



The Clipped Wings

Par Oneri de Caelo

Spring 2007

ADAA Web Site at: www.australiandiggers.com/users/adaa/

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*Your Membership Status can be found at
the bottom center of the mailing wrapper.*

Annual

Subscriptions

are now overdue for the 2007-2008 financial year. Please check your financial status on the bottom of the wrapper and if not in advance, send your \$20 to Henry the Treasurer. His address is just to the left of here

COMING UP - 2007

Myola Day Activities 2007

Myola Day 2007 NSW

STOP PRESS!



Due to the Tasking/Involvement of 176 Air Dispatch Squadron in support of the Aust/US Exercise being conducted at Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland, the ADAA Myola Day activity at RAAF Base Richmond was cancelled.

Hopefully we will get to visit the Squadron later in the year for the "Soldier of the Year" and Christmas celebrations. So I hope to see as many ACT/NSW Locals as well as interstate visitors there.

Denis McCann

Ed

176 AD Sqn Xmas Function

The dates for the Sqn Christmas function and presentation of the "ADAA Soldier of the Year" award have not yet been finalized for around November/December 2007 due to operational activities. When this date becomes set I will get the info out to ADAA and Ex-members.

Bob Hutton, Liaison Officer

President's Report

31 Aug 2007

This has been a discouraging quarter with a number of members passing away most recently. Time seems to be catching up with us quickly and we grow thinner on the ground, although I must admit that some of us grow a little thicker each passing year. Some might say that certain ones amongst us have always been a bit thick, but then "Beauty", we are told, is in the eye of the beholder.

This notice will be a bit late after the Clipped Wings is published to do anything else about it but Tony Dowd has called for and supported a special meeting to discuss the future direction of the Association. A notice was mailed to all members about a month ago.

It is to be held in Coffs Harbour on Saturday the 15th September 2007. Idea being an open forum for ideas to revitalize the Association and hopefully encourage more attendance at meetings in each State and any other activities judged worthwhile. It is open to any who wish to attend however the roll call for those attending is very short.

Because the meeting will be over when you read this, there is no reason for you not to think about what can be done to generate support. If you have some thoughts then let us have them by contacting any of the Committee who will all, I am sure, be pleased to receive ideas.

One thought I will take to the meeting is that the Association look at providing a sash type of decoration to be placed on the caskets of members at their funeral service with perhaps the AD Wings and the ode inscribed thereon which would remain with the family as an enduring reminder that they were After Darkers.

Planning for the 2008 Re-union in Vietnam progresses slowly but with some promise of being well worth attending, more to follow in the next Clipped Wings. Thereafter we will need some definite indication of numbers attending so that firm arrangements are able to be put in place. Think about it please.

Another matter which requires some attention is the AGM which requires date location and agenda, most specifically nominations for positions on the Committee, personally I would be most pleased to stand aside from the Presidency and hope that there will be someone prepared to accept nomination. Perhaps other members of the Committee also would be pleased to enjoy a break, but that is for them to indicate. The Federal election will probably be well under way when this is received, again I urge you each and every one to contact your local Federal Member. Remind them you are a Veteran or Ex service-person and ask what they are doing for our members. Only the squeaky wheel is ever greased by politicians so don't be shy about it.

As before I wish you grey skies and lots of rain, but where we need it.

Barry

Past Vice President's Column

Time to drop a line, via the Newsletter, to thank the committee and members for their/your support over the last 10 years, during my time as Vice President, NSW/ACT State Representative and Newsletter Editor.

I would particularly like to take this opportunity to thank Denis McCann for his support as Proof Reader of the ADAA Newsletter from Spring 1997 to Summer 2005.

This issue of the ADAA Newsletter will have informed you that a Committee Meeting was held at Coffs Harbour on the 15-16th September 2007 with a view of addressing the

location and agenda for the next AGM for the re-election/election of your Committee members for 2008. I urge as many of you as possible to nominate representatives and attend this AGM.

Additionally Word has it that 9 ST Column/9 Tpt Regt/9 FSB will be taking up residence at Amberley QLD over the 2007-08 Christmas period and that 176 AD Sqn is expected to follow in 2010. As we progress towards 2008, it is an ideal opportunity to start reflecting on the possibility that the ADAA/176 AD Sqn relationship will soon be centered around the Sqn at Amberley.

That's it, I would however like to wish the ADAA and members all the best for the future and the newly elected Vice President and NSW/ACT State Representative my best wishes during their time in office.

Bob A.

Past-President's Report

Things have been pretty quiet in the Association but there have been lots of action behind the scenes. Seems there is some concern within the ranks that the Assn has become "stagnant" and may not seem to be relevant any more.

That's far from the truth and it is now up to the Committee to reiterate to the members what it's about to belong to our Assn. To that end we are meeting in Coffs Harbour in September to formulate a plan and to look to the next AGM to get that plan out to the members.

Any volunteers for Committee positions??

