

*Our Guest Speaker for 22 April ... David Grierson OAM*

David was born in East Melbourne, raised in Kew, schooled at Preshil and Scotch College, is married to Pam, and has three sons, six grandchildren and one great grandchild. After an unsuccessful attempt to become a professional motor racing driver, he was selected for pilot training in the RAAF, graduating in 1963. He flew Caribou aircraft in the second last Vietnam war, and completed about 23 years' RAAF service in both flying instruction and heavy transport flying. His final RAAF flying appointment was as commanding officer of Number 33 Squadron, with Boeing 707 aircraft. In nine years of VIP flying he counted six Australian Prime Ministers and three generations of the Royal Family among his passengers, along with many other notables.

He had a second career as an Examiner of Airmen in various Government departments, but suffered a stroke when acting as manager of the Melbourne Regular Public Transport office. That cost him his job, and so he went into business as an aviation safety adviser, working largely with the legal profession. He also had ten years involved in the organisation of the Avalon airshow, his final role there being Group Manager Aircraft Operations, which involved taking responsibility for all aircraft operations at the airshow.

He has recently retired after 13 years as a Trustee of the Shrine of Remembrance, and 14 years as President of the Balwyn RSL. He is a Past Chairman of the Outer Eastern Branch of Melbourne Legacy. He has served as President of Melbourne Legacy and National Chairman of Legacy Australia. These activities have kept him busy, along with golf at Green Acres.

He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014 for service to veterans and their families.