



# FlyBy

ABN 3007 129 1677

Patron: RADM N. Ralph AO, DSC,  
RAN Ret'd

See our website [here](#)

A periodical of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia  
No 2. July/August 2017

## New Name

Last month I asked for ideas for a name for this Newsheet. I received suggestions from many people, who have my grateful thanks. The winning name selected by a panel of choice (me!) is "FlyBy". The author of this suggestion proposed it because, as he put it, an aircraft fly-by is to do with aviation, is short, and is an enjoyable event...just like this newsheet. Thank you for both the idea and the compliment.

## ADF Pay Case Offer

The Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal will take submissions on the forthcoming ADF Workplace Remuneration Arrangements on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. Because the matter is being dealt under Section 58KD of the Defence Act, the Tribunal's role in this matter will be limited to either accepting the proposal, or not: in other words, it may not alter its provisions. If it accepts it, ADF members will receive a 2% pay rise from November 2017, and a further 2% pa for a further two years. If it rejects the proposal the whole pay rise issue will need to be reconsidered by the parties, which would mean a significant delay. The Tribunal is expected to make a decision before November.

## Staying Connected

The Handlers community has been added to the FAAAA Comms database since the last newsletter, which means that all those ex-handlers we have email addresses for will also receive 'FlyBy' newsletters and other InfoEmails of interest.

### REST IN PEACE

We have become aware of the loss of the following shipmates (not necessarily FAAA members) since the last edition of FlyBy: **Neil Rix, Dick Widger, Ian Ferguson (LM NSW) and Max "Knocker" White.** You can read of these sad events on our Obituary page [here](#).

## Did You Know?

If you are an Active Service veteran with qualifying service and are over the age of 70, you are entitled to a DVA Gold Card. Many such veterans are missing out, so if you think you should have one contact DVA or fill out DVA form D3057.

## Goodbye Squirrel and Seahawk Bravo

On Friday 01 Dec this year the FAA will farewell two stalwarts in the form of the S-70B-2 Seahawk Bravo and the Aerospatiale AS350BA Squirrel helicopters from service with the Royal Australian Navy. These aircraft have served this nation well and a 'send off' fitting to their place in history will take place at HMAS Albatross.

The S-70B-2 has just completed the last operational deployment with the return of Flight 3 Bravo from the Middle East which marks almost 30 years of continued 816 Squadron Bravo operational deployments (the 816 Romeo period has already begun with the second Middle East deployment already underway). Much of the Bravo workforce



A reminder of the reunions coming up:

### RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam Reunion

**When:** 15-17 October 2017

**Where:** HMAS Albatross, NSW

**Cost:** Varies, according to which events you attend

**Contact:** John Macartney (02) 6557 4165

This event has been publicised for some time. Go to our website [here](#), if you are interested in attending. It also has details of the program and accommodation options.

### SEQ Birdies Reunion

**When:** Friday 27 October from 1300 (drop in)

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

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

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

A regular event that's getting bigger by the year. Attendees are from all over Australia so come along and spin a story or two and enjoy quality fellowship. Click [here](#) to see more.

### General/Handlers Reunion

**When:** 13-4 November 2017

**Where:** Cleveland RSL

**Cost:** Own drinks

**Contact:** Glen Hartig: pincher6372@gmail.com

In the past this was mostly for Handlers, but all FAA past & present are welcome. Great company and door prizes to boot! Friday is meet and greet and Saturday is the reunion. More details [here](#).

### Farewell Event for S70B & AS350

Advance notice – pencil in 01 Dec 2017. See further details elsewhere on this page.

has or will transition to the MH-60R Seahawk Romeo, however Bravo operations aimed at providing limited Fleet Support will continue from the Squadron up to 01 Dec 17.

The Squirrel is still being used to train aircrew so there is no RDP for her as the last pilot's course completes just prior to transition of training to the EC135.

Final plans for the farewell are yet to mature however there will be an official ceremony and parade mid-morning on **Friday 01 Dec 17** to formally conclude the service of these two types, followed by a ticketed Cocktail Party that evening. It is hoped as many of the Bravo and Squirrel family can make it as the CTP will provide a relaxed environment for all serving and former members who have stories and experiences to tell of the aircraft in operational and training spheres. More information will follow when known, but pencil in the date!



to the social event). It's a bit far on the horizon to start providing detailed advice of exactly what, when and where, but you may wish to put it in the back of your mind as something to come to, if you are able.

### Oops!



It would seem I still got the name of the above CDF wrong. Good job I'm not still in uniform, or I'd be in strife! The correct answer is, of course, General **Sir Phillip Bennett**, who retired as CDF in April 1987. In the photograph above, CAPT Andy Craig and Minister Kim Beazley stand in the centre and far left, respectively.

### 50+ Years Ago

The last vintage picture (of the underwater trainer) was obviously too easy as quite a few people got it right. Here's one that's a bit more tricky. Can anyone tell me what the gizmo below is for and what connection it had with NAS Nowra? Answer in the next edition.

