

WELCOME TO **RICHMOND & GLENBROOK**



ANNUAL GUIDE 2027 **RAAF BASE RICHMOND & RAAF BASE GLENBROOK**

ABOUT THE BASE
History, operational units
and community

FAMILY ESSENTIALS
Services, housing, health
and education

LIFESTYLE
Local attractions
and activities

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A Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130J-30 Hercules departs RAAF Base Richmond as part of Exercise Trojan Compass. PHOTO: LACW Mikaela Fernlund.

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PHOTO: Destination NSW

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MAPS © Koala Cartography, Sandra Cheetham

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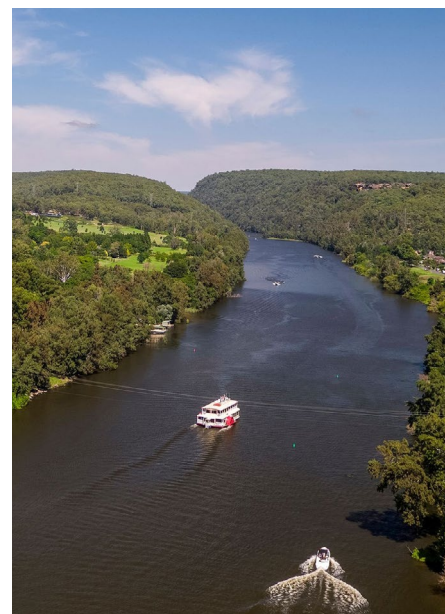


PHOTO: Destination NSW

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WELCOME TO RICHMOND & GLENBOOK

WELCOME FROM HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL welcomes you and your family to our beautiful region. It is a warm and welcoming place, with a rich indigenous and colonial history, a vital agriculture and farming sector, a thriving equine industry and a suite of community groups and small businesses within our towns and villages.

Hawkesbury City Council provides services and facilities to more than 69,000 residents living in urban and rural communities spread across an

area of 2,800 sq km, making us the largest local government area in metropolitan NSW.

The Hawkesbury takes its name from the Hawkesbury River, which flows through our boundaries. The local government area sits on the north-western edge of Sydney, covering a diverse landscape that stretches from the city's outer suburbs to rural communities, bushland and national parks.

Prior to European settlement, the area was inhabited by the traditional owners and custodians, the Dharug and Darkinjung peoples, for more than 40,000 years. We pay our respects to all Elders,

past, present and emerging and acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First People of this country.

European settlement commenced in 1794 when initial land grants were issued to establish farms. The fertile floodplains assisted the agricultural expansion and enabled the region to function as the primary source of agricultural produce for the early Sydney colony.

Once again, welcome. If you require any assistance, contact the council's customer service team on 02 4560 4444 or email council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.



ROBYN PRESTON

State Member for Hawkesbury

I AM HONoured TO WELCOME YOU to RAAF Base Richmond. I have a deep association and affection for the Defence Force, having worked for a decade with Defence (Army) and also having the privilege of serving as Shadow Minister for Veterans during this term of parliament.

I know it is sometimes quite an upheaval having to relocate to a new area, so getting to understand the flavour of the community can take time.

The advantage you have in this area is the great respect I and many in the Hawkesbury electorate have for our Defence personnel.

The Hawkesbury community has a sense of pride with RAAF Base Richmond being the first

base for logistics and transportation in NSW. The community recognises the economic, social, employment and goodwill links the base provides and much history and trust has been earned.

One of the rewarding opportunities of my role is to connect and support the RAAF personnel. The RAAF base is also home to the *Marie Bashir* large air tanker, named in honour of the former Governor of NSW – a first for Australia and fitting that the base is its custodian.

My office will always welcome you on 02 4578 0300, hawkesbury@parliament.nsw.gov.au or visit my website robynpreston.com.au.

Authorised by Robyn Preston MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



SUSAN TEMPLEMAN

Federal Member for Macquarie

IT IS AN ENORMOUS PLEASURE and privilege to welcome you to RAAF Bases Richmond and Glenbrook.

