

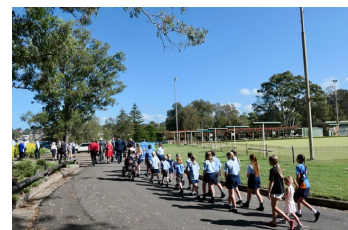


Autumn - May 2023 Newsletter

Good afternoon everyone. It has been business as usual at Beresfield. The sorting and unpacking is largely finished and restoration work clicks along.

Anzac Day: A very successful and well attended day. If you live in the area you would know that the weather was superb. My thoughts are that the attendance was as large or larger than recent years.

We had a very strong attendance from 11 Squadron, RAAF Edinburgh. 19 personnel in all. They positioned across the day before and on the day 13 of them were at Rathmines, lead by their Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Adam Sabre. Photos tell the story...enjoy.



The agreed Fly Past time was at 1330 (1.30pm) and that is exactly what happened. On board their P-8A Poseidon were 6 crew members led by the aircraft commander Flt Lt Michael Hawkins.



Our Independent Member of State Parliament, the Honourable Greg Piper gave an excellent, brief, talk about a wartime RAAF Rathmines Commanding Officer, Sir Richard Kingsland

There are many ‘thank you’s’ that have been made post the event. I would like to mention here that we really appreciate the on-going support of the Kennards hire group (200 chairs). Our printing firm of choice is The Printing Hub in Melbourne. They have been doing the reprints on our merchandise books for several years and this year offered to print and donate our 400 programs.



It might be handy to highlight a couple of facts with respect to our Anzac Day planning and timing, as I detect a few misunderstandings in the public arena. Actual planning starts to take place in early January. The first step forward is to establish the movements of the Air Cadets from 316 SQN. They are the only Squadron on the lake and are engaged to participate at the morning Anzac Service at Belmont, before they can position across to Rathmines. Their arrival pretty much determines when we can begin our Service.



Once that timing is established a formal application is made through the ‘Ceremonial / Defence Support’ group...in our case the request is for a Flypast and a Chaplain at xxx time. The response to this request ie. ‘yes’ or ‘no’ arrives some time in late March.

So, the point I am making is that a lot of the timing is not of our making but interlocked with other parties. The actual timing of the event from March step off to the conclusion was my work and if you were at the event, my allowance for the laying of Tributes was quite a few minutes out! Our volunteers who offered their time to help set up the chairs and other items will be having a review of the day, this coming week.



Base Tours: We have two large groups booked in for later this month and the Greenmount Anglican Retirement Village has asked for a second morning tea (they joined us in October last year). This time we will meet them at Beresfield.

TAFE College: The Tighes Hill College has commenced running several aeronautical related courses and we have been meeting them recently to see if both parties can benefit if the students visit us on a regular basis. They would undertake some practical skills training and work with our restoration team. The College has limited facilities in this respect and so it’s an advantage for them to progress the student’s practical work as well as the classroom theory. For the RCA, we potentially get some extra hands on the tools.



Cooks Hill Campus: Lachlan, Kynan and Sid are back again this term and have requested to be able to continue with their projects. The feedback from our restoration fellows is always positive and a strong working relationship exists. Our thanks to their Mums for providing the shuttle service!

Beresfield: As I have said, the work continues and great progress is being made. One of our recent additions was the installation of the NBN / internet. The building had the NBN box in the street and we battled on for several months with very patchy mobile/ internet coverage. We have now entered a contract with Aussie Broadband and this has facilitated very positive results... we no longer have to walk outside or go upstairs to try and get coverage! Each Wednesday we are now joined by Wing Commander Rick Dyson from Air Force History and Heritage.

Rick's potential attendance was discussed in an earlier newsletter. His on site presence is greatly appreciated and allows us to progress with the future plans for the aircraft.

Each week seems to fly past (ha ha) and there are many times when my routine is like being back in the workforce...no complaints, I get to meet some very interesting people and work with amazing volunteers.

As always, my best wishes and thanks for the support.

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