



# *Qualitas Non Quantitas*

*95<sup>th</sup> Entry Halton Apprentices*

## *Newsletter*

*Number 13*

*January 2010*

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## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Attestation**



### **FINAL ROLL-UP NEWSLETTER**

### **2010 SYDNEY AUDACIOUS SOCIAL EVENT**

*BEST WISHES FOR A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE*

#### **Intro**

This is the last roll-up newsletter prior to the 2010 Audacious Social Event in Sydney, NSW, Australia, to celebrate 50 years from induction into the Royal Air Force and Royal Rhodesian Air Force, as appropriate.

It is the intention of this newsletter to summarise all the applicable events, locations, timings etc that are on offer.

It was an early decision that individuals would make their own travel/holiday arrangements.

Membership of the Australian Returned Services League (RSL) and its advantages, e.g. cheaper accommodation in Sydney, have been explained and adopted by interested participants. A précis is set out below as a refresher.

It has been an ambitious task trying to find something to fill Wednesday 21st April to Thursday 29th April inclusive and the draft Australia 2010 itinerary was generally accepted. Subsequently meat has been attached to the bones, which have been relayed by electronic messages at appropriate times to all those travelling/attending. Again, a précis follows.

**Wednesday 21 April 2010:**

**Meet & Greet** at the **Crown Hotel, 160-162 Elizabeth Street, Sydney** (on the corner of Goulburn Street) from 2.00 to 6.00 pm.

From the Hyde Park Inn turn right out of the hotel, walk a couple of blocks down & cross the road to the Crown (2 - 3 minutes' walk).

We have an exclusive area on the first floor and then own arrangements for the evening (if capable!!!)

**Thursday 22 April 2010:**

**50th Anniversary of Induction Dinner:** (Daytime at your leisure / personal arrangements).

The 50th Anniversary of Induction Dinner will be held at the **Crown Hotel** in their dining room for our exclusive use.

**1800 hrs (6.00 pm) – Pre dinner drinks**

**1900 hrs (7.00 pm) - Dinner**

For convenience, the meal will be by personal choice (and personal settlement of individual bills) from the Crown's A-la-Carte menu. As a guide: Starters are Au\$9 - 15; Mains around Au\$13 - 25; Sweets about Au\$ 8 - 10. (Note: divide by 2 for rough UK rate)

**If anyone has special dietary needs, please advise Tony Dapre ASAP**

**Friday 23 April 2010:**

Assuming a late and gentle start after the reunion dinner, this day is allocated for proposed harbour cruising which could take several different formats. Information will be available at the dinner on Thursday.

Basically we can forget about a boat just for the Entry (too costly - not enough numbers), however, there may be the opportunity to go on a tour ferry (like those on the Thames) that do food and have a bar and we hope to have more substantial information by the Dinner on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Taranga Park Zoo is a ferry ride away which takes in the Harbour bridge and Opera House on the way. Taranga Park Zoo is very nicely situated on the north side of the harbour and it is very much an option for a visit. Tony & Denise have been there a few times as the Zoo Co hold open air concerts which are an excellent night out. The cost of these concerts always includes free entry to the Zoo so they usually took the opportunity to see the animals. It is a particularly well laid out zoo and the animals appear to be comfortable in their surroundings.

Ferries are a normal means of transportation in Sydney especially for workers who live on the north shore who cross daily to Circular Quay which is right in the heart of the old city. A ferry ride to anywhere is an experience for any visitor, as it is such a beautiful harbour. Manly is the furthest stop away from Circular Quay up the harbour, and the most popular for tourists, especially as Manly beach is almost as well known as Bondi.

There are two "Heads" (No! Not toilets! - A Naval expression, Ladies); North Head and South Head, which are the entrance to Sydney Harbour, and a visit to North Head is very worthwhile. There are old fortifications and gun placements which are well worth visiting. A group of old army volunteers also run a restoration of guns, vehicles etc which are displayed in a museum and very well presented.

The ferries also feed a need up the Parramatta river so there is an interesting visit to the Olympic Site via Jetcat, available.

**Saturday 24 April 2010:**

We are having a special paver created on two 230 x110mm bricks, engraved with the words as shown below, which will be laid in the Memorial Walk at the Forestville RSL.

THE 95 <sup>th</sup> ENTRY RAF HALTON APPRENTICES	*
1960-1963 QUALITAS NON QUANTITAS	

Please note that the size of the paver bricks restricts text to three rows and 13 characters/spacers per row (\* we are assured that the top row will be acceptable). The Planning Team debated long and hard on what words to use and, realising that the very location of "Memorial Walk" covered the memorial aspect, the selected words were decided.