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Col Ben Bradbrook at age 82. Many old Dispatchers will remember him if not from Malaya then as the first CO of 1 AASO. I'm sure it will be mentioned in other reports, but I would like to pass my personal thanks to Ron and Celia McCaffery of the British ADs who represented the ADAA at the funeral. He will be missed as he had a great influence on a great organization within the Aust Army.

President Barry has been working away on the Reunion planned for 2008 in Saigon. The plans aren't firm yet

but there are lots of alternatives and the whole event is going to be relatively cheap. Airfares are very reasonable and "in Country" costs seem to be within every body's reach. September appears to be the favoured month so get the planning pencils out, work out a budget and let Barry know that you WILL be there!

I had some reservations about going back but EVERYONE I've spoken to who has been there lately has raved about the country and the people. So make an effort and be part of what is shaping to be a great event.

I hope this finds you all well and at peace with the world, look forward to talking with you all soon,

Brian I.

From the Unit 176 Air Dispatch Squadron The Year that is 2007

This year has been an eventful year to date for 176 Air Dispatch Squadron. The Squadron has both a new Officer Commanding (MAJ Colin Bassett) and Squadron Sergeant Major (WO2 Trevor Morgan). The work tempo has increased as the months have passed with the Squadron's soldiers assisting in various deployments overseas and exercises within Australia, providing aerial delivery to Perth, Townsville, Sydney based units and participating in exercises in both Shoalwater Bay and High Range Training Areas.

In January and February, the Squadron participated in a number of continuation training days out of RAAF Base Richmond to ensure that all paratroopers maintained their parachute currencies. As well as qualifying our own members, the Squadron provided and is continuously providing assistance to 3 RAR in the way of loads comprising Classes 1, 3 & 5 stores. Airdrops range from supporting small groups to supporting elements up to company size.

As well as providing Air Dispatch support to 3 RAR, in February the soldiers busied themselves with supporting 4 RAR and their water insertion techniques. The Squadron rigged a number of Zodiac inflatable boats so the Special Force elements were able to practise their airborne water insertion capabilities. The

soldiers worked eagerly on two different ways of rigging to ensure that the training objective of 4 RAR could be met. One scheme provides the 4 RAR soldiers with an inflated boat and the other provides them with a boat bundle that must be inflated in the water.

In March, the Squadron was involved in three major activities. A number of soldiers and officers competed in Rugby Union, Australian Rules Football and Netball during the annual sporting competitions held at Kapooka. All team members competed with enthusiasm, displayed a high level of sportsmanship and improved as respective rounds were played out. The 176 AD Sqn Mens netball team placed second with the mixed team placing third. The gold medal was awarded to the Women's team who comprised of members from 176 AD Sqn and 1 RTB. They brought home victory on behalf of all the members that represented the Squadron in all sports.

During the field phase of Ex "Wandering Spear" (LOBC), a small section comprising of Lt Sara Robertson, Cpl Nathan Alcock, Pte Eddie McPherson and Pte Sylvio Szilvagyai provided a display of the Squadron's capabilities for the newly promoted logistic officers. The small section air inserted onto a new drop zone within Puckapunyal having rigged three small cargo loads prior to the drop. The three cargo loads were dispatched by other members of the Squadron and on completion, the small section centralised the cargo in preparation for an external rotary wing lift. Shortly after the Air Dispatch display the 176 AD Sqn military skills team competed against various other units within 9 FSB during the military skills competition. All of the section members put in a good effort which earned a credible third place overall and were awarded the Colonel Reagan Award for their efforts on the 'Battle Run'.

Ex "Falling Pelican" conducted in April, in conjunction with 38 Squadron, was an opportunity for the Air Dispatchers to practice and maintain their manual dispatching skills out of a Caribou aircraft (DHC-4). The dispatched loads consisted of a number of compacts and heliboxes (cardboard self-slowng boxes containing items up to the weight of 10kgs/22lbs) containing dummy loads.

Unfortunately due to technical difficulties with the Caribou (DHC-4) at the completion of the cargo drops, the pre-planned parachute opportunity had to be cancelled, much to the disappointment of many.

The importance of ANZAC Day was remembered during dawn services at Rooty Hill RSL and Silverwater RSL with the majority of the soldiers parading at Penrith. At the completion of the services the Squadron cooks provided a number of family and friends with a tasty meal at the Myola Club (Squadron Boozer). Small banner parties for both the RACT Banner and Air Dispatch Banner marched in Sydney CBD.

In May, both of the Air Dispatch Troops deployed with 1 Tp providing support to SASR and 2 Tp providing support to several elements within 3 Bde for the Brigades Combined Arms Training Activity (Ex "CATA").

Ex "Emu-Moon" was conducted over a two week period in Perth and comprised rigging of Zodiac inflatable boats. The deployment provided an opportunity for the Squadron's junior soldiers to experience the differences between SASR parachute load procedures when inserting, compared to our well rehearsed 4 RAR procedures.

