

## Objectives: -

- To promote and maintain the welfare and benefits of members, ex-members of Her Majesty's Air Forces and their dependents and other persons approved by the Constitution of this Association.
- To render unswerving loyalty to Australia, its system of Government and its Institutions and respect for the National Flag; and
- To honour and preserve the memory of comrades who have died.

## Why Join?

Joining your own RAAF Association will give you and your family a wide range of benefits and interests:

- Veterans Entitlement
- Advice and Welfare
- Commemoration
- Support for the RAAF
- Social Activities and Fellowship
- RAAF History and Heritage Involvement

## Veterans Entitlements:

Veteran's disability and compensation entitlements are covered under various legislation and regulations. Association advocates and pension officers can provide advice and support for you in negotiations with department of Veterans Affairs; essential to ensure you receive your entitlements.

## Social Activities and Friends:

Social activities and friends are important to the Association members. Division and the Branches hold regular lunches and events, with guest speakers who talk on a range of service, veteran and aviation topics relevant to members interests.

## 548/549 RAF Spitfire Squadron:

The No. 548 and 549 RAF fighter squadron of the Royal Air Force were formed on the 15 December 1943 based at Lawnton Queensland. The first few months saw Wirraways and de Havilland Tiger Moths training from the base until April 1944 which saw the Spitfires arrive. The squadrons were made up of RAF Aircrew and RAAF Ground Staff.

At 8.50am on 19 April 1944, three Spitfires of 548 Squadron RAF took off from the base. Shortly after, two of these Spitfires had a mid-air collision. LF.VIII Spitfire A58-392 (JG432) collided with LF VII Spitfire A58-350 (JG350). The two British pilots Wright and Chandler were both killed. The site of the crash is at the Merv Hewitt Reserve at the corner of Young's Crossing Road and Dayboro Road Petrie.

Flight Sergeant Chandler aged 22 and Squadron Leader Wright aged 26 are buried at the Lutwyche (Brisbane) Cemetery, Section 77 Graves 41 and 40 respectively.

The Pine Rivers & Sandgate Branch holds a 548-549 SQDN Memorial Service yearly on the closest Saturday to the 19th April dedicating the loss of these two young British pilots.



*Printed courtesy of our Patron:*

**Hon Peter Dutton MP**

**Federal Member for Dickson**

*3/199 Gympie Road, Strathpine Qld 4500*

*www.peterdutton.com.au*

## AFC & RAAF Association Queensland Division – Pine Rivers & Sandgate Branch



## Join Now!

## Branch Headquarters

### 'Sir Richard Williams Room'

### Tarakan House

Unit 1 / 3 Ogg Road

Murrumba Downs QLD 4503

PO Box 242, Kallangur QLD 4503



## **The Aims of the RAAF Association are for the benefit of and in the interests for Members:**

Disseminate information relating to compensation entitlements, hospital and medical treatment and other benefits available to entitled persons under the Veteran's Entitlement Act 1986, the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Service – MCRS) and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA).

Give advice and assistance and to provide advocates to represent entitled persons at hearings of the Veteran's Review Board, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Courts.

Make submissions to and provide advice to the relevant Ministers and Government Departments on matters connected with the welfare of Veterans, ex-servicemen, and members of the Australian Defence Force and with their entitlements to the pension and/ or compensation for injuries.

Provide for and assist those who are sick and disabled.

Provide for and assist those who may be in strained or necessitous circumstances.

Establish and maintain retirement villages providing all aspects of on-going care.

Provide comforts for those who are in hospital.

Provide or assist in or contribute generally to any related benevolent purpose.

Provide scholarships and bursaries and to make financial grants for the purpose of books and equipment necessary for the education of their children.

## **Commemorate the Service of the Fallen by;**

- Preserving the memory of comrades who have died.
- Providing periodical reunions of members.
- Promoting amongst members the highest degree of citizenship and to serve Australia in peace as in war.
- Assisting and co-operating with kindred ex-service organizations and other organizations and to assist them in attaining any common object.
- Preserving the heritage and traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force.
- Taking an active interest in military, commercial and general aviation and in aviation and aeronautical research.
- Fostering aviation and the conservation of aviation heritage.

## **International Air Cadets**

July each year sees the Pine Rivers & Sandgate Branch welcome the International Air Force Cadets to our area! These cadets come from all corners of the globe and are hosted by Australia for about a fortnight travelling throughout the country.

The cadets are treated to a typical 'aussie' BBQ followed by a Memorial Service complete with brass band! The looks of enjoyment on their faces is a sight to behold what with the tucker and the weather we put on for them.



## **About Us**

Pine Rivers & Sandgate Branch of the AFC & RAAF Association Queensland Division is a not-for-profit group offering membership to ex-RAAF personnel and relatives as well as other members of the community. Sandgate amalgamated with Pine Rivers on November 26th 2016.

You are invited to visit the group and enjoy a friendly social morning tea, special events and ceremonies, meetings and other activities.

Our meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month (except January) and our birthday gatherings and bus trips occur on the third Tuesday of the month at our room at 3 Ogg Road, Murrumba Downs commencing at 9.00am.

\$10.00 social and \$30.00 full membership are available.

## **For further information please contact:**

President: – Mr. Phil Symonds

Phone: (07) 3285 7046

email: lynphil9@msn.com

Secretary: – Mr. Brent Ledez

Phone: 0435 862 995

email: ledez@optusnet.com.au

## **Significant National Events:**

- RAAF Anniversary Commemoration-31 March
- ANZAC Day – 25 April
- Bomber Command Commemoration – first Sunday nearest to June 1st
- Battle for Australia Commemoration – first Wednesday September
- Battle of Britain Commemoration – 114th September
- Remembrance Day – 11 November