parts, you won’t have the sum”**, but time will tell when the hangar stuff amounts to none. Like a Pygmy eating an elephant, one chunk at time (curator’s words not mine), then light will start to creep in where darkness once controlled time. Stay tuned for “that one in a million garage sale”!

This month the MAAF Travelling Road Show made its presence felt at the recent David Hack day at Toowoomba Airport. For those from the Army Aviation fraternity who did come up and say g’day, thanks, we appreciate that and hopefully you could see what the MAAF is doing on your behalf. We sold quite a lot of MAAF product and also some Spitfire memorabilia. Together with the raffling of another magnificent Spitfire aluminium profile, the end result was less stuff and ‘muchacha lira’ (in excess of \$800.00) for the trip home. Once again the Porter seat and flying helmet had a queue of children longer than a half price day Maccas. With **Tracey (the strapper) Butler** on the job, a



rapid turn-around of occupants was maintained. The air raid siren was sounded (in the hangar) turning quite a number of heads, with some patrons looking for a shelter to run to. This was by far our best display setup to date. A great day was had by all and very good effort by the assigned crew.



It was also a month of Workshop BBQs with the Sunday Crew receiving a Mothers’ Day special on Sunday 8 May, with flowers and

workshop questionnaire for the partners to partake in. This was well received by all and a special thanks to the cook **Brooke (snags-r-us) Krause** and **Lauren (the box monsta) Schneider** for organizing the entire event.

This was backed up for the Wednesday crew with another BBQ on 11 May. Numbers were bolstered on this day by our trainee workforce who decided that our offer of burnt mammal flesh was better than the ORs Mess option. This was also the time we unfurled our new MAAF Workshop flag thanks to the artistic work of **Ken (colour my world) Matuszczac**.



As we wait for a re-assessment of tasks and priorities from the Curator and his staff, an update of some of our projects is as follows:

- C23 - Textiles & New Library – Slow progress, awaiting more decisions and funding.
- C36 – Technology Hangar – No progress, awaiting removal of the stuff.
- C38 – Spares Inventory Hangar – In progress depending on how many more racks Scott knocks down.
- C39 - Carpentry Shop - Milling area now set-up. Setting up racks for timber product. More stuff to be removed.
- C40 – Curator’s Junk Shop – Still a junk shop, although the junk has moved around somewhat.
- D06 – Prop Shop – Final removal of items (for categorisation) has commenced.
- A58-27 – More skinning of the cockpit section completed.
- A02-149 – Gun mounts fitted, awaiting GPMGs.
- A14-704 – Wings ready for fitment, awaiting project direction from Curator.
- A85-406 – Elevators fitted, now awaiting project direction from Curator.
- Fokker Tri Motor (Southern Cross) – Aircraft transporter ready, awaiting final ownership confirmation from Curator.
- M151 MUTT – Awaiting parts & labour.
- MAAF Manager’s Washing Basket Trolley – Completed. ☺

Under the micro scope this month, it’s time to apply some magnification on another one of our beloved MSB Crew. This bloke from the back blocks of Dalby can mix it with the best them when it comes to verbal intercourse. Known as **‘Nifty Neale’** to some or **Neale (wood shavings) Barltrop** to others, he forms part of that mysterious group known as the Sunday Mafia (AKA the Spitfire Crew). Being a manual arts school teacher, affords Neale the reputation of educator of all things manual arts (whatever that means), with woodwork and sheet metal construction being bread and butter for him. At least



that's what he tells us. When it comes to understanding timber this bloke knows more than your average termite and will gladly wax lyrical about all things carbon based. A self-confessed dendrochronologist, Neale knows his rings and will engage anyone interested with a smile, a degree of wit and with more information than a Google Search Engine. Come to think of it, he even shares some resemblance with "**Treebeard**" out of Lord of the Rings. None the less a popular bloke amongst the MSB (Lumberjack Division).

