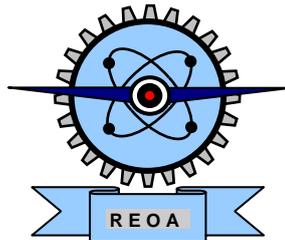


Volume 5, Issue 1**Newsletter Date: December 2012****RAAF ENGINEER OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (REOA)**

**Seasons
Greetings**



Welcome to our Christmas 2012 RAAF Engineer Officers' Association (REOA) Newsletter.

On behalf of the committee members:

We wish you the members, your family, friends and loved ones a very Merry Christmas 2012 and a healthy, happy and fulfilling 2013.

Another year is almost behind us and after some six years of being the Chairman of the REOA, following the demise of Tom Douglas, I have decided it is time to step down and hand over to a new Chairperson.

Like 2011, we have maintained our financial position, increased our membership quite significantly with a further number of current serving Officers having joined us.

Our midyear and end of year luncheons at the Batman's Hill on Collins Hotel were well attended and well received with some 42 attending the end of year function. The visit to the Phillip Island Vietnam Veterans Museum on Wednesday 19 September was well patronised and was well integrated with a fantastic lunch at the Bedrock Family Restaurant owned by the family of Jack Pluck, one of our committee members.

Kevin Leslie, our founding father, once again made his way down from his "nest" up north to attend our end of year luncheon-great to catch up with him once again. Kevin has also kindly provided an article on his wonderful surrounds up north on page 12.

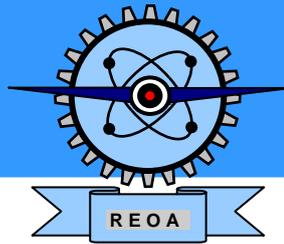
At the last committee meeting held at William Angliss on 3 December, the committee endorsed the appointment as our new Chairman of the only nomination being Rick Toholka.

Rick will be known to many of you and has been an active member of the REOA and Committee member for many years and will bring a dedicated and professional energetic approach to the office.

I wish Rick the very best in his new role and he has my full support and the support of the Committee.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2013 in good health.

SQNLDR Ron Ledingham
Chairperson



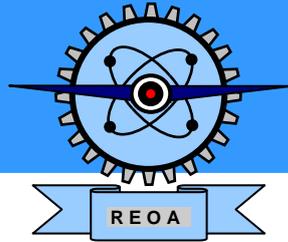
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New members always welcome.





REOA Mid Year Luncheon at Batman's Hill on Collins Hotel Wednesday 13 June 2012

Once again, as has been our custom for a number of years now, the midyear luncheon was held at the Batman's Hill on Collins Hotel and was very well patronised which was very satisfying for the Committee members.

Our guest presenter was Paul Pafumi from the national Engineering department of Australia Post and a past work colleague of Ron Ledingham. Paul joined Australia Post as an apprentice technician and over the years has risen to now head up an engineering project team engaged in the introduction of new mails and parcels technology as well as developing enhancements to existing equipment. .

Paul gave an interesting overview of the current mails and parcels network technology and equipment and how items are processed through the Australia Post systems. Paul's presentation was enthusiastically received and generated many questions and discussion. .

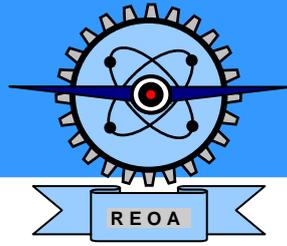
Below is a collection of photographs from the function.



Our guest presenter Paul Pafumi of Australia Post with Ron Gretton and Brian Fuller

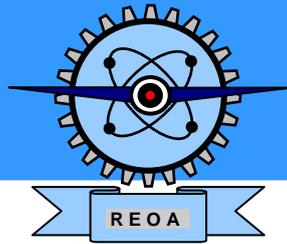


Ron Gretton and Laurie Baldwin in conversation.



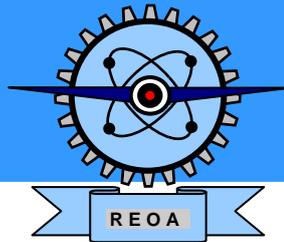
A merry bunch of members enjoying the company and pre luncheon drinks at the front bar.