The soldiers practiced their skills and the technical side of the Air Dispatch while working closely with SASR officers and soldiers preparing dangerous goods and 'live' loads. It was not only work, with several members of the Tp including the Tp Comd (LT Andrew Glover) leading the soldiers in a number of parachute descents.

The Air Dispatchers from 2 Tp during Ex "CATA" provided aerial delivery support to 4 Fd Regt, 3 RAR, 2 RAR and 3 CSSB. The troop resupplied rations, water and consumables on a regular basis from both RAAF Base Garbutt and Puk Puk Airfield. A handful of Air Dispatchers and Parachute Riggers were provided with the opportunity to jump in with 3 RAR during the tactical parachute company group insertion at High Range Training Area. The Air Dispatchers rigged two drop zone bikes along with four containers that were dispatched after the completion of the paratrooper insertion. To the amazement of many, the parachute carrying a DZ bike failed to open in time and the cargo

collided with the earth with full force, resulting in the Air Dispatchers having to carry out their malfunction drills real time.

The Squadron has heavily supported the RAAF in 2007 by providing loading crews, drop zone recovery crews, dispatching crews and dummy loads up to 35000lbs. Support to the RAAF is a continuous relationship as pilots and aircrew have a requirement to train in dropping cargo by day and night and of various weights and sizes, carrying and dropping paratroopers and re-qualifying in a number of areas annually. As well as supporting Royal Australian Air Force Units in the early months of this year the Royal Singaporean Air Force paid the Squadron a visit. Working to the rear of our hangar it provided an excellent opportunity to cross pollinate techniques and procedures highlighting the difference in how each Defence Force conducts the same trade.

The first half of 2007 has been busy within the Squadron due to the high tempo external task requirements. Though this has been the case, the Squadron has completed a number of internal activities which have prepared all members for future activities to be conducted in 2007 which include; Ex "Talisman-Sabre", Squadron IMT's, Ex "Unique-Pelican", a second Ex "Emu-Moon", and heavy drop trials for 37 Squadron (C130J). The future of Air Dispatch is evolving with 3 RAR moving to a more land light infantry based future. The Squadron has supported elements of the northern Army in the past and is looking to foster closer relations with 1 Bde, 3 Bde and 7 Bde in 2007.

*Par Oneri de Caelo.
Equal to the Task from the sky.*



Quotes from members of 176 AD Sqn
and their thoughts on Air
Dispatching:

From PTE Samuel Ranger

I made the decision to transfer from driver to Air Dispatcher in order to advance my career. The Air Dispatch trade offered me something new to learn and with new skills, a possibility of work overseas in operations and to put my training into service.



From PTE Chris Cox

Working at 176 AD Sqn has been an exciting experience. We support SASR and 3 RAR with their ongoing training. I have been very fortunate to have been deployed to OP Astute in East Timor. I was able to put into practice my initiative, teamwork and work knowledge in a real time operational environment. I have been able to travel a lot and meet a lot of awesome people.



From PTE Amy McFarlane

With such a small Squadron and trade altogether the camaraderie within the unit is at a high standard.



From PTE Armstrong

I like the fact that we have the opportunity to support other units on a regular basis. I was previously in the RAAF and thought that Air Dispatching would be a good career change and open up a lot of opportunities, such as doing a Basic Parachute Course.



From PTE Thompson

The trip to Perth was a good experience rigging boats for the SF. I worked with a good bunch of diggers and officers. Everyone was willing to help out when required to lend a hand.



From PTE Jessie Harrington

This year I was able to continue my love of being parachute qualified by getting jumps out at the start of the year. I have participated in courses that I enjoyed and further my career.



From PTE Brett McAlister

Air Dispatch is a very diverse job and since being employed there I have become qualified in seven different vehicles used in the trade. All of the tasks I have performed from Air Dispatch to forklifts to static line parachuting have all been a highlight of my life.



Article by: LT Sara Robertson

Biscuit Bombers

If you have any questions about the Biscuit Bombers, send them via Les Power who is the BB/ADAA Liaison Officer. Contributions to this column would be welcomed and appreciated.

Ph: Les Power on 07 3264 5188

Pensions Matters

As Barry has put it we all need to pursue contacts with our local members of parliament. There are a number of people working hard to get the equity put back in the indexing of the DVA pensions. We have been short-changed for the last 10 years plus.

Superannuation Matters

If you are in receipt of a pension from the DFRBF, you should also take up the issue of the unfair taxing of that benefit. That is another member of parliament matter to chase up.

Ed

Non ADAA Activities

As I wrote in the last "CW", I am associated with the Veterans' Counselling Service at Parramatta.

A tour is arranged for the 26th September and the booking sheet is full. If anyone is interested in having a look over one of our Navy's ships, let me know, preferably by email at denis_mccann@yahoo.com.au

Denis McCann 02 9971 8314
(Ed)

Recording our History

WOII Jock McGravie, now located at Bandianna, has gone a very long step towards producing the AD Book, A History of AD. He is continuing to seek information and pics of interest to the members in his enormous effort to produce the Book. If you have any photos or stories that you would like to pass on to Jock you can Email him at garry176@optusnet.com.au or by phone on 02 6066 4363

Sick Parade

Dave Armstrong (WA) has spent a short time in hospital suffering what might have been heart problems.