Our community recognises your service to the nation and I hope you will feel welcomed as you establish your lives here.

Our schools, local groups and businesses all appreciate the important role played by the bases and we are a more vibrant area for having so many of you living in our midst.

I am honoured to represent so many of our ADF personnel and have a keen interest in issues faced by servicemen and women

and the civilian workforce and your families. Please feel free to get in touch with me and my office with any issues you may have.

If this is your first Richmond or Glenbrook posting, you will soon realise you are in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. From the sandy beaches of the Hawkesbury River to the Blue Mountains National Park, there are spectacular outdoor experiences.

It is a real honour to represent you and your family in the Australian Parliament while you are posted here and I hope this soon feels like home. susantempleman.com.au



**WING COMMANDER
DANNY CUSACK**

Senior Australian Defence Force Officer
& Commanding Officer No 22 Squadron
RAAF Base Richmond

TO THOSE NEWLY POSTED – welcome.

To those returning – welcome back.

As Commanding Officer of No 22 Squadron and Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO) at RAAF Base Richmond, I extend a warm welcome to all Defence personnel, Australian Public Service members, contractors, families and partners who form part of the Richmond community in 2027.

RAAF Base Richmond has a long and proud history in the development and delivery of Australian air power. Since the arrival of No 3 Squadron on 1 July 1925, Richmond has supported operations, exercises, national emergency responses, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping and global commitments. That legacy remains central to who we are and to the standards we uphold.

Today, Richmond continues to generate and deliver air power as part of a joint and integrated force. The base supports enduring air mobility operations, resident units and enabling functions. As we prepare for the future, including the introduction of additional C-130J Hercules aircraft, our collective focus remains on readiness, professionalism and service to the nation.

None of this is achieved by one unit alone. Richmond's strength comes from the

combined contribution of uniformed personnel, public servants, industry partners and their contractors, families and the wider community. I look forward to working closely with heads of resident units and their teams to maintain a cohesive, effective and respectful base community aligned to our shared mission.

RAAF Richmond also offers many opportunities to build connection and maintain balance. I encourage you and your families to make use of the messes, clubs, community services and base activities available throughout the year. These forums help sustain our traditions, strengthen relationships and support the wellbeing of our people.

Our connection with the Hawkesbury and greater Sydney region is equally important. RAAF Richmond is a longstanding part of the local community, and we will continue to build trusted relationships, enhance Defence's reputation and be ready to support when called upon.

Whether your posting to Richmond is short or long, I encourage you to make the most of it professionally and personally. Take the opportunity to experience the Hawkesbury and the wider Sydney region. Richmond is a special place to serve and I hope your time here is rewarding and memorable.

Welcome to RAAF Base Richmond.



GROUP CAPTAIN ROB GILL

Senior Australian Defence Force Officer,
RAAF Bases Glenbrook and Orchard Hills

ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENCE COMMUNITY

at RAAF Glenbrook, I am delighted to welcome you and your family to the Sydney region and the beautiful Blue Mountains.

RAAF Glenbrook is home to Headquarters Air Command, an operationally focused headquarters supporting the Air Commander Australia in the planning, coordination and generation of air power for the Australian Defence Force.

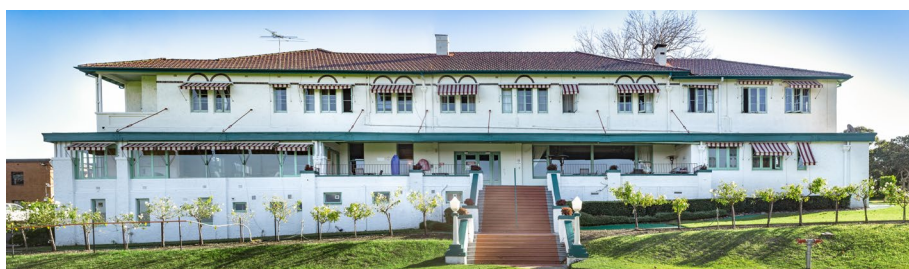
The base also hosts a number specialised elements from other groups within Defence, bringing together a diverse workforce of military members, public servants and contractors.

