

DS

Christmas 2020



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

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Christmas 2020

From the President

In these last few days before Christmas 2020, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of your committee, to wish you well for what I trust will be a very happy festive season for you, your family and friends, and a New Year that meets your highest expectations. I also take this opportunity to forward to you the [Chief of Air Force's 2020 Christmas message](#).

Clearly recent events in metropolitan Sydney will impact on the Christmas and New Year plans for a number of our members, but as always, I know you will have Plan B ready to activate to ensure that you, your family and friends will be able to make the most of the time when traditionally we enjoy each other's company and reflect on the year that was. And what a year 2020 was! By any measure it was a tough year that most of us would prefer to forget, and one in which we lost some Air Force giants. Our most recent loss came on Tuesday last week, with the passing of Association member and graduate of 25 Course, Air Vice-Marshal Hans Roser. Hans will be greatly missed by all who knew him. In his book 'Vietnam – The Australian War', author Paul Ham described Hans as '*a straight talking, rugged-looking bloke*' – an epitaph we would all be happy to have – but not for some time yet!

It's hard to imagine 2021 not being a much better year than what we have just endured. Underlining any incidental benefits that the year might bring is the very significant fact that our Air Force will be celebrating its centenary. RAAF Staff College members have contributed much to those 100 years. I encourage you to stay in touch with the many commemorative activities through the [Air Force 2021 website](#), which apart from listing the various commemorative activities, also contains details of commemorative merchandise available from the [Air Force Shop](#). Probably the easiest way to stay in touch with what will be happening to mark the Air Force's Centenary is to submit the [Air Force 2021 feedback form](#), requesting that the newsletter be sent to you.

Meanwhile, attendance at certain Air Force Centenary commemorative activities is by ballot. Further details can be obtained from the website, selecting the [currently serving](#), or [former Air Force members](#) page of the website as appropriate. Nominations for balloted events close on 12 February 2021 for currently serving members, and 5 February for former members.

Noting the historical significance of 2021, the RAAF Staff College Association's luncheon program is expected to commence in February with our guest speaker, [Air Commodore \(Dr\) Mark Lax](#) speaking to us about his excellent book, 'Taking the Lead'. Following on from 'The Third Brother' and 'Going Solo', 'Taking the Lead' continues the important task of chronicling the Air Force's history, in this case the years from 1972 to 1996. Some of you will already have heard Mark present on his book at the Australian Aviation Club in September, but I suspect for those who have, like me it will have been a case of once was not enough. For those who have not already heard Mark's outstanding presentation, you are in for a treat! Please continue to monitor the RAAF Staff College Association website for details about the scheduling of Mark's and future presentations.

Finally, my thanks to the committee and to each of you for your support to the RAAF Staff College Association throughout 2020. Despite the abbreviation of this year's luncheon program, we have had a good year with two outstanding speakers, and importantly, we have kept in touch with each other. Long may that continue. Enjoy Christmas and the New Year break to the fullest, but stay healthy and safe – I look forward to seeing all of you in what is going to be a much better year in 2021.

My very best wishes,

Ian Pearson

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