And finally the latest (Round 1) MSB Table Tennis results:

- Team Pong went down to the Gerries 2 – 3;
- Dodgy Bros were too shifty for Team Four Eyes 3 – 1; and
- Nanny Nappers went to sleep and were no match for Team Chatter Box 1 – 3.

So until next time, keep bangin those spanners!

WOIC MSB



Photos left to right: At Watts Bridge 22 May, Lauren and Brendon about to enjoy a flight in the Antonov 2. Brendon is our youngest volunteer at the age of 16 and it was his first flight ever in an aircraft! The right hand photo shows the volunteer crew on the day.

History of our Mustang Prop

Recently we had a visitor to the Museum who was delighted to see the Mustang Prop at the entrance to the car park, as he knew the history of it. I asked Bruce if he would please write me the story, so I could share it with the Museum members. Thank you Bruce for sharing your story below.

Where did it come from?

The photo of the propeller at the entrance to the Museum of Australian Army Flying was originally at the entrance to the Oakey Air Field. This Propeller was located near the Water tower during a cleanup of the Oakey Airfield by Mr. John "Jack" Main; Senior Groundsman Department of Civil Aviation Oakey Airfield in 1954.

The Propeller was transported to the workshop and when time permitted it was cleaned. During this time Dad received official notification from his head office at Eagle Farm Brisbane that the Queen, Queen Elizabeth II would be arriving at the Oakey Airfield in transit to Toowoomba.

This was my first introduction to the meaning of PANIC. The Airfield was Cleaned, Washed and Polished from one end to the other and what could be painted was. During this time Dad decided that he would mount the Propeller at the entrance to enhance the appearance of the entry to the Airfield. The Propeller was cleaned, painted and Dad using a Steel centre punch stamped his initials (JM) into the back of one of the blades. The propeller was then transported to the front gate and mounted on two poles. A new sign, Department of Civil Aviation "OAKEY AIRPORT" was affixed to the rail fence near the Cattle Grid (this grid was to stop the neighbouring Dairy farmers cattle wandering on to the Airport).

Standing beside the Propeller is Me, Bruce Main; I assisted Dad to mount the Propeller.

I hope this clarifies the enigma.
Bruce Main
Ex-R.A.A.F. 1958-1970.



Cultural Heritage Network – Toowoomba Region Seminar

"Looking outside the museum's walls - Making the most of your town", was the theme which saw around 50 delegates attend the annual Seminar held at Rudds Pub, Nobby on 28 May. After a frosty start to the day the weather was sunny and warm and ideal for our walk around the historic sites of Nobby.



Speakers included Wendy Birrell, Manager, Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre, Elva Sinclair, Vice President, The Warwick & District Historical Society, Karen Smith, President, Bowenville Park History & Heritage Association and Peter Cullen, Vice President, Toowoomba Historical Society. All speakers spoke within their fields of interest and delegates came away with a hive of knowledge to practice within their own museum environments.

We also broke into groups and experienced a Heritage Walking Tour of Nobby, conducted by Narelle Maddison, Nobby Heritage & Development Association.

Ken, left, is the Nobby Forge & Vintage Museum blacksmith. A lovable larrikin if ever there was one. He's also a wheelwright working on restoring some old wagon wheels as well as creating brand new wheels for gypsy wagons.

Editors Edits



Membership of the MAAF

Just a reminder to those members who pay their membership yearly, your fees are due at the end of June. I will give one month's grace, and if you have not paid your 2011-2012 Membership by the end of July, you will not be receiving your monthly Newsletter.

There are still several people who have not paid their membership for the past two years. You will also be taken off the distribution list for the Newsletter. Several are receiving their newsletters by "snail mail" and over time the cost of paper, printing, envelopes and postage adds up.

Membership fees are \$15.00 per year or \$150.00 for a life membership. Please email me, or contact the office if you would like a membership renewal form.

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 now over 100 years of history in your Museum, 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.

Warbird acceptance replies are coming in for the Fly-In. The volunteer crew who have attended the attractions above have done a wonderful job of spreading the word and distributing brochures and flyers. 2011 is going to be our best year ever! Please put the dates in your diary now!

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.