RAAF Glenbrook boasts a number of notable buildings, the most significant being the Glenbrook Combined Mess (pictured below). This building was originally the old Laptson Hotel, which opened in 1929. The site was

acquired by the Royal Australian Air Force in 1949, to accommodate what was then Headquarters Eastern Area. The Combined Mess is the focal point for our close community, affording us the opportunity to share memorable social and official events. Its elevated position affords stunning panoramic views of the Sydney skyline to the east, providing a truly memorable setting for many of the significant occasions experienced during a posting to Glenbrook.

Nestled at the foot of the Blue Mountains and within easy reach of Sydney, Glenbrook offers access to world-class natural attractions and a wide range of sporting and recreational activities. I encourage you to make the most of the benefits of the local area for the duration of your posting and take an active part in our vibrant community.

I hope that your time at RAAF Glenbrook is both professionally rewarding and personally fulfilling.





A PROUD HISTORY

A proud part of the Hawkesbury and wider Sydney community, RAAF Base Richmond's roots in the area extend more than a century, and today it continues to provide an important role for Defence.



THE AIR FORCE'S SECOND OLDEST BASE

RAAF Base Richmond is located within the City of Hawkesbury, between Windsor and Richmond, and remains home to the RAAF's transport headquarters, Air Mobility Group.

Its origins began with Parramatta dentist William Hart in 1912, who took off in his self-made monoplane from a patch of land in the Hawkesbury known as Ham Common.

An early aviation enthusiast, Hart's flights thrilled the largely rural communities of Richmond and Windsor, but even he couldn't have imagined the aviation legacy to follow.

In September 1912, a serious flying accident hospitalised Hart and curbed his flying days in the Hawkesbury, however his efforts had sparked the imagination of others.

The outbreak of war in Europe in 1914 led to the establishment of a NSW State Government-sponsored flying school in 1916. Graduates from the school would either join the Australian Flying Corps at Point Cook in Melbourne, or be shipped to the Royal Flying Corps in Europe.

THE FORMATION OF THE RAAF

The flying school at Ham Common was disbanded following the war, but the facilities that remained caught the attention of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) when it first formed as an independent service in March 1921.

The RAAF originated at RAAF Base Point Cook

in Melbourne, but the need for a second base – located in Sydney – was quickly discerned.

Senior Officers in the RAAF judged that a new base in Sydney couldn't be located near the coast, due to the risk (at the time) of a naval bombardment. The base, however, still needed to be within flying distance of the sea so as to allow for cooperation with the Royal Australian Navy. The new base needed to be located close to major road and rail links that would connect it with local industry, but also required enough open space for pilots to fly without endangering the public.

The Ham Common site between Richmond and Windsor matched the requirements perfectly. As it was located adjacent to Windsor Road and the Richmond train line, it had suitable transport links to Sydney, plus it had existing aviation facilities from World War I.

RAAF Base Richmond was formed on 30 June 1925, and the first biplanes – belonging to No 3 Squadron – arrived from RAAF Base Point Cook.

HOW THE BASE EVOLVED

With aviation still largely in its infancy in the 1920s and 1930s, the role of the Air Force was largely to work in direct support of the Army and Navy – but the best means of doing this were still being explored. These ranged from tasks such as reconnaissance, aerial spotting of artillery and naval bombardment, although the RAAF did conduct some experiments in aviation from Richmond, including the first use of parachutes in Australia in 1927.

Among the RAAF biplanes flying over the Hawkesbury were a number of aviation pioneers on trailblazing flights, including Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Amy Johnson and Jean Batten. ➔

↑ The flight line at RAAF Base Richmond.

PHOTO: CPL Dan Pinhorn

A bust of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, created by Sydney artist Enid Fleming and presented to the base by her son Dr Lawrence Sayer in 2018, can be found in the Officers' Mess.

