



Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia InfoEmail June/July 2017

New Format?



I think it's fair to say that the InfoEmail concept is a great success. I've had many supportive comments, and only one member has asked to be removed from the distribution. We have recently expanded our distribution to include non-FAAA members, so it is reaching to an even broader community.

For technical reasons the formatting of those emails has been rudimentary, to say the least. This isn't a reflection of my computing skills: rather, it is a limitation of the members' database (through which the emails are sent), which does not allow the attachment of photographs, any font formatting or even shortened links.

This PDF file is an idea to get around these limitations. In it you'll find all the things I have not been able to do before. The disadvantage is that you must open it to read it, and not all readers may be keen to do that. Consider it to be a trial, then. If you like/hate the idea please let me know by responding to this email.

The Web Hyperlinks in your PDF file should be functional, but be patient as they take a little longer to work.

The Times They Are A Changin'



Minister Beazley, CAPT Andy Craig & CDFS
visit the Sikorsky assembly line in August 1987

The demise of our fixed wing capability in 1983 is seen, quite rightly, as a watershed moment in the FAA. Many consider events past that date to be recent history and it may come as a surprise to those who remember those times that the generation of aircraft purchased not long after are about to be retired. How old does that make you feel!

Yep, the Sikorsky Seahawk S-70-B and the little Aerospatiale AS350B are about to go to the big parking lot in the sky, making way for a new generation of aircraft in the Seahawk MR-60 Romeo and the Airbus EC-135.

COMFAA has mentioned there will be some sort of commemorative event, and we will keep you informed of that. Needless to say it is expected to be towards the end of 2017.

ASM(CT) Medals for Navy?

The Australian Service Medal (Counter Terrorism Clasp) is awarded to those who undertook at least 60 days of continuous service in a Tactical Assault Group or Recovery Force. There is an effort underway to obtain this recognition for some FAA members who were directly engaged in Operation Bursa (see [here](#) for details of that event). Work is progressing but the details of who will be eligible and what onus of proof is required is still being resolved. We will keep you informed on the website.





There are some new reunion notices and existing ones, so bear with me. Clicking on the links should take you to our webpage (but be patient as it will be a bit slower than the links in previous InfoEmails).

SEQ Birdies Reunion

When: Friday 27 October from 1300 (drop in when you can)

Where: The Victory Hotel, 127 Edward St, Brisbane **Bar:** The Sailor Jerry Room

Cost: No cover charge – just pay your own way.

Contact: Wayne Avery ex-CPOATV Ph: 0478-677-722 email: waavery@gmail.com

This event has been building over a number of years, but its ~~format remains a casual one~~ where you drop in when you can. We started with just a handful of attendees to attracting 150 at last year's event so the probability is high that you will know someone there. Attendees are coming from all over Australia just to reconnect face-to-face (not social media) with forged friendships from days past. So come along and spin a story or two and enjoy quality fellowship. **Note:** If you go to our website you'll see a special offer from OAKS HOTELS, who will give you a discount on accommodation if you choose to stay with them. Click [here](#) to see more.

QLD Division General Meeting and Social Function.

When: 12 July 2017

Where: Pine Rivers, Murrumba Downs QLD

Cost: Drinks at cheap bar prices

Contact: Ray Murrell, President QLD Div

A general meeting and social function will be held at the Pine Rivers Ex naval club rooms 3 OGG RD Murrumba downs on Wednesday the 12th July commencing at 11AM. A short meeting will be held followed by Barbecue lunch and drinks (food will be supplied) and drinks at cheap bar prices. Click [here](#) for more.

RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam

When: 15-17 October 2017

Where: HMAS Albatross, NSW

Cost: Varies, according to which events you attend

Contact: John Macartney (02) 6557 4165

Wanted!
Someone to write a short history on the Aerospatiale AS350 Squirrel. Easy to do, lasting fame assured! See our website [here](#) for details.

This event has been publicised for some time but there are still some ex-RANHFV members and friends who have not yet registered for it. Go to our website [here](#), if you are interested in attending.

Mystery Photo

For those that don't know, 'Mystery Photos' are miscellaneous images posted on the website from time to time, asking readers to identify who/what/where is in them. They are a fun way of remembering the past and sometimes tease the brain cells a bit, which is no bad thing for those of us of advancing years. I always try to add extra detail to the answers, so the library (now up to 31) is a great way to capture little snapshots of history. Why not check the latest one out [here](#)?



Rest in Peace

Since the last 'InfoEmail' we are aware of the loss of Peter Penny (27 March); John Ward (30 March); David Orr (14 June); Don Eldridge (15 June) and Barry Turner (15 June). You can read of these sad events in the Obituary column of our website. Our thoughts and sympathies are with their families.

FAAAA Submission Fails

We have just heard that Minister Tehan has rejected our submission on behalf of two ex FAA members for their action in Vinh Long province on 2 February 1969. The detailed submission appealed against the recommendations of the Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal, primarily on the grounds the Tribunal had failed to properly assess the level of hazard to which they were exposed during their rescue of a downed helicopter crew. Regrettably the Minister was not persuaded by our arguments, citing that the Tribunal, along with the Service Chiefs, are best placed to make recommendations on such matters. It was an extremely disappointing outcome.

Finally, and on a more positive note, this InfoEmail is now reaching into hundreds of current and ex-FAA people's homes. If you have a notice or event that you would like to bring to their attention, contact the webmaster by responding to this email.

Until next time,

Marcus Peake
Webmaster.



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