Returned home 4/9. Stick with it Dave.

Treasurers - Membership Officers Report

Our Financial Position

The balance in our account as at the 30 June 2007 was: **\$ 11,635.26**

Summary of Income & Expenditure For the Financial Year 1st July 2006 to 30 June 2007 was as follows:

Income	
Subscriptions	\$ 3,080.00
Donations	\$ 62.00
Proceeds for Merchandise	\$ 2,151.00
Interest Bank A/C & CC Fees	\$ 69.74
Total Income	\$ 5,362.74

Expenditure	
Merchandise	\$ 1,816.88
Newsletter incl Postage	\$ 776.75
Other Postage	\$ 285.85
Trophies and Awards	\$ 1,201.05
Other Expenses	\$ 949.61
Bank Fees & Taxes	\$ 111.09
Total Outgoings	\$ 5,141.23

Previous Balance of A/C **\$ 11,413.75**
Net Cash Flow - YTD Pos \$ 221.51

Current Balance of A/C
As at 30 June, 2007 **\$ 11,635.26**

Details of Other Expenses

Insurance Premiums for
Professional Liability Cover \$ 949.61

Henry Fabisiak

Treasurer ADAA

Letter to the Editor

Wandering

By

Harry "Rocky" Foxley
(Part two)

We again join Rocky for the second part of his solo ride around the vast south-west. This is the last two paragraphs of part one.

Just how slow is recorded on the gadget my wife Joan has bought for me recently. This is a speedometer with 29 other functions although I am interested only in speed and distance, rather than kilojoules (whatever they are) consumed or the temperature - which I can easily assess as 'hot' or 'cold'.

Although I had calibrated this device with millimetric precision against the wheel radius, I had been unsure as to how accurate it might be, given that the indicated speed seemed a little

high, but today I have had the opportunity to compare the odometer against a known distance and it tallies exactly. I have covered 48kms and my present speed is 6.9 kph. Albany seems a long way off.

Now read on

Whatever the view from the crest happens to be, I shall be most pleased to have it. Broad, sunlit lowlands would be nice but this appears not to be in the script when I finally complete the climb. I note that I am following a line of hills that stretch away to some distance and another climb is looming. The slightly better news is that a roadhouse looms into view and I pause there for a brew and a welcome break from the saddle. The rain arrives at precisely that moment, bouncing off the road surface, but eases by the time that I am ready to continue. I dig the waterproof trousers out of the saddlebag, having retained the waterproof jacket since departure for high-visibility reasons along the highway. Shorts and singlet otherwise total my clothing requirement, with some warmer stuff in the saddlebag against the inevitably cold nights to come. Traffic has actually been very light and nothing much at all in the way of Road Trains. This will doubtless change, but the general emptiness of the road for the moment is welcome. I have been on the road for five hours, at generally low speed, and the quietness is welcome.

The long climbs yield to a series of shorter hills of fairly stiff gradient and there is the sense of wasted effort on the subsequent downhill runs that inevitably are brought up short at the foot of the next climb. The sky is the colour of ancient lead and a wall of rain shortly arrives to obscure the view of yet another climb. Although I have not attempted any detailed planning of time and distance in my preparation for the ride, the fag-packet calculations suggest that 15 kph might prove to be my average speed and that 80Ks per day the average distance. I clock the latter at 1115hrs but reckon that it is too early to stop, although my legs might be telling me something else. The climbs continue and with 92Ks covered I consider calling it a day. Not to put too fine a point on it; I feel a bit buggered.

A minor problem here is that vast tracts of land flanking the Albany Highway are water catchment areas that feed the Wungong, Churchman

Brook and Canning Reservoirs at this point, and the Serpentine Reservoir further south. Water catchment areas prohibit camping of any kind, to preclude contamination and I had been hoping that there might be some break. Not so, as large signs frequently warn me and these are clearly not to be outrun today. Darkness soon follows on from sunset hereabouts and the sun is already casting long shadows over everything, to include my prospects of reaching anything other than more bushland today, although I have no great wish to be much further along. Having no great wish either, to be setting up my camp in the dark, I begin looking for a suitable site and presently note a small stand of trees about 50 metres off the road, somewhere useful to lean the bike and remain fairly anonymously in the silent hours.

I head for it, noticing a track that leads off the highway that I follow until I am more or less invisible to the highway. The rain has abated, which is a relief since setting up camp in the pouring rain has little to recommend it, and I clear a spot for the tent. Fifteen minute's effort puts me inside it with a brew on the go and I exchange my sweat-soaked singlet for a Norwegian shirt. My shorts are damp but are likely to dry on my body fairly quickly. I shove the singlet under the sleeping bag where it will dry by the same method. I drink the brew of tea whilst wandering about beyond the tent to inspect my surroundings, which appear unremarkable. I sight no wildflowers, although some 500 different species have been recorded in this area with 30-40 of them unique to the district, and there is no sign of wildlife. The snakes are doubtless already tucked up for the approaching winter, so there would seem to be no prospect of close encounters of an alarming kind. I drain my mug just as the rain returns then slide into the sleeping bag to let the aches ease somewhat. It is 1300hrs.