RAAF Base Richmond's relationship with Sydney was further consolidated with the establishment of a Citizens Air Force unit, No 22 Squadron, in 1936. It remains today a key part of RAAF Base Richmond's airbase operations and reserve personnel support.

As war clouds darkened in Europe during the late 1930s, RAAF Base Richmond underwent considerable expansion, including construction of the present-day Officers' Mess and Commander's residences.

With the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, a number of flying squadrons at RAAF Base Richmond were dispatched to Europe and the Middle East.

When the war came to the Pacific in December 1941, RAAF Base Richmond found itself a major centre of aircraft maintenance and repairs, as well as a training ground for personnel – from initial recruits through to Army paratroops and new attack bomber squadrons bound for New Guinea.

POST WORLD WAR II

While the RAAF experienced considerable drawdown of aircraft, personnel and bases following the end of WWII, RAAF Base Richmond remained on strength in a variety of roles.

Between 1954 and 1967, maritime patrol missions were flown along the east coast of Australia by twin-engine Neptune surveillance planes operating from Richmond. Vampire and Meteor jet fighters belonging to No 22 Squadron also called Richmond home.

A new role for RAAF Base Richmond emerged in the 1950s, however, one it continues to fulfil today. The steady increase of RAAF air transport aircraft during the 1950s saw Richmond become a logistics hub for Defence, initially with the venerable C-47 Dakota – an iconic twin-engine transport aircraft from the war.

Then, in December 1958, the first C-130A Hercules transport aircraft touched down at RAAF Base Richmond, and with this (and subsequent) models of the Hercules, personnel from RAAF Base Richmond would be transported around the globe.

Hercules from Richmond have been instrumental in supporting Australian personnel from the Vietnam War through to Peacekeeping Operations in Asia, the Middle East and the South Pacific, and right through to the Middle East region. As well as the Hercules, other transport aircraft that have called Richmond home include the DHC-4 Caribou (1964 to 1993) and Boeing 707 (1979 to 2008).

THE BASE TODAY

Today, RAAF Base Richmond finds itself retaining its strong links to the air transport role, housing No 37 Squadron (with its C-130J Hercules). Coordinating these squadrons – and a host of other air mobility units at other RAAF bases – calls on the talents of other units at RAAF Base Richmond, including Headquarters Air Mobility Group, No 84 Wing and the Air Mobility Control Centre.

On top of this are support units such as Air Mobility Training Development Unit and the Army's own No 176 Air Dispatch Squadron.

Other key units and organisations based at RAAF Base Richmond are Air Lift Systems Program Office (providing logistics and sustainment to the C-130J Hercules and C-27J Spartan), No 22 Squadron (delivering garrison support to RAAF Base Richmond), and No 3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (which, as the name

suggests, facilitates the care of sick and wounded personnel on Defence aircraft).

A host of other units is also located at the base, including local detachments for Aircraft Research and Development Unit, No 453 Squadron (air traffic control), No 28 Squadron (imagery) and No 87 Squadron (intelligence). No 65 Squadron – an airfield engineering unit – also operates a detachment from RAAF Base Richmond.

In 2018, the base celebrated major milestones including the 75th anniversary of the formation of No 37 Squadron and the 60th anniversary of RAAF Hercules flying operations. Memorials commemorating the 1943 Battle of the Bismarck Sea and the death of Victoria Cross awardee Flight Lieutenant Bill Newton were also created.

In 2025, the base commemorated its 100 year anniversary with the RAAF Richmond Airshow.

THE BASE AT A GLANCE

RAAF Base Richmond is an important hub for the Australian Defence Force because of its geographical location to Sydney.

THE FOLLOWING UNITS and major commercial contractors to Defence are all located at, or have significant facilities based at, RAAF Base Richmond.