Another group of pictures demonstrating the success of the luncheon formats which allow for an opportunity for members to mix and mingle to share past stories and catch up with good friends and past work colleagues.





Successful Visit to the Vietnam Veteran's Museum Phillip Island Wednesday 19 September 2012

Some 22 REOA members and Friends of the REOA attended a very successful day trip to the Vietnam Veteran's Museum at Phillip Island. Two mini buses were made available by the Ringwood RSL at nil cost other than petrol consumed on the day and Ron Ledingham and John Clarkson provided back up private transport on the day.

Val Robinson and John Clarkson both volunteered as drivers for the day which was greatly appreciated. One bus was eventually all that was required and Val, being our volunteer driver led the convey for the day-well done and many thanks for doing a great job.

On a fine and very pleasant morning, one bus made a pick up for members from the Ringwood RSL followed by another pickup from the Glen Waverly RSL. All up one mini bus and the two private vehicles formed a convey and took the pleasant trip to Phillip Island to undertake a conducted tour of the Vietnam Veterans Museum.

The tour started with a heart starter coffee and nibbles in the local cafeteria immediately followed by an overview of the museum followed by a very detailed, escorted tour of the museum and its many assorted displays and artifacts many of which are presented in the photos below.

A video presentation was also arranged based on the events in Vietnam at the time.

The entire video and tour really went well with the REOA tour as many of the members had served in Vietnam and/or were serving in SEAsia during this period of time.

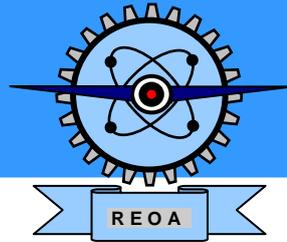
At the end of the tour a presentation of an REOA hat, shirt and badge was made to our tour guide which all but brought a tear to his eye as he could see the real genuine interest and appreciation by the REOA group members.

Following the tour a short convey car trip was made to the Bedrock Family Restaurant run by members of the family of Jack Pluck, a very convenient location. The restaurant provided a very high standard of meal and drinks and the service and friendly overall ambience was greatly appreciated by all. In appreciation of the meal and service, Committee member Bob Bartram spontaneously provided a group appreciation and round of donations in recognition of the wonderful service and meal.

Overall a highly successful outing for members and friends. As a follow up the REOA provided and presented a certificate of appreciation from the REOA to both the Vietnam Veterans Museum and the Bedrock Family Restaurant, both were very well received.



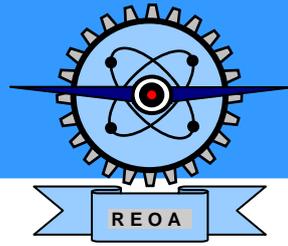
Any one for tea and coffee ? Members of the REOA tour waiting for some light refreshments in the on site local cafeteria before commencing the conducted tour.

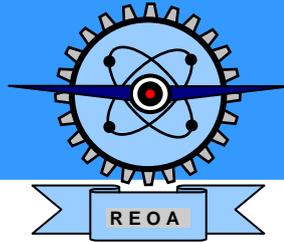


One of the many displays, an Iroquois helicopter which was actually used in Vietnam.



Some interested observers, Richard Orr, Bob Bartram and John Clarkson.

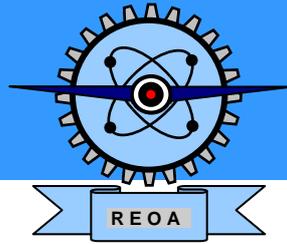




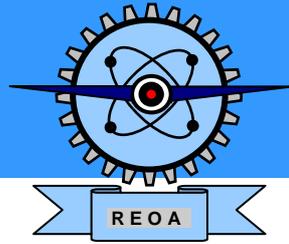
Some interesting displays of assorted military and local 'hardware" from the Vietnam war period.



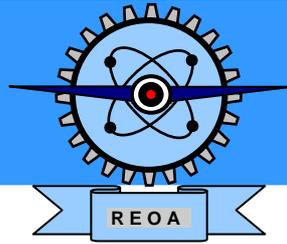
Noel Hadfield no doubt reminiscing on the past and enjoying the very interesting tour.