Thinking about the water catchment area and avoidance of contamination reminds me that when Arch led covert patrols in South Vietnam during the Sixties, he and his blokes took ground water in areas that had been defoliated by Agent Orange – a known carcinogen. The incidence of cancers among the SAS troopers who served at that time is well above the national average, and it was most certainly

cancer that took Arch short of the 'three score years and ten' we might at least expect these days, coincidentally robbing him of the chance to see his grandchildren develop. War, directly or indirectly, is a shitty business.

I sleep for a couple of hours then sort out my evening meal while the daylight holds. I have a dozen tins of assorted food that I shall simply have to heat up on my petrol stove. Since I intend to use the hot water economically for a brew, I have removed all the paper labels and glue from the tins. An effect of this being that every dinner will tend to be 'Chef's Surprise'. Tonight's turns out to be Irish stew and a tin of potatoes. It tastes excellent and not least because, as Escoffier almost certainly never said, 'hunger is a good sauce'.

Among the effects inherited from Arch; a mirror that is made of polished steel and measures about 80 millimetres by forty. It is actually a survival signalling mirror, intended for use by those stranded somewhere and needing to heliograph Morse messages to searching aircraft. My attempts to learn Morse code thirty-odd years ago having ended in failure, it is just as well that I am unlikely to require rescue. Meanwhile, I suspend the mirror from a convenient branch and monitor progress as I floss my teeth. My dentist would be pleased.

I have various aches but progress seems reasonable. The gadget tells me that I have averaged 14 kph, for a total of 94Ks with a riding time of 6 hours and 41 minutes. I climb back into the bag realizing that the afternoon sleep may well have robbed me of the chance of early evening sleep, but that seems unimportant. Stretched out, warm and relaxed, will suffice for the time being. The highway is almost completely quiet as the daylight fades and I am alone with my thoughts. Recently, I was reading of a new iPod that is the size of a credit card can store 400 tunes and will retail for less than \$100. If I had one of those I might now be listening to Duke Ellington playing *Mood Indigo* or Tommy Dorsey playing *Getting Sentimental Over You*, or Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli playing just about anything. I do have another gadget, however, that is a wind-up torch which is independent of batteries that expire at the wrong moments. I now use it to locate a bottle of rum and pour myself a

generous nip. It's the detail in this life that matters. I also help myself to a chunk of chocolate. My dentist would not be pleased.

The silence is subsequently pierced by a Kookaburra in an adjacent tree and its lovely, raucous call is full of life and happiness. For a fragment of time I feel ineffably sad until I identify the source of it. The Kookaburra makes a few more announcements before settling to its own sleep. I follow the example and doze off, happy to have the companionship.

Rain during the night has been both intermittent and heavy, although it has ceased by daylight when I roll out of the bag. The area is a mud bath and I strike the camp as carefully as possible in an attempt to keep the kit clean and dry. The fly sheet is quite saturated and I whirl it about my head in the manner of a bungling toreador in a bid to remove the excess water. It nevertheless remains quite wet and consequently quite heavy. The rain seems to be mustering for another fall and I do not trouble with breakfast or even a brew. With luck, I may encounter another roadhouse within a few Ks. By 0745hrs I am both on the bike and on a hill, making the first climb of the day. My map shows neither contour nor height values, but I have already noted that the highway generally follows a line of hills. I rather hope that I might leave these behind in 15-20Ks, but this proves wildly optimistic. At the 20K point, as it happens, I shall be facing a climb that absorbs 45 minutes and the view at the crest proves to be off another long hill to follow.

A somewhat more cheering sight is of a roadhouse at North Bannister, where I pause for a brew and a chat with the proprietor who seems baffled as to why anyone would want to push a bike 400 and something Ks. It is mid-morning and the highway is alive with traffic both light and heavy and I have been relieved to discover that a strip of sealed surface about a metre wide exists to the left of the white-lining along the road. This nicely keeps me clear of overtaking traffic – which happens to be every other road user today – and especially on the long hills where I would otherwise be completely in the way. A small problem is that the white-lining also features a 'rumble strip' that is intended to warn drivers who may be dozing off. This frequently snags the

offside wheel of the trailer, causing it to drag and crab, and whenever the road is clear I use the carriageway itself. The trailer otherwise is fine, it tracks nicely and my concerns as to the possibility of overloading appear unfounded.

Road Trains that tow three trailers and may be 34 metres in length are not to be lightly dismissed as hazards. Those especially that carry shipping containers displace a fair bit of air as they go by and balance can be a difficulty. Road Trains approaching from ahead and hurtling downhill set up a wall of air that stalls the bike momentarily, at low speeds. Whenever the drivers of these have clear road ahead they invariably pull well to the right as they pass by, which is considerate and appreciated.

