



MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

January 2008



Dear Members

December was rather quiet with visitors; but since Christmas the Office staff and volunteers have been extremely busy with holidaying tourists stopping in to see the Museum. Our next front office raffle drawing will be on 01 March 2008. Winner drawn on 01 December 2007 was Greg Smalley of Middle Ridge, Toowoomba.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Even though most workers are on holidays; the Museum staff have not had time for such luxuries. No major events have occurred since you last received a Newsletter; but plenty has been happening behind the scenes and with many visitors coming in to see our Museum, it has kept the "team" very busy.

The countryside around the Army Aviation Centre, the Museum and Darling Downs is looking the best we have seen it in many years. We have been lucky to have cool, damp weather that has brought the area back to what many of you will remember from the "old days".

Our next major function coming up is on Australia Day, January 26th when Jondaryan Shire holds its last Australia Day event as a Shire at the Museum. A great day starting from 0730 with a Barbeque breakfast run by the Oakey Lions Club has been planned and we are looking forward to a huge representation from the Jondaryan Shire community attending on the day. We also extend an open invitation to Members of the Museum who live in the area or are travelling through to visit on the day.



WO1 Gary Watson

WO1 Gary Watson commenced ARES duties as the Museum Maintenance Manager on Thursday 10th January. Gary will be present to oversee and aid the Volunteers who painstakingly work on aircraft and other maintenance jobs for the Museum in the Bellman Hangar on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.



Photo right shows Museum sign with Bellman Hangar in the background

There are three audio-visuals running full time in the display hangar and these have been a hit with tourists who sit and enjoy the story of Army Aviation in Vietnam, the "Boomerang Story" telling of the development of the Boomerang during WWII and its subsequent demise during 1946 or a video of current Army Aviation operations.



A1-406 has at last been allocated a "pilot", who looks very much at home at the controls.



Web Page

Don't forget to visit our webpage on the Army Website <<http://www.army.gov.au/history/museums.htm>> While you are there looking at the Museum site, take the opportunity to see the other Museums associated with the Army History Unit as well.

2008 Fly-In



The 2008 Fly-In is being planned for 11-12 October. Please put this date in your diaries. We would love to have you come along as a visitor or a volunteer or to use any other skills you would like to share for the weekend. We would find plenty for you to do!

I have designed a variety of 5 different posters. If you would like one or more to display for us to advertise the Fly-In, please let me know and I will email to you. They have been reduced to pdf docs and are not a huge download.

Editor's Comment

The main aim with this Newsletter is to keep you, as members of the Museum, up to date on a monthly basis. Some months we have plenty to talk about, others are a little lean. You may remember my comment in the first Newsletter produced in August 2007 *"I welcome feed back from Members and if there is anything in particular you would like to hear about in our displays or with the Museum in general; please let me know and I will try to cover your request. Also if any one would like to submit a short story through this Newsletter, please send it to me for inclusion."* To date I have had little feed back (I do thank those who have contacted me) and I still encourage you to send short stories with photos you think other members would enjoy hearing about. I can be contacted by email or postal mail addressed to the Museum.

We always welcome more helpers/workers. If you would like to volunteer time and skills to the Museum it would be most appreciated. Please contact the staff on 46917666.

Army Airfield, Oakey, Qld 4401. Phone 07 46917666 Email: AustArmy.FlyingMuseum@defence.gov.au
Open 10.00am to 4.00pm daily. Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Admittance: \$5.00 adults, \$12.00 family (2 adults and up to 3 children) and \$2.00 children.
Concessions available for Pension Card Holders and Group Bookings.