

DS

June 2021



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

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**** **LUNCHEON SEMINAR** ****

Thursday, 22 July 2021

**at the National Press Club
16 National Circuit, Barton**

***Speaker: Air Vice-Marshal Stephen Meredith AM, DSM
'The Air Force in 2021 and beyond – an update'***

(Nominations via separate Luncheon Notice & Registration Form)

From the President

Welcome to winter – and for those receiving this newsletter in Canberra, don't we know about it! Members who have chosen to retire north of the Queensland border may well be having the last laugh – for the moment at least.

The period since our last lunch has seen several very successful activities being conducted to celebrate our Air Force's hundred years of achievement. On 19 February, our first speaker for this year, Air Commodore (Dr) Mark Lax OAM, CSM (RAAFAR) gave us an excellent overview of our Air Force's successes over those years.

Following that historic overview, (and the associated journey down memory lane), on Thursday 22 July the Deputy Chief of Air Force, [Air Vice-Marshal Stephen Meredith](#) will bring us up to date with what the Air Force is doing now and planned future developments. I know that our members remain committed advocates for the Air Force. After hearing the Deputy Chief's presentation we will all be better informed, and more credible in our advocacy.

As foreshadowed in the March edition of DS, circumstances take us to the National Press Club for our 22 July lunch. For those unfamiliar with the venue, parking is accessible from 1100 hours through a coded boom gate accessible from Bourke Street, just behind the National Press Club (NPC). (See attached map.) The Club building is accessed via a stairway leading from the carpark to a door, coded with the same numbers as the carpark boom gate. Of course, you don't need to arrive that early, but if you wish to absolutely guarantee a nearby parking spot, feel free to do so and relax with a coffee in the Club's lounge area. If you arrive late and are unable to find a parking spot at the NPC, the closest guaranteed parking is available at the underground carpark, accessible via Burbury Close, just across from the entrance to the NPC carpark entrance (as indicated on the [map](#)).

The code for the NPC carpark boom gate and Club building door changes regularly. Those attending our lunch will receive email advice of the code on Tuesday, immediately prior to the lunch.

Apart from the lower cost for lunch and closer parking at the NPC, an unintended additional advantage that comes from holding our next lunch there will come at the end of the lunch. While we have had to vacate the Royal Canberra Golf Club by 1430 hours, National Press Club management has indicated that at the conclusion of our activities in the meeting room, irrespective of whether we are Press Club members or not, we are very welcome to linger in the lounge. In short, those conversations that so often follow our lunch presentations need not be abruptly terminated. Enjoy a chat and relaxing coffee before driving home!

I will be interested in your reactions to the change of venue for our next lunch. While using the NPC on this occasion has extricated us from a tricky situation, the various benefits it offers may be worth considering on a longer term, particularly with the October lunch scheduled for a Friday when parking at the Royal Canberra Gold Club is notoriously difficult, as we experienced in February.

Looking ahead, our third get together for the year will be held on Friday 8 October, immediately ahead of what I am advised by Phil Morrall will be the final RAAF Retired Officers dinner. Our invited speaker has not yet confirmed attendance with me, so I encourage you to continue to monitor our [website](#) for advanced notice of who will be speaking, and the topic of the presentation.

As always, I look forward to seeing you and your guests at the National Press Club on Thursday 22 July, for what promises to be a very informative update on what our Air Force is doing now, and what might be planned for the future.

Best wishes,

Ian Pearson

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