

DS

March 2020



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

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COVID-19 Its impact for the RAAF Staff College Association

From the President

I am writing to update you on how the current COVID-19 crisis is impacting the RAAF Staff College Association.

Consistent with the Chief Medical Officer's advice to observe 'social distancing' measures, we will not schedule our customary mid-winter luncheon until current restrictions are lifted. Apart from not wishing to put any of our members at risk, the practical reality is that guest speakers will be hard to source in the immediate future. Further updates to the luncheon schedule will be provided through DS and the Association's website as circumstances change.

Reflecting for a moment on our last physical gathering, at which I suspect the attendance of just under 50 was a record in recent times, I was also very encouraged to see four new members attending. Our membership is growing. Please play your part in maintaining this pleasing trend by staying well.

There are many sources of expert advice about what we should be doing, (or not doing) with respect to avoiding COVID-19. I encourage you to refer to official subject matter experts, like the Chief Medical Officer, and be very wary of the many social media sources of 'advice'. However, a note of caution: a SCAM text message relating COVID-19 that is currently doing the rounds appears as though it has been released from 'myGov' as the sender. It includes a link to find out when to 'get tested (for COVID-19) in your geographical area'. The link in these text messages is not legitimate, and if clicked on, may install malicious software on your device designed to steal your personal details, including banking information.

Always be vigilant when opening any SMS or email, and especially those which include links that appear to be from a trustworthy source. Always double check for authentication of an email by hovering your mouse over the sender's email address(es) or look for spelling mistakes and other errors.

The next point I want to make is that while there is much talk about social distancing, this is obviously a reference to maintaining safe physical distances between people outside your household. Now, more than is usually the case, I encourage you to make determined efforts to maintain contact with family, friends and others via phone, Skype, FaceTime, or whatever arrangements with which you are most familiar. COVID-19, against which you are taking careful measures to avoid contracting, need not be replaced by cabin fever!

Finally, on the subject of maintaining contact, Commandant Australian War College at Weston Creek has kindly invited members of the RAAF Staff College Association to join the Australian War College Alumni and Staff group, recently established on the LinkedIn social media platform. The purpose of this group is to promote Australian War College alumni relations by enabling staff and graduates to maintain and enhance contacts, share relevant professional news, and keep up with the latest news from the Australian War College. Further information is available by searching for 'Australian War College Alumni and Staff' on the LinkedIn platform.

As always, but even more so on this occasion, I look forward to seeing you next time we meet.

Stay well,

Ian Pearson

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