

our
DS

30 March 2020



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

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Vale John MacNeil and Tom Trinder

From the President

Today, on the eve of the day when we have good cause to be celebrating our Air Force's 99th anniversary, we are also mourning the loss of two RAAF Staff College Association stalwarts, John MacNeil and Tom Trinder, who we lost on 19 and 25 March respectively.

John, a graduate of Course 18 in 1964 was one of our early Association members, the seventeenth to join. Even earlier to join as our sixth member, Tom was a graduate of Course 24 in 1970. Tom was also a regular attendee at our luncheon meetings, including our most recent meeting last month.

We have lost two good men and will miss them both.

While current COVID-19 restrictions prevent our ability to provide a physical presence to pay our respects to John and Tom, their funeral notices have been posted on the 'News' page of the RAAF Staff College Association website www.raafsca.org. As events unfold between now and the next edition of DS, I encourage all members to monitor the website for any updates that will be posted as soon as the information becomes available.

As per the suggestion contained in the last edition of DS, I strongly encourage you to maintain social contact with family and friends through the various mechanisms available to us, including Skype, FaceTime and Zoom. If you are unfamiliar with these, get someone who is familiar to explain how they work. Zoom, for example, allows multi-device connections for larger virtual gatherings. Normally these Zoom video conferences are limited to 40 minutes if you haven't paid for a license, but right now that limit seems to be waived.

Despite the sadness that comes with losing two much loved and respected members of our Association, tomorrow we should be celebrating the Air Force's birthday and the great achievements of the RAAF over the past 99 years – much of which you have been part, either in uniform or as members of the Australian Public Service. As Tom Trinder remarked in that context at his retirement function, *'We should all be very pleased and proud we have chosen to serve it for however many years'*.

As always, stay well and safe. I look forward to seeing you next time we meet.

Ian Pearson

Mobile: 0407 561 080

18— RAAF News — April 1988

BIDDING FAREWELL

LEAVE WITH A SMILE



AIRCDRE J.P.H. Trinder with the photograph presented to him at the Branch farewell.

by Peter Johnson

The Support Command Chief of Staff, AIRCDRE J.P.H. (Tom) Trinder, the proud possessor of one of the RAAF's greatest sense of humour, has retired after 36 years in the service.

He hasn't found it easy to retire, and at a Chief of Staff Branch farewell lunch on February 24 in the HQSC Officers' Mess,

he summed it up: "Thirty-six years is a reasonably long time, I promised I would go early in the New Year, probably early in February, but I lied," he quipped.

The Air Commodore has left an indelible mark with an illustrious career, but also in the frozo, redress of grievance and training areas. He remarked that this writer had asked what he would like to be remembered for.

One of the things was he believed he had the longest-running redress of grievance: 17 years, and would be remembered for

finally winning it. And he said: "Most of you who have flown on the Hercs have been inflicted with in-flight rations snap frozen, reheated, with bacteria count right off the scale, but we don't seem to die from them."

Well, AIRCDRE Trinder confessed to being, as it were, the "father of the frozo".

The germ of an idea came when he was in the U.S. in the late 1950s, and he encountered the ubiquitous TV lunches. Back in Australia, he came to the conclusion that

"ovens, hot" bought for long-nosed Lincolns would be a good idea for Neptunes. "I got one installed in an unagreed mod."

Then, the Catering Officer at Richmond, FLTLT Ian Penny, organised to make fricasee chicken and curries to carry in the aircraft. "That was the beginning of the frozo and inflight ration system in the Air Force," AIRCDRE Trinder said.

"Officer Extension Tutorial is another thing," he said, to the accompaniment of hisses from some of the listening audience.

The Air Commodore also said he was the only RAAF officer to have graduated from RAAF College (1955), SAN and FTS.

He rated his career as "a lot of fun", and regarded a sense of humor as being absolutely essential in the services.

The Air Officer Commanding Support Command, AVM A.R. Reed, said AIRCDRE Trinder had started as a navigator, fought hard to get a pilot's course, and later became an administrative officer, concluding as COFS. "The Air Force is not going to be the same," he said.

The last word goes to AIRCDRE Trinder: "We should all be very pleased and proud we have chosen to serve it for however many years."

Ed. Note: This is also an achievement — immortalisation in RAAF News at last. AIRCDRE Trinder claims he has never appeared in RAAF News — until now!