



**October  
2011**

# MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

*Welcome to the Museum of Australian Army Flying Newsletter*

## **Chairmans Chatter Jon Martlew**



Dear Members

Once again the weather wasn't kind to us at the Fly-In on 1 – 2 October yet, despite all odds, it was once again a great success. Well done to Helen, MAJ Nick Sanders and everyone involved in the organisation and running of the event including those in the Management Team, our hard-working Volunteers, friends of the museum and Board Members.

In what is becoming a tradition, the Fly-In was linked with the annual Army Aviation Centre Landowners function at the MAAF on 30 September and with the Base Family Day on 2 October. Consequently, a great deal of organisation and effort was provided by the Army Aviation Centre and Training Centre, which was very much appreciated and included a number of Army aircraft flying on Sunday including Tiger, Black Hawk and MRH 90.

The performances of the RAAF Roulettes was also a highlight as was the display by Tony Blair in the Rebel 300 – both very nearly didn't make it as they had to battle poor weather on their transit to Oakey (I am glad they persisted). It was also wonderful to see Murray and Andrea Wallace again in A98-340 (Cessna 180), which was placed proudly amongst the later Army aircraft. They also had to battle the weather to be with us – I am hopeful their ground speed was faster on the way home.

Over the three day period of the Landowners' function and Fly-In we had over 4000 visitors, which is

an excellent outcome – congratulations again to all involved. The Fly-In is an event that we should all be very proud of.

I would also like to acknowledge and welcome the upcoming visit of Mr Roger Lee, Head of the Army History Unit, who is coming to Oakey early in November.

**A98-340 nestled between the  
MRH 90 and Black Hawk**



## Managers Musings

### MAJ Nick Sanders



This news letter finds me at the three month mark and having just returned from the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) Managers' Conference. Scott Downs, our Curator, and I attended the Managers' Conference at AAHU in a wet and blustery Canberra. This conference has not been held for four years and proved particularly for me, to be of great benefit. The most beneficial aspect was interaction with the other Army Museum Staff and talking about their issues and the way they operate in their Museums. Best of all was to find out that MAAF had the highest number of visitors, some 11,000 for the financial year.

Some things to take away from the conference were the changes to Occupational Health and Safety, a change in the Operating Agreement general administration and some Army issues that our Army Museum Staff have to comply with.

On the 1 Jan 2012 the rules governing OH and S are changing. The change in a nut shell basically makes individuals and Managers more accountable. Managers are personally liable for their actions or omissions. This just means we will have to continue to get our ducks in a row before Jan 2012.

The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 in all States and Territories represents the most significant reform to national health and safety laws for almost 30 years. The new Act will introduce new concepts of duty holders, a broader approach to workplace participation and safety corporate governance, and higher penalties for infringements.

The change to the Operating Agreement (that is the agreement between the Museum Volunteer Company and Defence) involves only a change to the indemnity clause in the agreement. This change will not affect volunteers working at the museum. The change requires Volunteer Company activities to be covered by an insurance policy.

We have two ARES personnel who have been added to our active list, Bert Hudson who has worked with us for some time and who will be in the Admin position, and Jason Erbacher who is in the assistant Q position.



The Fly-In, Land Owners' Lunch and the Aviation Training Centre Family Day were all a great success. We had four and a half thousand people visit in the three days. This success is indicative of the hard work and support the Museum receives from all quarters - volunteers, APS, Military members and the general public. Thank you all for your efforts and commitment which has contributed to a great weekend. I have had some ideas from some of you in regard to next year's Fly-In. We need to think about the date that it is held, how we involve other organisations and how often it is held. All food for thought while this year's success is still in our minds.

**Left: Visitors enjoying the Land Owner's Lunch**

The Museum will have the Director of AAHU Mr Roger Lee visiting in the middle of November. I will try to have him meet as many of you as possible. A BBQ and a chat on a Wednesday is probably the best way to do that, but I will confirm the dates later.

Paul and I will provide Manager's reports alternately. His five years at the Museum will give the Manager's Contribution to the News Letter a different flavour. Paul will write the next one and I will be writing the "Christmas edition" have you been good this year?

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to thank Margaret Ford for counting all the money from the Fly-In. All I have to do now is talk her into doing it next time.

## Phyllis Kopcsandy Visits the Fly-In

### Len Avery Reporting

Phyllis is the sister of George Constable and she was visiting the museum during the Fly-In with a number of her friends and close relatives.

George Constable was the Officer Commanding 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight in Vietnam when on 23 May 1968 he was killed when the aircraft he was flying (a US Army Cessna Bird Dog) crashed after being hit by enemy groundfire.

Whilst at the museum I took the opportunity to show Phyllis and her friends the framed display of George Constable's medals as well as two of the aircraft in the museum which George Constable flew, Cessna A98-045 and the Mk III Auster, A11-41.

Prior to leaving the Base, I organised for Phyllis and her friends to visit the outdoor chapel and we held a small memorial service in memory of George Constable and the other Army pilots who have been killed whilst on operational service.

Phyllis and those who accompanied her were delighted with the opportunity to visit 'our' museum.

**Photo shows Len Avery and Skeeta Ryan with Phyllis holding her brother George Constable's medals that are featured in the Memorabilia Room at the Museum**



**Top Left: Mark Matthews Porter Model  
 Top Right: 161 Display  
 Middle Left: Kevin Moss with the DVA Men's Health Peer Education Stall  
 Above Right: 161 Display  
 Left: Ever popular Queensland Air Museum Exhibit**

# FOURAYS 2012 CALENDAR

The **Fourays calendar** was launched over the weekend 1-2 October, and was a runaway success. It is now available to members of the Association and others and you can get your copy by ordering it using the form available here below.

You can either complete the form on line at <http://fourays.businesscatalyst.com/calendar.html> or download it and complete it by hand. If you complete it online you can then print it off and either scan it and email, fax, or post it to the addresses and number shown on the bottom of the form.

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## Editors Edits



A very successful Fly-In is over for another year and I would like to personally thank the Army Aviation Centre and Training Centre for their support with preparations for the event.

To the Staff, Board members and Volunteers who assisted and gave up time to help where it was needed, I also say thank you. Without us working as a "team", events like this cannot eventuate.

I also thank Len Avery who has provided some of the photos for this edition of Museum Happenings.

I have had a busy month attending meetings and functions, representing our Museum and am proud to say that I will be continuing on the Toowoomba Golden West & South Burnett Tourism Board for another 12 months.



Museum of Australian Army Flying

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

Open 10.00am to 4.00pm Wednesday to Sunday. 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.