- 176 Air Dispatch Squadron
- No 22 (City of Sydney) Squadron
- No 3 Wing - Richmond
- No 3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
- No 37 Squadron
- No 65 Squadron Detachment Richmond
- No 453 Squadron Detachment Richmond (Air Traffic Control)
- No 464 Squadron Detachment Richmond
- Army Ground Liaison Det 1 and 4
- No 87 Squadron Air Mobility Tactical Intelligence Flight
- Air Mobility Training and Development Unit
- Air Lift Systems Program Office
- Air Force Improvement Team (Richmond)
- Airbus Group Australia Pacific
- Downer
- CAE
- CIOG Regional ICT Services
- Defence Members and Family Services
- Defence Maintenance Management
- Defence Support Richmond
- Estate & Infrastructure Group
- Headquarters Air Mobility Group
- Headquarters No 84 Wing
- Joint Logistics Unit – East
- MSS Security
- Northrop Grumman Integrated Defence Services
- Raytheon
- School of Post Graduate Studies (Richmond Detachment)
- United States Air Force Detachment
- RAAF School of Administration and Logistics Training (Richmond Detachment)
- Richmond Health Centre
- Jericho Lab
- New South Wales Rural Fire Service
- RAAF Richmond has three Defence Messes: an Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess and Airman's Mess, as well as commercial services on base that include a canteen, barber, motor mechanic, Australian Military Bank and Defence Bank.
- The local Australian Air Force Cadet (AAFC) units are No 336 Squadron AAFC and No 320 Squadron AAFC.
- Compass



PHOTO: LACW Mikaela Fernlund

KEY ASSETS

Each squadron and detachment at Raaf Base Richmond has a fascinating background.

↑ **A 37SQN C130J Hercules aircraft departs Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Woodbourne during Exercise Mobility Astra 2026.**



NO 37 SQUADRON

No 37 Squadron (37SQN) conducts air mobility missions across the world with a 12-strong fleet of C-130J Hercules transport aircraft, which will expand to 20 aircraft in the coming years.

The unit was formed in July 1943 at RAAF Base Laverton, Vic, flying Lockheed Lodestars and later Dakota transports. Following the war, it repatriated Australian prisoners of war and flew 20,000km courier missions to Japan before disbanding in 1947.

Re-established at RAAF Base Richmond in 1966, 37SQN was equipped with C-130E Hercules to provide an 'air bridge' for Defence to South Vietnam. It later delivered the first response to Darwin after Cyclone Tracy, provided humanitarian airlift during the fall of Saigon, Vietnam, and supported peacekeeping in the Sinai, Solomon Islands and East Timor.

The squadron transitioned from the C-130E to the C-130J Hercules in September 1999, and supported a permanent deployment in the Middle East Region from 2004 to 2021, conducting Australian and coalition combat support operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Crews are trained to fly missions by day and

night to remote airfields with little infrastructure, and can also airdrop paratroopers, supplies and equipment to a drop zone.

Each Hercules can carry up to 128 passengers and up to 20 tonnes of cargo, in a standard configuration. However, for operations such as the 2021 Afghanistan evacuation, aircraft carried considerably more passengers using contingency loading procedures.

Recent upgrades have introduced global communications systems that provide crew and passengers with greater awareness and flexibility while airborne, and share information with friendly forces. The combination of Hercules range and capability, coupled with the training of its workforce, means 37SQN is continuously engaged in Defence operations and exercises around the world. The unit often assists communities in need, delivering supplies and civilian emergency services, as well as supporting a number of high-profile search and rescue events at sea.

The Hercules can also be configured for aeromedical evacuation missions, supporting Defence or civilian patients alike. Examples include the return of Australians from the 2019 White Island volcano eruption, Bundaberg Hospital evacuation during floods in 2013, and the evacuation of Cairns Hospital during Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

Recent accomplishments include support to the evacuation of Australian's from Lebanon during Operation Beech 2024, providing aid following the eruption of Tongan volcano Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai and the subsequent tsunami, evacuation of personnel from Sudan in 2023, evacuations from New Caledonia in 2024, and delivering aid to Enga Province in Papua New Guinea after significant landslides in 2024.

