



MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

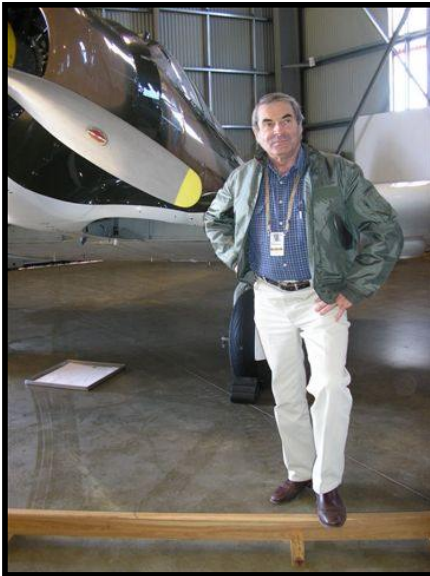
March 2008



Dear Members

The front office Raffle was drawn on 01 March and the lucky winner of the Spitfire print is Ross Collins of Rochedale, Queensland. Our next front office raffle drawing will be on 01 June 2008.

Curator's Report



MAAF Curator - Brian Reardon

While the main hangar display is functional, there is still a lot of work to do in this area to enhance the display. The platform to raise the Cessna 180 is nearing completion and should be in place by Easter. This has a two-fold purpose in that it will better present the aircraft as a display and also makes a safer environment for the public by rising the wings clear of head height.

Now that Gary Watson is the technical adviser, some of my other problems are being resolved, the collapsed nose strut on the Nomad has been fixed and sleeves fitted to all the wheel struts to prevent any future collapse. Once the Cessna platform is in place, we will then be fitting jacks to the struts of the other aircraft to raise their tyres off the ground.

I am slowly working my way through the memorabilia display replacing or renewing text labels and I will be replacing some of the temporary displays. Recently, WO2 Greg Beard and I attended a textile workshop at Pittsworth. It was a very worthwhile exercise as the museum has a number of textile objects that need to be properly stored and displayed. Dr Michael Marendy, who currently works at the Queensland Museum, conducted this workshop. Michael is the only textile conservator in the state so to have his expertise available was an opportunity for us to discuss particular problems and get advice on how to solve them. Our best solution at present is to make sure our objects are stabilised and then

stored to the best of our ability. The volunteers have been busy in the old area setting up better storage areas so that in the very near future storage will be as efficient as we can make it.

Another project that I have been involved with for the past two years is the "Broken Wings" documentary being produced by the Melbourne based Artisan Films. It is a professionally produced doco about the "so called" buried Spitfires here at Oakey. I have been able to assist, along with others, to provide research and advice on the wartime history of the base. This project, at present privately funded, has been quietly moving along for the past six years and the amount of information coming to hand is amazing. Are there buried Spitfires? Who Knows? However when this project is completed the museum will have had unbelievable worldwide publicity via the History Channel and crikey, we may even have a Spitfire. Further info regarding the project can be viewed at www.brokenwings.com.au go to the Home page and check out the trailer in the black box.



Searching for "gold" - Spitfires

One of the main things to develop over the past year is the incredible number of photos relating to the history of the RAAF Base, No. 6 Aircraft Depot that keep arriving. Bob Bell has processed some 300 to date and still they come. Some truly amazing photos taken around the base, both during and after the war showing workshops and the many aircraft stored. Bob has put most of these photos on a CD that is running continuously in the museum. We have achieved a lot but there is much more to do.

Profile – Major Barry Skinner



Barry joined Army Aviation at Amberley, QLD in Mar 1968 after completing 4 years as an Army Apprentice.

Barry joined the Army Apprentice School on 20 Jan 1964 as a 19th intake Fitter & Turner.

He served in South Vietnam with 161 (Indep) Recce Flt in 69/70. Following his Artificer's Course, numerous postings and promotions, he was posted to 5 Aviation Regiment as the first ASM of the Workshop (arguably, one of two foundation members still in uniform).

At the end of his 5 Avn Regt posting in 1989 Barry accepted his commission and was posted to 171 Command and Liaison Sqn as the Engineering Officer. This was short lived as he was seconded to the Directorate of Helicopter

Projects in Canberra to head up the Black Hawk Simulated Aircraft Maintenance Trainer (SAMT) project. This culminated with two and half years in Toronto, Canada as the Resident Project manager for the SAMT project from Jun 91 to Jan 94.

On return from Canada Barry was posted as OC of the RAEME Aircraft Maintenance School (RAMS). During this posting Barry was promoted to his current rank, Major. Barry then served for two years as the Resident Contract Manager at the Army Helicopter School, RAAF Base Fairbairn, in Canberra. This followed with a three-year secondment to the Indonesian Navy as the OC of the Nomad Maintenance Advisory Team (Jan 99 - Feb 02).

On his return to Oakey culminating his career as the Senior Maintenance Manager (SMM) of Aviation Support Group Workshops (ASGW). Barry retired from the ARA on 31 Jan 05, however stayed on as the SMM of ASGW on continuous full time service (CFTS) until Mar 06. On completing his CFTS at ASGW, Barry transferred to the Active Reserves and was posted as the Manager of the Museum of Australian Army Flying.

Barry has been at the MAAF since then and this month chalks up 40 years direct service / relationship with Army Aviation.....

Editor's Note:

Most Saturday mornings Barry can be found at the Museum mowing the lawns to help keep the grounds looking in A1 condition for visitors.



2008 Fly-In

Since our last Newsletter there has been a requirement to change the date for the 2008 Fly-In. It is now being held on 18-19 October and preparations are well underway. Please put this date in your diaries. We would love to have you come along as a visitor, a volunteer or bring along an exhibit. In particular I am looking for olden day pushbikes to display.



We always welcome 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.



Museum of Australian Army Flying,
Army Airfield, Oakey, Qld 4401.

Phone 07 46917666 Email: AustArmy.FlyingMuseum@defence.gov.au

Web Page: <http://www.army.gov.au/history/museums.htm>

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.