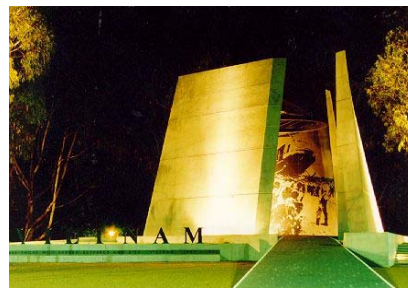
By 1100hrs I have taken three hours to cover 30Ks and the day's target is not looking especially good. The climbs are relentless and the speeds very low. Aches that had eased during the night are renewing and seem unlikely to ease this side of nightfall.

Bush is gradually yielding to farmland that is easier on the eye than a vista of gum trees and spinifex. Sheep-studded paddocks line the hillsides and the grazing occupants bear the signs of recent shearing. At 1130hrs another roadhouse comes into view and I stop there for a brew. I have the means of making my own at any time, but this would necessitate unloading the trailer and I am reluctant to lose that sort of time – welcome though it might be out of the saddle. The roadhouse stop also offers the chance to jot down a few notes, which upon review seem to be full of whinges.

Harry Foxley

ADAA WA RR

(Continues next edition)



US Riggers Associations



"I Will Be Sure Always"

"THE WORLD IS OUR DROPZONE"

ASSOCIATION OF QUARTERMASTERS



RED HAT CHAPTER

"I WILL BE SURE ALWAYS"

The Red Hat Chapter.

For the information of new readers, **The Red Hat Chapter of the US Army Association of Quartermasters (RHC)** is the official US Army equivalent to our own **Air Dispatch Association Australia (ADAA)**. Their President is retired 1SG Delma Weitman. Our two Associations are formally affiliated.

US Rigger Website.

ADAA computer nuts should pull up the RHC web site at:

www.redhatchapter.com

and sign the guest book. It's a great site, full of Rigger information and photos that is especially nostalgic for those ADs who are qualified as US Riggers or have served with the Yank Riggers somewhere/sometime (especially SVN).

Retired Redhat Riggers.

This group, under the leadership of retired CW4 Roy L Warren is another assembly of a hundred or so ex-Riggers who get together for a reunion every two years. Their website is at: <http://rrrnc.tripod.com>.

ADAA Website.

US Rigger computer nuts should pull up the ADAA web site at:

www.australiandiggers.com/users/adaa

to learn about the rigger fraternity in Oz. Like you, our history also goes back to WW1.

That's all folks.

Clear Skies and Gentle breezes.

AIRBORNE!!

Les Power.

US Rigger Liaison Officer

For Information on RHC/RRA

Please address any questions or comments to our Red Hat Liaison Officer:

Les Power

5 Ireland Court
CASHMERE QLD 4500

Ph: 07 3264 5188

Fax: 07 3264 5188

Email: lespower@optusnet.com.au



*The world is a little poorer,
A "soldier" died today.
"Lest we forget"*

Regretfully we have heard of the loss of, not one but three of our Soldiers passing away recently.

Richard Willing passed on to the Big Drop Zone on 8th August 2007.

Dick's funeral service was held at St Georges Anglican Church, Walkers Drive, Maleny in Queensland at 10am on Monday 13th August 2007. The ADAA was represented by some of our Qld members.

Ben Bradbrook OBE (1925-2007)

Colonel Bradbrook, the first CO of 1AASO in Australia, died peacefully at his home in Ledbury in Herefordshire, UK, on Tuesday 14 August 2007 aged 82. He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 55 years, his four children and seven grandchildren. Ben's life was one of high achievement and adventure. He was an excellent commander of airborne

troops and his knowledge of air support procedures, both from a staff and operational perspective, was convincingly demonstrated in his exchange appointment as the first CO of 1 AASO in Australia. For those who knew Ben as a friend he will be sadly missed.

The ADAA was represented at Ben's funeral by our esteemed friend in UK, Ron McCaffery

Christopher Lake Gowing (The Quiet Larrikin) hung up his webbing on Saturday 11th August, 2007 at his home in the North Canberra suburb of Ngunnawal.

At 12 Noon on Thursday 16th August, I attended the service with Tony Dowd, and in Tony's words, "it was a splendid service."

In my words, "I didn't feel so much as sadness, but pride for having known and served with the Man."

Following is a short piece written by Tony:

A FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CHRISTOPHER LAKE GOWING

On the 16th of Aug along with Denis McCann, I was privileged to attend the celebration of the late Chris Gowing's life.

I have attended many funerals both within and outside the service. The celebration of Chris's life must be remembered as the most well conducted & moving that I have ever attended, which proves the measure of the man Chris was. The celebration was attended by his family, service mates, and his many friends from far and wide.

Chris was well known through out his Military Service with his beloved 1RAR, and his latter service years in RAASC/RASC.

