

# DS

February 2012



**Newsletter  
of the  
RAAF  
STAFF COLLEGE  
ASSOCIATION Inc**

GPO Box 1204 Canberra ACT 2601

Patrons:

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AM G. BROWN AO

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Treasurer:

MR D. I. WADE

\*\*\*\* LUNCHEON SEMINAR \*\*\*\*

*Friday, 2 March 2012*

at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla

*Speaker: AIRMSHL Geoff BROWN AO*  
Chief of Air Force

*( See separate Luncheon Notice & Registration Form )*

## From the President

In mid-2011, the Government announced a Force Posture Review to assess whether the ADF is correctly geographically positioned to meet Australia's current and future strategic challenges. The Review focuses on the strategic level, rather than on individual bases and training areas and its final recommendations will help provide a strategic context for the next Defence White Paper (2014). A progress report was provided to the Defence Minister in December and a declassified version was released by the Minister on 30 January to encourage public understanding, discussion and informed debate on the important issues it raises. Defence's assessment of basing requirements and the possible resulting changes to Defence's estate over the next 25 years forms part of the Review.

The Defence Minister presented a paper at the recent Sea Power Conference mentioning the Asia Pacific Century as reinforcing the need for a force posture that can support operations in Australia's Northern and Western approaches, as well as operations with our partners in the wider Asia Pacific region and the Indian Ocean Rim. Joint amphibious capability is envisaged as having a transformational effect on Navy, Army and the ADF generally including air power operations, driving force posture considerations. We await publication of the full report after March this year, with an expectation that existing RAAF bases may well be affected.

Now is a good time to hear from CAF on what he sees as the challenges and opportunities for the RAAF, and I encourage you to attend our 2 March luncheon at which Air Marshal Geoff Brown, our Joint Patron, will join us and talk about his impressions of the state-of-play for the RAAF and for air power into the future.

*regards*

*Noel Wainwright*

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*(AGM 2011 Summary over page)*

## **Summary of Outcomes from 2011 AGM**

At the previous 2009 and 2010 AGMs the refurbishment of the Association's plaque at the RAAF Remembrance Driveway Memorial (the Hughie Edwards VC Memorial Grove) was discussed. As the existing plaque had been cleaned regularly over the past few years by members of the Executive and was suffering further deterioration a new bronze plaque with plain relief lettering and badges (as opposed to the engraved lettering and badges on the existing granite plaque) was agreed to be commissioned to replace the existing plaque. The new plaque of similar design to plaques now being installed at the Grove was estimated to cost some \$1045 with a further \$150 for the installation. The final cost of the plaque was \$1160 and GPCAPT Arthur Skimin will carry out the installation in due course.

In regard to funding, WGCDR Ted Ilton, the founding Association President, made a donation of \$100 towards the cost and a commercial sponsor (Lockheed Martin Australia Limited) donated \$500. Six other members made donations of \$50 each. The 2010 AGM approved the funding of the balance from Association funds.

As the new plaque will be recessed into the plinth (to assist preventing vandalism) it was agreed that the original plaque be offered to the RAAF Museum for safekeeping as the records and artefacts of the College were transferred to it when Fairbairn closed.

## **Costs of Luncheon Seminars**

At previous AGMs the membership had agreed motions that the Executive should aim to cover the costs of Canberra Luncheon Seminars from member contributions. This had been achieved by gradually raising the per attendee cost from \$50 and then \$55. However, with the ever increasing costs of food and beverages the cost per attendee needed to increase to \$65 to break even. Conscious of the need to keep the cost of each lunch affordable the Executive sought quotes from other venues. However, the Royal Canberra Golf Club provided the venue free of charge and provided the food and beverages at 'member prices'. Additionally, in recognition of our long term association the RCGC offered to reduced the food component by \$4 without reducing the scope or quality offered and suggested savings on beverages could be achieved by forgoing or limiting pre-lunch drinks and the per head allowance for wine with the meal.

The Meeting agreed to continue to hold luncheon seminars at the RCGC, to have the Executive examine beverage consumption options, and to charge the cost of the guest speaker to the Association with the aim to maintain the position that luncheons be self funding. On this basis the expected cost to attendees for luncheons in 2012 would be \$60 per attendee. Non-members could still attend at a cost of \$70 (but by joining the Association for a once only subscription of \$10 it would be cost effective for future lunches).

## **Luncheon Seminar Program for 2012**

Three seminars are planned for 2012:

Friday, 2 March

Thursday, 7 June and

Thursday, 4 October (including the AGM)

Suggestions for speakers and/or topics would be welcomed.