



South Australian Division

Presidents Report May 2017

Since my last report our Division supported RAAF Edinburgh at the annual Birthday of the RAAF ceremony which was held at our RAAF Memorial (formally known as the “Airport Plaques”) located at Torrens Parade Ground. Most members would recall the original location of the plaques was at a hard to access site at Adelaide Airport. Relocation of those plaques became necessary due to improvements at the airport. State Council took the opportunity to have the plaques relocated to Torrens Parade Ground and we received a small grant from The Airport Authority and a grant from DVA to assist in the move. The positive outcome of the relocation included ample parking ease of access and the use of the Combined Mess for post ceremony refreshments. The Memorial is also used on two other occasions each year, early June for the Bomber Command/Memorial Plaques ceremony and mid-September for the Battle of Britain remembrance. Both functions are open to all and I encourage Association members to support each one by attending. To that end, a general invitation is extended to all Branch members. please put the following dates in your diary: 31 March RAAF Birthday. nearest Sunday to the 1st June each year – Bomber Command/Air Force Plaques and nearest Sunday to 15 September – Battle of Britain.

I am pleased to acknowledge the support given by Base management RAAF Edinburgh for our regular ceremonies and look forward to working in harmony for future ceremonial occasions. In recent times The RAAF and RAAF Association have jointly hosted the birthday of the RAAF and more recently the Bomber Command/Air Force Plaques ceremony and we are preparing for the observation of the Battle of Britain Remembrance Day in September.

As you know most ESO's are experiencing difficulties in recruiting members and in some cases, are nearing extinction. A group not associated with the RAAFA currently enjoying strong membership is the “Descendants of Boer War Association” This group is made up of relatives and friends of the Boer War members and has a strong following in South Australia as well as interstate. I believe we could adopt a similar group to build our number. I am aware of a small number of descendants who are already members of branches and in some cases, are filling appointments within these Squadrons/Branches. The result of their input ensures the continued existence of groups and their history. We should all pause, look around, and identify friends and or relatives who might be interested and tell them that not having a RAAF history other than by family or friends does not debar them from becoming members. just a thought!

Until our next News, “Stand easy”

Dave