The wording can be interpreted as a comment on smaller armed forces such as the ANZAC who are always known to punch above their weight. It is intended that this will serve as a memorial, by virtue of location, to all military personnel everywhere and not just those ANZAC killed in action and wounded. In particular we will remember our own Entry Members who could not be with us, especially those who are known to have passed on:

Michael Young	Roland Bath	Keith Burdass	Clive Wilson
Rod Pritchard	Jerry Padgen	Colin Pollard	Bob Jupp
Mike Thatcher	Mike Frankling	Bob Horsham	Glyn Bolderson
Chris Harris			

This will doubtless be followed by a drink or three in the RSL club and then back to Tony & Denise Dapre's home for socialising with a traditional Australian Barbeque (good news for us; bad news for shrimps). Full details of locations, transportation arrangements, timings etc, will be available at the dinner on Thursday 22nd April.

**Sunday 25 April 2010: ANZAC DAY (95th Anniversary)**

ANZAC Day commemorates the Gallipoli landings by the Australian & New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. By a happy coincidence, 2010 will be the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Australians set great store in remembering their war casualties and we have arranged our Audacious Social Event such that those who wish can join in the celebrations with our Antipodean colleagues. It is run on similar lines to our Remembrance Day activities.

The Parade march starts at 9.00am but the RAF contingent are usually at the rear and in 2008 didn't start off until after midday (shows how big it is).

Therefore, it is proposed that we all meet for coffee at "The Sheraton on the Park" (a short walk from the Hyde Park Inn) and play it by ear from there. Those so inclined can join in the march and it is expected the RAF Association would have arranged a suitable place for the after-march lunch so we can all meet and carry on from there.

Again, full details will be available at the dinner on Thursday 22nd April.

If you wish to join in but worried about ability to keep up, please let it be known to the co-ordinators, Roger Miller or Tony Dapre, ASAP.

Also, if you wish to wear medals, don't forget to pack them in your luggage. Roger & I have both bought RAF "chip bag" head dress - Packs flat.

**Monday 26 April 2010 - to Thursday 29th: (Organised Trip – 4 Day / 3 night)**

Monday 26th marks the start of a leisurely 4 Day/3 night Organised Trip by minibus to visit places such as Canberra (War Memorial, Parliament Building, Australia Museum, Art Museum etc); Temora RAAF Aircraft Museum and Blue Mountains tourist spots; before returning to Sydney for overnight on Thursday 29th April.

This was put on as an opportunity to see a bit more of Australia in company of colleagues for those who wished. So far there are 7 hardy souls on this trip.

The full itinerary will be prepared and ready for those people who have chosen to go on it and will be distributed at either the Meet & Greet or the Dinner.

**Friday 30 April 2010:**

For those who have not already moved on to pastures new, Friday 30th was seen as a Rest-Day, perhaps to socialise, before reverting to private plans.

**Australian Tourist Visa / Tourist Visa Electronic Travel Authority (ETA):**

It will be necessary to obtain an Australian Tourist Visa or Tourist Visa Electronic Travel Authority.

The Electronic Travel Authority for Australian Tourist Visas is the most advanced and streamlined system in the world. The ETA replaces visa labels or stamps and removes the need for application forms.

The Australian ETA is an electronically stored authorisation for travel to Australia, meaning you don't need paper documentation or a stamp in your passport.

Full details and application instructions can be found on the Australian Visa Bureau website and will cost £20.00 per person.

You should also remember to check up on visa requirements for all other countries you will be visiting.

### **Adequate & Reputable Travel Insurance:**

It is very strongly advised that you ensure you are covered by adequate medical & other expenses insurance.

Dusty has looked around and gleaned the following information which may be useful to anyone not sorted out yet. As he says, until you make a claim you never know if the company is as good as their word or not.

### **Insurance Companies that Specialise In People with Pre-Existing Medical Conditions.**

Please find below some useful web addresses for travel insurance companies that specialise in people of “sensible” age or those showing the wear and tear that comes with experience.

Note that they all came from “Watch Dog” type articles in the press as having been researched and recommended.

Department of Health - EHIC and health advice for travelers

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Healthadvicefortravellers/index.htm>

Travel insurance regardless of age, medical condition or destination.