Members enjoying the companionship, meal and drinks at the Bedrock Family Restaurant.



Members enjoying the meal and camaraderie at the Bedrock Family Restaurant.



Life at the Central Coast of New South Wales

By: Kevin Leslie

Since our move from Melbourne to the Central Coast of NSW life has become much more relaxed in all manner of ways. No more suits, ties, or dressing up.

We have settled in very well, made easier by moving around and making friends from our RAAF experiences. This relocation has given both Helen and I a new lease on life and we are very happy.

We have found that life here in The Entrance North, just over the bridge from The Entrance, which is a very popular holiday destination suits us very well. The Wyong Council is very active in promoting entertainment in parks and by the water and there is much to keep us busy (see photo attached)

Our neighbours are around our age, very friendly and welcoming to “Mexicans” from down south. We now know where all the best restaurants are, how to get in touch with the best tradesmen, and when they say “come in for a drink” that means you will be there for a long time with much local gossip to learn about.

The clubs up here are a great way to get involved, whether it is for dining or for entertainment, membership is less than \$10 per year and the facilities are top class. The RSL club holds services on special days which I have attended followed by a lunch attended by mainly ex Army personnel (see photograph of Cenotaph at The Entrance)

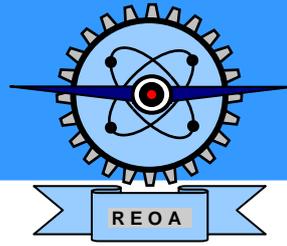
Our golf club, is the Shelley Beach Golf Club which is next to the beach and it is not unusual to see the whales passing on their migration north or south, and there are always surfers out catching the waves. It is in a fabulous position (see photograph attached)

One of the reasons we came up here is to be closer to the family of our youngest son who lives in Cammeray, which is just one and a half hours drive away. The 3 grandchildren are growing up very fast and being able to go to Grandparents Day at their school and spend time with them up here during school holidays is exhausting, but most enjoyable.

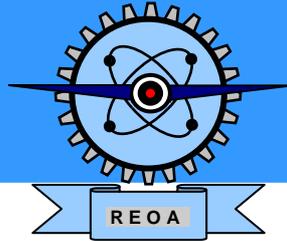
Another advantage is we are less than 2 hours drive from the Hunter Valley which we take advantage of on many occasions for celebrations, or just to restock.

Best wishes and regards to all REOA members and families for the Christmas season.

Kevin Leslie



What a view-there is a rumour future REOA meetings and functions are to be held here.



Joke Junk

A Police STOP at 2 AM

An elderly man is stopped by the police around 2 a.m. and is asked where he is going at this time of night.

The man replies, "I am on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."

The officer then asks, "Really?"

Who is giving that lecture at this time of night?"

The man replies, "That would be my wife."

JUST IMAGINE !!

If you had bought \$1,000.00 of QANTAS shares one year ago, you would have \$49.00 today !!

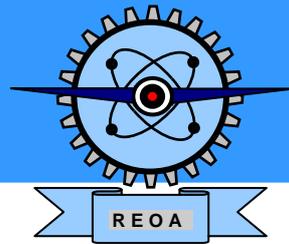
If you bought \$1,000.00 AIG shares one year ago, you would have \$33.00 today !!

If you bought \$1,000.00 worth of Lehman Brothers shares one year ago, you would have \$0.00 today !!

BUT.... if you purchased \$1,000.00 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then returned the aluminum cans for recycling....

YOU WOULD HAVE RECEIVED \$214.00 !!!

**BASED ON THE ABOVE, THE BEST CURRENT INVESTMENT PLAN IS TO
DRINK HEAVILY AND RECYCLE !!**



AND, DID YOU KNOW ??

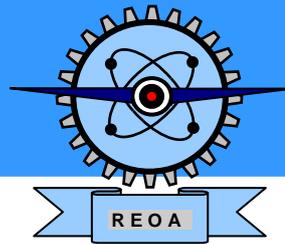
A recent study found that the average Aussie walks 900 MILES A YEAR !!!

