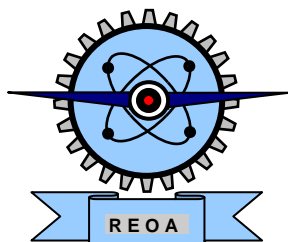


Volume 5, Issue 1

Newsletter Date: December 2011

RAAF ENGINEER OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (REOA)


**Seasons
Greetings**



Welcome to our Christmas 2011 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 2011 and a healthy, happy and fulfilling 2012.

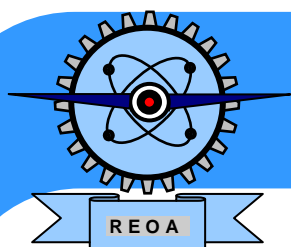
Here we are once again with another year behind us and we are all one year older. Again we have maintained our financial position, increased our membership quite significantly, with a number of current serving Officers having joined us, and held three very well attended and well received functions. The family day visit to the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday 25 September was well patronised and surprised many who had not before visited the Shrine which is recognised as one of Melbourne's prized tourist attractions. Our mid year and end of year lunches at the Batman's Hill on Collins hotel were once again well patronised. Col Bradford, who is known to many of our members, presented at our end of year luncheon, a very interesting talk with a video and handout on the technical training in the services at Wagga which was very well received. Col has now also become a member of our group.

Kevin Leslie, our founding father, also made his way down from his "nest" up north to attend our end of year luncheon-great to catch up with him once again.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2012 in good health. Presented on page 11 are the next year's planned activities along with a new proposal to consider.

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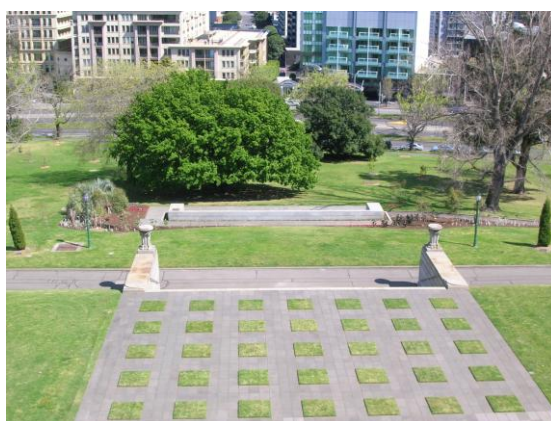
REOA Family Day Visit to Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance Sunday 25 September 2011

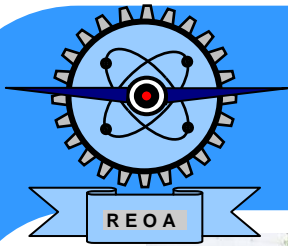
On a fine Sunday morning some 27 members and partners/family attended a visit to the very popular Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. Following a video on the history of the Shrine the visitors were broken into three groups who were escorted by volunteers from the Shrine who conducted informative tours of the Shrine displays and features.

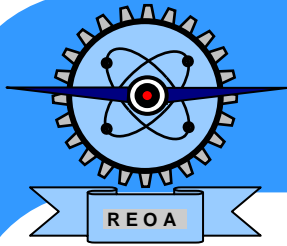
At the completion of the very informative tours we were then served with a catered lunch by Wanda from Presidential Catering who looked after us last year for our family day visit to the RAAF Museum at Point Cook.

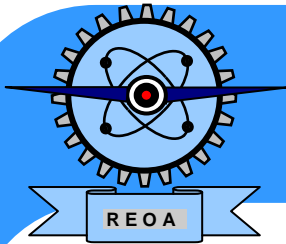
Overall positive feedback was received re the visit and all appeared to have enjoyed the tour as well as many expressed surprise at just how much there was to see and appreciate as many had not visited the Shrine before.

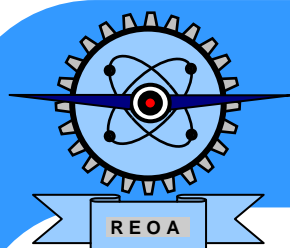
Below is a collection of photographs from the visit.











DVA HEALTH WEEK DAY AT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (RAAFA)

By: Richard Orr

On Tuesday 25th October 2011, the Air Force Association (RAAFA) staged a DVA sponsored Health Day provisioned under a DVA grant part of the broader DVA sponsored national health week. The REOA became part of this activity by jointly sponsoring and supporting the activity and widely advertising the event under our REOA distribution list (DL).