### Fifty-Five Years Ago



Last month's 'Fly By' image was taken from Slipstream number 70, dated May 1953. Thank you to **Barry White**, **Joe Pollard** and **'Dutchy' Brauer** who all gave the correct answer.

The image shows what was then called 'The Wessex Underwater Escape Trainer' which is probably the first 'Dunker' in the RAN. It was supposed to represent the rear cabin of the 31A and was constructed of light galvanized Dexlon angle steel – so light, in fact, that seven pressed men were required to carry it to the pool and back again.

Once in the pool, the rig remained static – unlike more modern dunkers that rotate. The windows were covered with canvas and weighted down with lead bars. The door, though which the trainee entered, was one way only – in – so the idea was that once inside you submerged yourself before exiting through the window. Hardly the stuff of nightmares, but better than no training at all.

Once this dunker disappeared, the RAN appears not to have had one at all for a while. It relied on third party dunkers as they became available, including one designed by me when I was working with the National Safety Council of Victoria (it was a Bell 206 fuselage stuck on a rotating pole).

The redevelopment of HMAS Albatross provided the funding to set that right, and the RAN now operates one of the most modern facilities in the southern hemisphere. It comprises a mock fuselage/cockpit that is dropped into a pool and rotated, to simulate a ditching/roll over. See photo above right, courtesy of the RAN. Check out the old and the new!

### FAAAA National Reunion

I occasionally get asked when the next National Reunion is likely to be. This is a social get-together for all FAAAA members, and is arranged by a hard-working committee of taste from the NSW Division.

The answer is that the next such reunion is scheduled for **October 2018**, to coincide with the annual Federal Council Meeting in Nowra, NSW (although you don't have to attend that meeting in order to go



### RAN Aviation 1913-1947: A New Heritage Article

**Kim Dunstan**, who has done an amazing amount of work to capture our early heritage, has produced an article on the RAN's Aviation His- proved a Fleet Air Arm of our own.



A Sopwith 1/2 Strutter on HMAS Australia in 1918

It's easy to read and peppered with interesting photographs and historical documents, so it's a must for anyone who wants to know our roots or has an interest in history. You can read the article [here](#).

### The Beauty of Collaboration

The beauty of publishing material on line is that it can easily be expanded. Three readers really helped in the last month by sending in extra stuff for our website 'Heritage' articles. **Don Roberts** provided advice on the operation of the KD2R5 "Shellback" Pilotless Target Aircraft, and **David Mowat** sent in a detailed piece on the electronics fit of the Gannet AS1. You can find these in their respective Heritage articles [here](#). **Tiny Warren** also provided an explanation of the broken Melbourne SAR flight Wessex in the 70s, and what the mysterious lights were on 821 in the late 60's. Thank you to all of them, and please follow their example and keep material flowing in. It is your heritage and it will be lost if we don't capture it.

### Who Do I Contact?

Sometimes it's a bit difficult to know who to contact if you have a question about the FAAAA or you want to notify someone about your change in details.

In the first instance, it's best to email/phone your National Secretary, whose details are as follows:

ACT: [George Sydney](#) (02) 6247 9221  
 NSW: [Terry Hetherington](#) 0411 126 016  
 QLD: [Trevor Tite](#) (07) 5499 3809  
 SA: [Jan Akeroyd](#) 0407 610 894  
 TAS: [Graham Nicholas](#) (03) 6227 1740  
 VIC: [Mal Smith](#) (03) 9813 0308  
 WA: [Keith Taylor](#) (08) 9572 1487

If you think it's more about a National matter, contact the National Secretary [Dick Martin](#) on (02) 4422 5860. Alternatively, if you're just not sure who to speak to, use the 'Contact Us' form on any page of our website, or just send an email to the editor of this newsheet.

### Sea Fury/Firefly Material Wanted

Work has started to create 'Heritage' articles on the Hawker Sea Fury/Fairey Firefly. We are after 'eyewitness' accounts of anybody who maintained, worked with or flew in these aircraft. If you can help please contact the webmaster [here](#).

### Next Edition

The Editor is heading off overseas shortly and won't be back for a while, so there won't be another 'FlyBy' until mid to late October as wife in the places he's going certainly won't support the dispatch of hundreds of emails with attachments.

### Association Calendar Events

Known FAAAA Events in the Next Two Months:

Vietnam Veterans Day – All States. 18 August.  
 VIC Division – **Annual Dinner** 26 August.  
 QLD Division – **Social Get Together** 06 September.  
 VIC Division – **General Meeting** 01 October.  
 WA Division – **General Meeting** 08 October.  
 WA Division – **Unit & Kindred Meeting** 10 October.  
 QLD Division – **Lunch and Tour of Amberley Air Base** 12 Oct.

You can find more details on each event in our on-line calendar [here](#).

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