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Christmas 2021

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

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www.raafsca.org

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From the President

As Christmas 2021 approaches we have even more reason than usual to celebrate: yesterday, 14 December, after a wait of fifty-three years, long-standing RAAF Staff College Association member, former Vice-President of our Association, and long-time Legacy volunteer, Mac (the Fac) Cottrell was finally presented with the US Silver Star Medal awarded to him for his gallantry in South Vietnam in 1968 while serving with the USAF as a Forward Air Control pilot.

The citation for Mac's prestigious award describes how, as a Forward Air Controller directing fighter aircraft against an opposing armed force, in combat action near Lai Khe on 10 June 1968, Mac:

disregarded an environment of intense hostile ground fire and adverse weather conditions to successfully pinpoint the unfriendly positions for combat support missions. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Flying Officer Cottrell has reflected great credit upon himself and the Royal Australian Air Force.

A photo of Mac, taken during his FAC service in Vietnam, along with other information relating to his award has been posted on the [RAAF Staff College Association website](http://www.raafsca.org).

Members will likely be aware that Mac has had it very tough in recent times, losing his beloved wife and life partner Frances in September after a long and difficult illness. I know all RAAF Staff College Association members will want to join me in not only wanting to congratulate Mac on his high award, but also to hope that its long delayed presentation will bring some comfort to him. We are honoured to have such a quiet achiever in our midst.

I am pleased to advise members that following our Annual General Meeting on 19 November, the mandatory 'annual return' has been lodged with the ACT Government by our ever diligent Secretary, Frank Kelly. Having ticked the necessary administrative boxes, we are ready for another year of good speakers and great company in 2022. As always, I thank my fellow committee members for their ongoing efforts, which occur in the background, quietly and productively.

Finally, as we approach Christmas and the New Year, on behalf of your committee I extend to all members my very best wishes for the festive season. Please stay safe and well - we want to see all of you (and any newcomers you are able to recruit) at our lunches in 2022.

Ian Pearson

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