The event was held at the Air Force Association HQ

24-36 Camberwell Road

East Hawthorn

Melbourne

Despite the attendance numbers being a bit lower than we would have liked, the event was very informative and very well received by those who attended. Some 30 people attended from a broad background.

The event was opened on behalf of the President of the RAAFA Vic by Nick Leray-Meyer and RAAFA board member Alan White MC'ed the function supported by Gordon Caley.

Topics covered were:

- Choose Health-Be Active
- Put Your Mind at Ease
- Diet and Nutrition
- Men as Carers

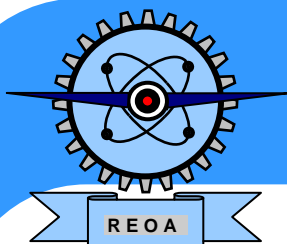
A packaged show bag of information along with a very informative book "Taking Care of Yourself and Your Family" were provided free to attendees.

A representative of the Veteran and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) also presented and has offered to provide a similar presentation to the REOA on request. The REOA Committee will investigate this option for one off our programmed events for 2012.

Along with details of suitable exercise programmes and dietary information a free lunch was provide at the end of the workshop.

A very informative and well organised health work shop with appreciation to the Department of Veterans' Affairs and RAAFA for arranging and sponsoring this important workshop activity. A special appreciation to for all of the background work in arranging this workshop by Alan White and Gordon Caley of RAAFA.

Richard



REOA Members' Annual End of Year Lunch 3rd November 2011.

Once again we held our annual lunch on Oaks Day or Ladies Day in Melbourne Thursday 3rd November.

We held the event in the rooms of the Batman's Hill on Collins which is where we conduct the regular Committee meetings. The facility is centrally placed being opposite the new look Spencer street railway station and is well serviced with transport links, amenities and services. The Committee seriously considered holding our luncheon at another venue but due to popular demand and favourable feedback from past events, we decided to stay with what we know and what works.

We had some 40 attendees and our guest speaker was Colin Bradford who is very well known to a number of our members. Col travelled down from Wagga in NSWs at his own expense where he is the Director of NATCOE National Aerospace Training Centre of Excellence which is a part of TAFE NSWs.

Col's presentation opened with a video of the technical training conducted at RAAF Base Wagga and he also provided an informative handout for all attendees.

Many of the attendees related to the training history at Wagga as they had themselves attended this facility in the early days of their RAAF careers. Col's presentation was very well received. He appreciated the opportunity to catch up with many colleagues from his RAAF days. We are also delighted that is now a valued member of the REOA-welcome Col.

Many thanks to Col Bradford.

A most welcome attendee was our "founding father" Kevin Leslie who had travelled down from his "warm nest" up north. Kevin looked as fit and as young as ever and obviously the warmer climes up north suit him well. Kevin shared with us that he was very pleased to see the group still very active and more than holding its own-we passed his annual audit-whew !

We hope to see more of Kevin in the coming years.

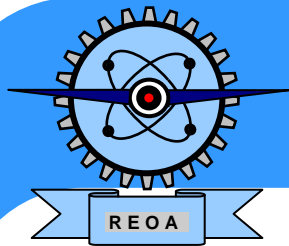
Also present were a number (5) of "Wombats"-refer photo on page 9.

We also had a number of first timers in John Haines and Ken Henderson and we hope to see more of them as well at future functions. We were also graced with two ladies-being Oaks Day or Ladies Day-in the form of Margaret Pollet and Chloe Watkins. Very pleasing to see that they both attended our mainly male dominated luncheon-more ladies please.

The committee also provided a few life videos on Tapps and other material re the ageing process and general quality of life material. If anyone would like a copy please contact Ron Ledingham on either rledingh@bigpond.net.au or phone 0409 0203 040.



Our MC for the day-Colin Bradford



Another hard day at the office !.



