

DS

July 2018



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

GPO Box 1204 Canberra ACT 2601
www.raafsca.org

Patrons:

ACM M.D. BINSKIN AC, Ret'd

AIRMSHL G.N. DAVIES, AO, CSC, CAF

President:

AIRCDRE I.M. PEARSON, RAAFAR

Vice-President:

WGCDR P.C. MCMAHON

Secretary:

MR F.J. KELLY

Ph: 0428 266 134

Treasurer:

MR D.I. WADE

**** LUNCHEON SEMINAR ****

Friday, 24 August 2018

at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, Yarralumla

Speaker: Group Captain Doug Hurst, MBE (Ret'd)

Noted Air Force Historian

'The Far East Air Force 1949-1971'

(nominations via separate Luncheon Notice & Registration Form)

From the President

I write to you the week after our co-patron Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin handed over as CDF to General Angus Campbell, with news that ACM Binskin has agreed to continue as our Association's co-patron. It hasn't been often that our Association has enjoyed having an Air Force 4* as co-patron and now, for as long as ACM Binskin agrees to remain in that role, we can continue to enjoy the current arrangements.

If you have been tracking the changes at the top of the ADF you will also be aware that Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld was recently promoted to his current appointment of Chief of Joint Operations, (the first time that an Air Force officer has held this role), succeeding one of our lunchtime speakers, Vice Admiral David Johnston who now serves as the Vice-Chief of the Defence Force. My mind immediately goes to the possibility of future speakers and indeed, I had been holding off with the drafting of this edition of DS in the hope that arrangements for our 29 November speaker would have been finalised. Since that has not occurred I encourage you to keep an eye on the Association's website for an announcement in that regard in the near future.

That brings me to the speaker and topic for our 'pre-spring' (rather than mid-winter) lunch. On Friday 24 August Doug Hurst, noted Air Force historian, and author of several books including 'The Forgotten Few – 77 RAAF Squadron in Korea', 'Magpies in Vietnam', and of course the RAAF Staff College history, 'Strategy and Red Ink', will address us on 'The Far East Air Force 1949-1971'. This topic will be a sentimental journey for many of us, (albeit for me as a child at school in Penang towards the end of the period that Doug will cover). It is also of interest to an audience beyond our members and specifically, to members of the Australian Aviation Club (AAC), some of whom missed Doug's presentation to them on this topic last year. In the last issue of DS I raised the possibility of extending the invitation to this lunch to members of the AAC, noting the significant overlap between the AAC's membership and our own. Since no objections to this proposal have been received, I will extend the invitation to our forthcoming lunch to members of the AAC as a further measure to boost our attendance numbers at a time when they have traditionally been low. I know you will make any members of the AAC taking up this invitation feel very welcome on 24 August.

To conclude with a minor administrative matter, I wish to remind members that at our 16 March lunch we adopted a policy of serving a single red meat dish, rather than having an 'alternate drop' that we have had in the past. That arrangement was particularly well received by members at our last lunch and will be our policy in the future. However, notwithstanding the new single red meat dish policy, as has always been the case in the past, Royal Canberra Golf Club kitchen staff are very willing to accommodate our members' special dietary requirements. In short, if your dietary requirements are incompatible with a red meat dish main course, please make those requirements known at the time you submit your acceptance to attend the lunch.

As always, we can look forward to an interesting presentation, an enjoyable lunch and of course each other's company on 24 August. I look forward to seeing you then.

Kind regards,

Ian Pearson

Mobile: 0407 561 080