

Bulletin 19 – 3rd Nov. 2022

Brian Comley on RAF Exercise Pitch Black 2022



Our member Brian gave us an enthusiastic report from his participation at the RAF exercise “Pitch Black”. The skies over the Top End were filled with aircraft from across the world for the return of Exercise Pitch Black.

17 nations participated alongside Australia during the exercise to enhance interoperability and develop strong relationships between participating military forces.

This year over 247 aircraft and 2800 personnel from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, UAE, USA and UK took part with 9 different fighter aircraft types, such as the RAF F-35A, EA18 (Growler coms jammer) F22, MIG 27 & 29 etc. worth noting were the 6 Indian SU30s, a Russian design and 100% Indian made. The highlight for Brian was being passenger on one of the refuelling jumbo jets carrying 58,000gal. of fuel and the thrill in watching the refuelling of these fighters with 3,500gal. in 15sec. At times 4 fighter aircrafts flying next to the tanker, 2 connected to the refuelling pods with the second pair waiting to be connected, and all this flying at a speed of >600km/h. In his 23yrs in the RAF he has seen so many interesting things and enjoyed every minute of it, but sincerely hopes that peace prevails and nothing that was practised needs to be used in a conflict.

Thank you, Brian, for sharing your adventure with us.

More pictures from exercise Pitch Black 2022 can be viewed [HERE](#)



Star of the week the Indian made SU-30

Refuelling RAF Tanker KC-30A
(based on Airbus 330)
with
RAF F-35A & Korean-AF KF-16U

In this Bulletin:

Pg 2: Club Announcements, BBQ, Rotary shed, Jim’s 3 min of fame

Birthdays:

09th Nov. W. Mathieson

Anniversaries:

None

Heads & Tails:

J. Cropley

Raffle/Joker poker:

P. McBean

Member Duties 10th Nov.

Door:

Dieter Greiter

Meet/Greet:

Jim Booth

Grace:

Richard Turner

Intro Guest speaker:

n/a

Thank Guest Speaker:

n/a

Bulletin:

John Cropley

Photos:

Phill Smith

Binos:

Dieter Greiter

Bunnings BBQ 5th Nov. 2022



Co-ordinator for Saturday's BBQ, Geoff extends his thanks to all those who assisted to make it such a great success.

With fine weather and plenty of satisfied customers, we realized a net profit of \$1,737
Geoff has estimated that approximately 50 man-hours were spent on purchasing, preparation, loading, transporting and service at the BBQ.

Thanks are extended to John C, Brian, Chris, Jim, Ian B, Helen, Henk and Lesley for manning the barbeque. Thanks also to Don, Doug C and John S for assistance with preparation etc. in the background.

We express special thanks to Geoff for the many hours he spent ensuring all goes well on the day.

Rotary Shed



The carport donated by Lesley is taking shape, all that is needed, to install the roofing sheets.

Unfortunately, due to recent rain events the grassed area outside the shed is severely flooded and only 4WD can safely access the area.

Council has been approached to remedy to problem



John chaired the meeting tonight as Don was away. He gave a short debrief on the "Some Happy Day" film night in support of the Yacaaba Centre. The result was approx. \$8,000 for the night
For those that missed out, the film is on SBS on-demand (click [HERE](#)).

Homelessness is still a big problem in our area and our club's continuous support is \$550 p/m.

Christmas party needs to be finalized urgently. The CWA Hall is still an option, last year's caterer is not available, Two Bob's Bakery as caterer has been suggested.

Jim's 3 min talk contained a few Trivial Pursuit questions to test the brain power of the audience. What is the highest place on earth? No, not Mt. Everest, it is Mt.Chimborazo in the Andes/Ecuador. Measured from the earth centre it is 2000m further from the centre due to the oval shape of the earth than Mt.Everest's 8,848m. What must one do when driving in the rain in Sweden? Road-rules require to turn headlight on.

A report he heard mentioned that the average CEO had a pay rise this year of 40%, he questioned that this was warranted and thinks that the teachers are the most valuable persons in our society.