<http://www.allcleartravel.co.uk/>

Travel insurance for those who are OK but have pre-existing medical conditions

<http://www.free-spirit.com/>

Travel insurance for those who have had breast cancer.

<http://www.insurepink.co.uk/>

I can also add that Diabetes UK Insurance Services has created a travel insurance service for those living with diabetes, their family & friends.

Phone 0800 731 7431 or visit [www.diabetes.org.uk/services](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/services) and receive 5% discount.

For last year & this current year Pam and I have been using [www.essentialtravel.co.uk](http://www.essentialtravel.co.uk)

## Australian Returned Services League (RSL):

As you will be aware, the Australians take their servicemen and women more seriously than the British do. In the last couple of months, the Aussies have located the last Australians missing in action (aircrew) in Vietnam and repatriated the remains. Not one Australian has been left behind!

So the RSL is a big deal. Those of us using the Hyde Park Inn and propping up the bar during the ANZAC day celebrations are taking advantage of the facilities funded by the RSL. It might be as well to bone up on the development of the RSL to date. A potted history can be found at <http://www.rsl.org.au/>

Tony Dapre is a prominent member of the Forestville RSL sub-branch. This is not like the scruffy scout hut facilities of the RAFA we have locally.

See [http://www.forestvillersl.com.au/Pages/about\\_us.htm](http://www.forestvillersl.com.au/Pages/about_us.htm)

From their website: –



### *SUB BRANCH*

*Anzac Commemorative Service*

*The Sunday Prior To Anzac Day*

*18th April*

*On the Sunday prior to Anzac day, Forestville RSL Sub Branch members and invited guests, meet at the Soldiers memorial Hall, located at Starkey St, Forestville at 2.30pm. From there The March begins at precisely 2.40pm returning to the Club for the commencement of the commemorative Service at 3pm. Australia My Country prizes will also be presented. All who are interested in attending are welcome.*

### *ANZAC DAY*

*25th April*

*A Dawn Service will be held from 5.45am at the Cenotaph of Forestville RSL Club (22 Melwood Ave, Forestville), with the Catafalque Guard supplied by the 7th Field Regiment RAA. The Service will be followed by Breakfast.*

### **Advise Your Travel Itinerary:**

We have considered that it might be useful for you to know whether anyone else is to be available at venues on your own itineraries (gives choice of meeting up, or avoiding, to personal taste).

To this end we think it would be beneficial if you would please advise your personal itineraries, to be available at the dinner for perusal by fellow travellers.

### **Saying Your Goodbyes:**

All good things must come to an end at some point. The Planning Team have done their best to present some topical ideas for group socialising but we know they will not suit everyone.

It would be a shame if anyone missed saying their farewells through being "under the influence" or whatever. Even this needs careful thought and planning.

Therefore, obviously, this task will be your own responsibility, at a time most appropriate to your own individual plans.

### **Tony & Denise Dapre Contact Details:**

Home Phone:	(from England)	61 2 94524253
	(in Australia)	02 94524253
	(in Sydney)	94524253
Home Fax:	(from England)	61 2 94523083
	(in Australia)	02 94523083
	(in Sydney)	94523083
Mobile:	Tony	0413940902
Mobile:	Denise	0425214072
Email:	denaton@optusnet.com.au	

### **Wrapping up:**

This has nothing to do with a reminder for woollies, mufflers, gloves etc when returning to UK, instead, it is only taking advantage of the opportunity to wish everyone Bon Voyage and Safe & Pleasant Journeys, wherever they take you.

If you are Pensioners (who's kidding who!) bring some proof if you can, as many shops, travel firms etc in Australia give concessions.

It is also highly advisable to take photocopies of your Passports & other vital Documents as this facilitates replacement or proof of identity in case of loss or theft

**Acclamation:**

It is recognized that a tremendous amount of energy and exertion in research, planning and co-ordination (much of it invisible) has been carried out by Roger & Tony, the two co-ordinators for this project. They should both be heartily applauded (at least with a well deserved drink).

**And finally ...**

If there is anything we've left out or that you do not understand or if you have any queries at all, do please get in touch for clarification.

As the notice in Gents Loos proclaims, "WE AIM TO PLEASE - YOUR AIM WILL HELP!"

It's your Audacious Social Event, Boys & Girls, during which we plan to well & truly leave our mark on Australia (zaps permitted). We hope and trust that you will enjoy every bit.

*Qualitas Non Quantitas*

*Looking forward to meeting you in Sydney.*

*On behalf of the Planning Team,*

*Best Regards & Bon Voyage,*

*Alf*