I first met Chris soon after he had returned from his Malaya Service. (I was with 4RAR Reinforcement battalion). I met him again some years later when we had both transferred to RAASC.

Again we lost contact as we went our separate ways within the Service. I had not seen Chris again till ANZAC day this year in Sydney where we marched together. When Chris greeted you after not seeing each other for some time you were always greeted with a firm

handshake, and he would always say "Geez it's good to see you again". You could tell by his handshake and the look in his eyes that it was said with sincerity.

There were many tributes read out in recognition of his love to his Wife, Jan and Son, Shaun, recognition to his ex-service mates and of many family friends.

I must here make mention of the wonderful tribute paid to Chris by his long time best mate and Celebrant Matt Burke, OAM. Matt had just recently qualified as a Civil Celebrant and the first task he was to perform was the service for Chris. Matt did a magnificent job of the task at hand under very emotional circumstances. Chris would have been very proud of you Mate.

Among the many tributes paid to Chris was by our own John (JL) Liston, which was read out by the Celebrant Matt Burke. Thank you and well done JL you did yourself & Chris proud.

I and Denis McCann were honoured to represent the Association, and Denis presented a flowering pot of orchids to Jan and Shaun as a lasting memento of The Air Dispatch Assoc. (of which I might add they were both very pleased with and it was going to remain out side for all those attending Chris's wake to see).

In closing, we all bid farewell to a Husband, a Father, a Soldier, and a "Bloody Good Bloke". VALE DEAR FRIEND.

(By the way don't be late for God's Parade and say "Giddy" to Kell (Alan Kelly), Wings (Frank Ingle), KOK (Kenny King), Bows (Freddy Bowtell), Harve (Ray Harvey) and all our mates there with you. I will make special mention of you at our next ANZAC DAY, my Friend.

Tony Dowd

Notice

Editors Note:

The Newsletter Editor would appreciate input/feedback from members on Sick Reports or the Passing of members so that this information can be forwarded on via this Newsletter. Vale Notices can also be sent to the Committee at any time.

*Please submit Articles/Items
For publication in the 4/07
"Clipped Wings" Newsletter
by*

Thursday 6th December 2007

Email Address:
denis_mccann@yahoo.com.au

Lost Contact

Keep an eye out for the sleepers of the AD fraternity. We are slowly losing ground. I did catch up with Dave Smock recently. That's one!!

Ed

Merchandise

The Association carries a supply of AD paraphernalia

Lapel Badge - AD Small
Lapel Badge - ADAA
Lapel Badge - Para
Plaque - AD
Plaque - Para
Bumper Stickers
Thermal Coffee Mugs
Belt Buckles
Caps - Black
Caps - Dull Cherry
Ties
Shirts - Maroon
Shirts - Chambray

The order form is enclosed

Good News??

Wednesday 13 June 2007

IMPROVED TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR VETERANS

A new dedicated, nationwide telephone service, the Veterans Service Centre, has been introduced to handle the 1.3 million calls received annually by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Bruce Billson, said the Veterans Service Centre began operations in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia on 31 May and will go nationwide later this year.

"The Veterans Service Centre will deliver a comprehensive and accurate telephone service to veterans and those who assist them," Mr Billson said. "It will bring together into a coordinated network the various telephone support services currently provided for veterans in each of the states."

"The service centre will be staffed by officers specially trained in veteran benefits and services and able to assist callers with most enquiries.

"A new online system will enable staff to record and track veterans' enquiries as well as any follow-up action. This means clients will not have to repeat their whole story each time they speak with my Department, saving time and providing veterans with an improved service.

"Veterans will be assured of a consistent and high quality service no matter where they are calling from."

Mr Billson said the new Veterans Service Centre represented the government's response to the changing needs of veterans.

"Mobility and transport difficulties leave elderly veterans heavily dependent on the telephone," he said. "At the same time, the telephone is now one of the most popular forms of contact for younger veterans."

Mr Billson said that over time contact with the Department of Veterans' Affairs would be simplified by consolidating the suite of telephone numbers used throughout Australia. This will be a gradual process and no veterans will be required to change their routines. They can continue to use existing numbers and their calls will be automatically switched to the Veterans Service Centre.

Media inquiries: Cameron Hill 0408 239 521

Blazer/Shirt Monogram



The monogram produced by Blue Badger has become part of the AD identity kit. The contractor will modify the monogram in the following manner, for example:

1. Instead of **176** or **RAASC** you can have the **PI/Sqn** or **Corps** of your choice.
2. The **VIETNAM** Scroll can be replaced by the locality of your choice e.g.,
3. **MALAYA/BORNEO/EAST TIMOR.**

Conditions: Money up front
Mail costs up front

Cost: Shirts \$ 11.50
Blazer \$ 28.00

(Allow 4 weeks for delivery)
(includes removal and replacement of pocket).
(These prices may change due to rising production costs over time)

Ring Blue Badger: 02 4996 4492
or Fax on: 02 4996 4492

E-tags and the Cashless Sydney Harbour Tunnel

An inquiry was made to the TPI Association regarding the change to cashless toll for the Sydney Harbour Tunnel. Veterans who are entitled to travel across the Sydney Harbour Bridge or through the Tunnel free of charge as a driver or passenger in a vehicle, may obtain an E-Tag free of charge. Also if an eligible veteran has already paid the tag deposit of \$40, he or she should contact E-Toll on 131 865 and request a refund.