Another study found that Aussies drink, on average, 22 GALLONS OF ALCOHOL A YEAR !!!

THAT MEANS THAT, ON AVERAGE, AUSSIES GET 41 MILES TO THE GALLON !!!

MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE AN AUSSIE, DOESN'T IT ??





End of Year Luncheon at Batman's Hill on Collins Thursday 8 November 2012

Well, what can I say, another enjoyable end of year function with our "dancing minstrels" providing some light hearted entertainment with our own Peter Jupp, who MC'ed the occasion, leading the group with guitar and lead vocals. Our own John Clarkson and Gary Jarvis provided an interesting overview of the bi-annual Air Shows Down Under (Avalon Airshow). John and Gary, along with several other REOA members work or have worked in the past on this now regular and well attended airshow.

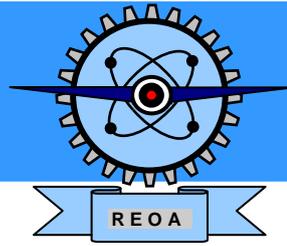
The management of the Batman's Hill on Collins also provided some Christmas fair on the tables to give it that end of year Christmassy overtone which was well received by those attending; a theme we intend to include more of and expand on if members find this suitable.

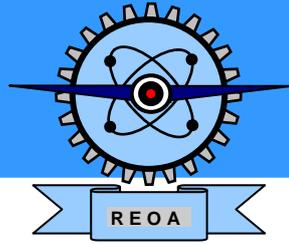
Kevin Leslie, our founding father who now has nestled very comfortably up north (refer article on page 12), also made it down once again as did "The Canberra Kid" Geoff Schmitt and they both took the opportunity to catch up with old friends and enjoy their company.

Overall another well received end of year luncheon which was well patronised by members. We look forward to continuing this tradition.

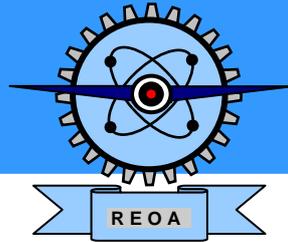


Our merry minstrels Rick Toholka and Laurie Lindsay led by Peter Jupp on guitar





Members enjoying the Christmas theme and the camaraderie.



REOA PROGRAMMED EVENTS 2013

Wednesday 12 June 2013: Mid Year Luncheon

To be held at the Batman's Hill on Collins Hotel our traditional REOA "home". Guest speaker and topic of interest to be determined

Mid September 2013: Field Visit-venue to be determined

Following the very successful field visit to the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island in 2012, a field visit will be arranged along similar lines to a venue/event yet to be determined.

Thursday 7 November 2013: End of Year Luncheon

To be held at the Batman's Hill on Collins Hotel incorporating a Christmas theme. Guest speaker and topic of interest to be determined.

We Will Remember

To our Airmen and Airwomen

John Magee Jr., 'High Flight'

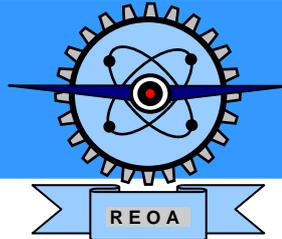
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue

I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace where never lark, or ever eagle flew

And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod the high untrespassed sanctity of space,

- Put out my hand, and touched the face of God





REOA Caps and Lapel Badges for sale

We have stock of:

REOA badged peak caps @\$15 each.

REOA badged sports shirts-one size @ \$25 each.

Metal single pin lapel badges @\$10 each.

Contact:

Ron Ledingham Mobile: 0409 023 040; E-mail: rledingh@bigpond.net.au

We're on the Web:

<http://www.reoa.org.au/>

We are also on Face Book now.

Point of Contact (POC)

Noel Hadfield
Wing Commander (Ret)
RAAF Engineer Officers' Association
E-mail: nhadfield@optusnet.com.au

Telephone: (03) 9511 7775

Editor

Any feedback/ comments and/or material for
inclusion in the following editions of the REOA
Newsletter contact Ron Ledingham on:
rledingh@bigpond.net.au phone 03 97799291.

Mobile: 0409 023 040