The versatility of the squadron was demonstrated when 37SQN was tasked to provide VIP transport support to the late Pope Francis during his visit to the remote township of Vanimo on the northern coast of Papua New Guinea in 2024. This was a complex mission that drew on all mission capabilities of the C-130J, including aeromedical evacuation, VIP transport, high-vision flying and Pope Mobile vehicle transport.



PHOTO: LACW Mikaela Fernlund

↑ **37SQN personnel display their November campaign effort on the RAAF Base Richmond flightline.**

176 AIR DISPATCH SQUADRON

176 Air Dispatch Squadron of the 9th Force Support Battalion is responsible for providing an air cargo delivery capability to the Australian Defence Force and whole-of-government agencies. This includes the rapid supply and delivery of combat enabling effects that includes conventional airdrop, precision delivery aerial systems, rotary-wing external lift, unmanned aerial systems and airland to effectively enable the joint force.

The soldiers of 176 Air Dispatch Squadron prepare, maintain, repair and dispatch stores and equipment required to deliver this capability. Other functions of the squadron include the conduct of personnel parachuting, operating materiel handling equipment and the preparation of loads for external air lift, where cargo is carried underneath Australian Defence Force and coalition helicopters such as the CH-47 Chinook or MRH90 Taipan.

The Air Dispatch role in the Australian Army has its origins in the skies of New Guinea during World War II, when cargo and supplies were pushed from the side doors of RAAF Dakota aircraft to resupply the Diggers fighting the ground war below.

It carried on through the Malayan Emergency and the Vietnam War, with 176 Air Dispatch Company being formed in 1967. It became 176 Air Dispatch Squadron in 1973, and relocated from Penrith to RAAF Base Richmond in 1993.

Since then, it has been deployed on a significant number of Defence military,



↓ A Container Delivery System is loaded into a RAAF C-130J Hercules at Adisutjipto Air Force Base in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, as part of Exercise Rajawali AUSINDO 24.

PHOTO: LAC Chris Tsakiris

peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, and most notably played a key role in supporting the RAAF airdrop of supplies to Iraqi civilians in Mt Sinjar and Amirli in 2014 and supporting disaster relief operations in Vanuatu and Tonga.

More recently, it has worked with Air Force and Australian Antarctic Division to fly the longest airdrop mission in Australian history, delivering

fuel and supplies to the southern-most continent. It has also worked with Army Aviation supporting the civilian community during Operation Bushfire Assist 19/20 and Operation Flood Assist WA.

176 Air Dispatch Squadron maintains a community relationship with the Norfolk Island Cadets and is associated with 22 Platoon at 1st Recruit Training Battalion.



PHOTO: CPL Brett Sherriff

↑ Aviators from 65ABRS with counterparts from the Royal Canadian and US Air Forces prepare sections of fibreglass re-enforced panels to repair craters in an airstrip at Townsville Field Training Area.



PHOTO: SONLDR Bel Cullery

↑ One of the new staircases built by 65ABRS in a PNG Defence Force house at Kiki Barracks, Port Moresby.



NO 65 AIR BASE RECOVERY SQUADRON

When the Air Force deploys, it needs to ensure airfields are safe to operate from, and it is in this role that No 65 Air Base Recovery Squadron (65ABRS) serves. The

primary role of the unit is to provide the ADF with an air base recovery capability, building on Air Force experience in the role that originated during World War II.

While the unit's headquarters and A Flight are located at RAAF Base Townsville, Qld, 65ABRS's B Flight has elements at RAAF Base Richmond and Defence Establishment Orchard Hills, NSW.

The squadron was established at RAAF Base Amberley, Qld, on 1 July 2015, from the airfield engineering elements of No 383 Squadron and No 1 Security Forces Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight.

Aircraft such as the C-130J Hercules and C-17A Globemaster can operate from austere airfields during disasters but, fundamentally, robust

and often purpose-built infrastructure is required for them to do their job properly. To support that requirement, 65ABRS elements often deploy to remote locations to survey, plan and regenerate air base infrastructure, along with the construction of passive defence structures to complement physical security to enable active defence of the air base.