Trips made across the Sydney Harbour Bridge or Tunnel will not be charged on the E-Tag, however, any other toll roads travelled will be charged.

The tag holder will be required to maintain a positive balance in the E-Tag Account.

Any Veteran who holds a special pass may continue to use it but must use the Bridge and show the special pass at a cash booth. A lot easier and faster to get through with the E-Tag.

The Contacts Page

US Rigger Liaison Officer
Les Power
 Email: lespower@optusnet.com.au
 5 Ireland Ct
 Cashmere QLD 4500.
 Ph: (07)3264 5188

NSW/ACT State Representative
 Bob Hutton JP
 35 Leitch Avenue
 LONDONDERRY NSW 2753
 Ph: 02 4572 5085

Queensland State Representative
 Barry Gannon (President)
 9 Deputor St
 ROCHEDALE STH QLD 4123
 Ph: 07 3341 1796
 Fax: 07 3841 3799

Vic/Tas State Representative
 Graham "Pappy" Papworth
 Unit 2/4 Airlie Rd
 MONTMORENCY VIC 3094
 Ph: 03 9435 1084
 Mob: 0434 231 124

Honorary Barrister at Law
 Mr. Allun Hill
Honorary Solicitor Mr. Jim Isabella
Honorary Auditor Mr. Bill Hardman
 Contact with any of these Honorary members
 should be made through the Secretary, Nev
 Varley.

Sth Australia State Representative
 Frank Zuppar
 PO Box 1450
 ALDINGA BEACH SA 5173
 Ph: 08 8556 5565

Western Australia State Representative
 Dave Armstrong
 2 Medford Crt
 WOODVALE WA 6026
 Ph: 08 9409 1252

Northern Territory Representative
 Nicko Nicolai
 GPO Box 1656
 DARWIN NT 0801
 Ph: 0407 942 904

Biscuit Bomber Liaison Officer
Les Power.
 Email: lespower@optusnet.com.au
 5 Ireland Ct
 Cashmere QLD 4500.
 Ph: (07)3264 5188

Committee Member ADAA
 Tony Dowd (Golf Capt.)
 15 Lincoln Grove
 HARRINGTON PARK 2567
 Ph 0246482769
 Mobile: 0417 432 838

NSW Mid Nth Coast
 Dennis Dray
 153 Marsden St
 SHORTLAND NSW 2307
 Ph/Fax: 02 4951 5406
 Mobile: 0400 318 728

Merchandise Officer
 Paul Mulvay
 Site 2, Seawinds Villiage
 ANNA BAY NSW 2316
 Ph: 02 4982 1436
 Mobile 0429 615 349
 Orders for Merchandise are placed
 through the Treasurer

Pension/Welfare Officers & Advocates

We have seven members who have experience in the field of Pensions and welfare who have indicated their willingness to assist members requiring their skills, the current list of ADAA Advocates, Pensions/Welfare Officers is:

<p><u>New South Wales</u> DENIS MCCANN JP (Cromer) (Pensions/Welfare officer) Ph: 02 9971 8314</p>	<p><u>New South Wales</u> COLIN DOUST (Penrith) (Accredited Case Officer DVA) Ph: 02 4735 4114</p>	<p><u>Victoria</u> GRAHAM "Pappy" PAPWORTH (Melb) (ADAA Welfare officer) Ph: 03 9435 1084</p>
<p><u>New South Wales</u> BRIAN TOBIN (Bathurst) (RSL Welfare Officer) Ph: 02 6337 3559</p>	<p><i>Notice</i> <i>Please submit Articles/Items</i> <i>For publication in the 3/06</i> <i>"Clipped Wings" Newsletter</i> <i>by</i> <i>Thursday 6th September 2007</i> Email Address denis_mccann@yahoo.com.au</p>	<p><u>Queensland</u> DAVID SMOCK (Brisbane) (Pensions Officer) Ph: 07 3821 3999 Fax: 07 3821 2450</p>
<p><u>New South Wales</u> STEVE PEMBERTON (Taree) (Accredited Case Officer DVA) Ph: 02 6553 5072</p>		<p><u>Queensland</u> MICHAEL CROKER (Toowoomba) (RSL Welfare officer) Ph: 07 4638 1727</p>

We are still in need of suitably qualified members in all States who can assist in broadening this network; Please contact The Secretary ADAA if you can assist us in this worthwhile endeavour.

Par Oneri de Caelo

Par = Equal Oneri = Task de = From Caelo = Heaven or Sky

(Equal to the Task from the Sky)