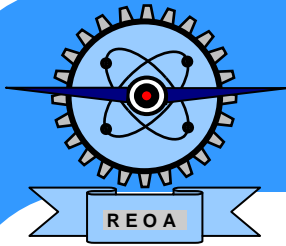
Our MC Colin Bradford (on the right) enjoying a discussion with our own Val Robinson



Our “founding father” Kevin Leslie (middle)



Nick LeRay-Meyer AM (right)-honorary engineer



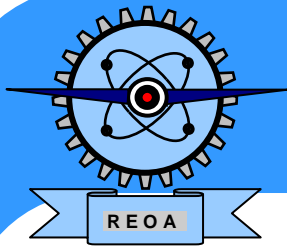
Members enjoying the companionship and pre meal drinks at the Batman's Hill on Collins.



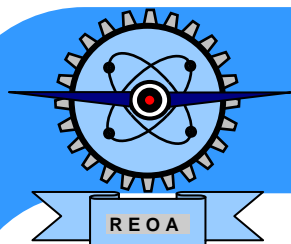
A happy table of REOA members enjoying the presentation and lunch.



The "Wombats" left to right: Russ Garraway, Geoff Schmidt, Col Bradford, Ron Gretton and Peter Cupitt



Members enjoying the meal and camaraderie

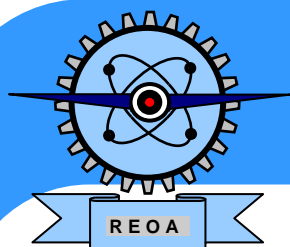


REOA 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **REOA bi-monthly Committee meeting** (members are also welcome to join us for lunch on these dates) at Batman's Hill on Collins-first Monday in the month of every second month commencing February 2012 unless we decide otherwise due to a conflict in dates/activities.
 - Monday 6 Feb 2012
 - Monday 2 April
 - Monday 4 June
 - Monday 6 Aug
 - Monday 1 Oct
 - Monday 3 Dec
- **Mid year lunch** 1200 Hrs Wed 13 June at Batman's Hill on Collins Melbourne
- **End of year lunch** at Batman's Hill on Collins 1200 hours Thursday 1 Nov.
- **Anzac Day**-same as past years but to be finalised.
- **Family day visit** and tour of the **Phillip Island Vietnam Museum**-Ron to investigate.
- Presentation on **health and well being by VVCS** to be investigated for one of our programmed events.

New Members

We especially welcome a number of new members including many currently serving RAAF Officers who are located throughout Australia but a number are located at Laverton.



REOA Membership-General Information Page

All,

1. **Renewal of Contact Details:** You would be aware that the REOA runs a communication e-mail service voluntarily run by Noel Hadfield.

Included in the data base of REOA membership contacts are a number of current RAAF serving members whose e-mail account is "@defence.com.au". Whilst you remain in the RAAF our e-mail communications will always find you. However, when you retire from the RAAF we have no easy way of knowing your private e-mail account details unless we are advised accordingly.

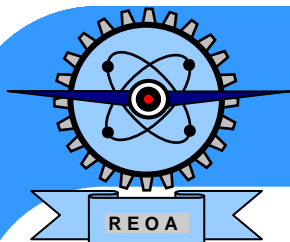
We are obviously keen to stay in touch with all of our membership as well as encouraging new and current serving RAAF members. If you have a change in your contact details could you please convey this to Noel or one of the current REOA membership and/or committee members so we do not lose touch with you. If you wish to be removed from the REOA data base, likewise we would appreciate if you could inform of this so we can arrange it for you.

2. **Reminder About Looking After Your Health.** (Repeat from earlier edition of the REOA Newsletter) The Department of Veterans' Affairs is also ready to help any ex-service member who has been diagnosed with cancer with the costs of medical treatment. The process of gaining DVA financial assistance is simply; you only need to establish Defence Service and have an oncologist provide a letter to DVA confirming the cancer. You do not need to establish any causal link between the cancer and Service to gain DVA acceptance. For more information contact either a member of the REOA committee or RAAFA (Victorian Division).

The Cancer Council Victoria', go to www.cancervic.org.au/FOBT or ring 13 11 20 for more information.) You owe it to yourself, your family and friends to stay in good health.

3. **Feedback/Suggestions.** The REOA Committee is always keen to hear from members with suggestions on how we should arrange our annual events and what form they should be as well as on contacts for potential new members.

Feel free to contact Noel Hadfield (contact details on page 13) or any of the committee members at any time on any matter you may wish to discuss regarding the REOA and how we can do it better.



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
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Mobile: 0409 023 040