



## South Australian Division

### President's Report to State Council 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2020.

**Meetings and Functions.** During the last five weeks a few planned meetings have been postponed either from viral considerations or from family members' hospitalization. 18<sup>th</sup> of June, AFA Board videoconference; 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, Constitution subcommittee "final" draft amendments; 26<sup>th</sup> of June, meeting with ESO reps re memorial plaque to Robert Bungey DFC; Mitcham Committee; Delivery of long membership certificates; 29<sup>th</sup>, Mitcham clubrooms audit; 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, ESO Consortium meeting re Repat Veterans' Wellbeing Centre (VWC); 6<sup>th</sup> of July, receipt of Report from Brisban of Employment irregularities, and of enigmatic email from Dave Helman; 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of July, AAT appearance for ex-WRAAF claim; 9<sup>th</sup> of July, Legacy meeting; 13<sup>th</sup>, Urgent meeting of Executive and of Finance Subcommittee (FSC) re Brisban report and Dave's offer to resign; 15<sup>th</sup>, AF2021 meeting after twice postponed, and Mess luncheon, followed by FSC discussion with Lee Bowes; 16<sup>th</sup>, Zoom meeting with SA Health reps and others re VWC; 17<sup>th</sup> of July, ESO meeting re National Consultation Framework.

**AFA Board.** Among matters discussed were: concern that DVA might provide professional advocates, as implied in recommendations by the PC and Cornall reports (I do not share that concern); difficulty in having health problems of former firefighters accepted; a concept of RAAF(A) "Alumni" that seemed curious; JBSG paper on Constitutional alignment, and praise for Greg Weller's contribution. NSW Division was unrepresented, without apology.

**The Constitutional** subcommittee is reasonably satisfied with its latest draft, sent as a separate attachment. Members may have some ongoing reservations, which should be sent to me, please, so that the Council agrees with what will be put to the AGM.

A memorial plaque to **Robert Bungey DFC** may be funded and prepared by the Holdfast Bay Council for next year. This follows a proposal by Bill Denny, supported by Richard Bungey, survivor of the tragic event that ended his father's life. SA RSL has asked that RAAFA SA President and P&G RSL President, Frank Harrison become spokesmen (with Bill and Roger). An interesting consideration is whether to rank him as Squadron Leader or his worn rank of Wing Commander, as CO of 452 Squadron.

My **AAT** appearance was an out-of-depth experience as an unaccredited advocate v lawyers and the MRC Commission. Although unlikely to succeed under DRCA 1988, the issues are that an injury in 1957 (regrettably unreported



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at the time) leading to hospitalization and loss of work during ADF service is compensable under DRCA only if compensable under the Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act 1930, and only if claimed within 6 months of the accident. I may refer the anomaly to the Secretary DVA as it does not seem to be "veteran-centric"!

**The "Finance Subcommittee report on the Brisbane analysis"**, by Arthur Jeeves and John Stapleton, of our responsibilities as an employer, have been sent to you all. It has reminded us in a timely manner that any irregularities must be remedied. They will be. John will formulate appropriate motions for us as we meet as a Council. The executive discussed the problem on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A regrettable subsequent matter has been Secretary Dave's offer to resign. It appears that he may have been unaware of the audit. Neither he, nor Warwick Raymont, nor Bill Chappell, as members of the Finance subcommittee, had seen the documents before they were sent to me. John, Warwick and I met Lee Bowes after the mess lunch (v.i.) to discuss issues with respect to Annette's work with the Mess Committee.

The first **Combined Mess luncheon**, after a COVID-19 imposed interval, was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. We had an excellent address by former RAN member Louise (?) She is an executive member of the Professional Photographers Institute of Australia. It was her task in 2015 to find and photograph as many SA WW2 surviving veterans as possible. Some thousands of portraits are now the property of the AWM Canberra, and available on a web site.

Before the luncheon we had a well-attended meeting in the mess (after teleconferences in April and May) of the interested parties forming the **AF 2021 committee**. Greg will report in detail. However, there was dismay that the Moonta committee had been unsuccessful in obtaining a DVA grant to have a street sculpture created of Sir Richard Williams. Steve Larkins demonstrated the VWM which will become a valuable adjunct.

The meeting to discuss the Repat and VWC was held without me. I shall report on its outcome on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I shall also report on matters discussed at the War Widows' Guild on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>. The ESO consortium will consider the DVA National Consultation Framework, for example the Terms of Reference for the Ex-Services Organisations Round Table (ESORT), and for the Operational Working Group (OWG).

Robert Black, President SA Division, RAAF Association.