Personnel can also be employed to remedy damage to aircraft pavements and moving surfaces to support fast-jet operations. Doing so requires a combination of expertise in civil engineering and construction, as well as specialised equipment including bulldozers, graders, power generators and water purification systems. Additionally, personnel are regularly called upon to dispose of unexploded ordnance on Defence air weapons ranges and dispose of explosive remnants of war in the South Pacific.

Recent activities include Exercise Bronze Croc 25 in Townsville Field Training Area, where 65ABRS personnel worked with personnel from the US and Canadian Air Forces conducting Airfield Damage Repair training, and Olgeta Aviator where 65ABRS personnel were enhancing the lives of Papua New Guinea (PNG) Defence Force families by renovating married quarters at Kiki Barracks in Port Moresby.



↑ RAAF Medical Staff from No 3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron monitor patients on board a C-27J Spartan simulator during a Force Generation training activity.



NO 3 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON

No 3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was formed in 2013 to provide a specialised global aeromedical retrieval capability for the Australian

Defence Force. The squadron was originally formed as No 3 RAAF Hospital in 1940, providing dedicated hospital services for more than 60 years before shifting focus to a more expeditionary, deployable Air Force health squadron.

The squadron motto, *Care where needed*, exemplifies a tradition of Air Force aeromedical care to the servicemen and women of the ADF that dates back to World War II. During WWII, ill and injured soldiers, sailors and airmen were returned to Australia from New Guinea and the Middle East under the care of nurses on board C-47 Dakotas and other transport aircraft, and following the war, prisoners of war were returned home to Australia, cared for in-flight by medical staff.

The RAAF aeromedical evacuation role evolved during the Vietnam War with the

introduction into service of the more capable C-130 Hercules, which has provided decades of aeromedical evacuation support in operational theatres such as East Timor and the Middle East.

RAAF aero-medical evacuation has also provided significant benefit to the civilian community, particularly following terrorist bombings in Bali, natural disasters in South East Asia and cyclone and flood evacuation events in Australia, such as Cyclone Yasi, Cyclone Trevor and the Bundaberg flood evacuations.

No 3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has also been tasked to support the evacuation of Australians at home and overseas, and people from other nations following natural disasters at White Island in New Zealand, Nepal, Vanuatu and Fiji.

Prior to the formation of No 3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in 2013, aeromedical evacuation services were conducted by RAAF health units all over Australia. Conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq in recent decades have highlighted the requirement for a dedicated unit of clinical and support personnel staff whose primary task is to perform aeromedical evacuations and this was the primary driver of the unit's formation and re-focused role.

The squadron, located at Richmond, NSW, and Amberley, Qld, now comprises a cadre of

full-time and part-time medical, nursing, paramedical and support personnel dedicated to the conduct of aeromedical evacuation missions on a range of civilian and military aircraft, including Air Force C-17A Globemaster, C-130J Hercules and C-27J Spartan.

No 3 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron regularly participates in mission-ready training and exercises with other military forces within the Indo-Pacific region and our Five Eyes partners to share common training objectives and aeromedical evacuation expertise.



NO 87 SQUADRON - AIR MOBILITY TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE FLIGHT

The key role of No 87 Squadron (87SQN) is to provide intelligence

support to the Air Force, ensuring Defence personnel are adequately informed of some of the challenges they may face on operations.

Many personnel at RAAF Base Richmond can find themselves being first on the scene during times of crisis, which makes the information and briefings they receive from 87SQN all the more vital. The unit's Air Mobility Tactical Intelligence Flight is located at RAAF Bases Richmond and Amberley, with the higher 87SQN headquarters located at RAAF Base Williamtown near Newcastle, NSW.

The unit was originally established in June 1942 as a photographic reconnaissance unit in the Northern Territory, and later flew the Lightning and Mosquito reconnaissance aircraft. Disbanded in 1953, the unit was re-formed in July 2006 under its present-day guise.

↓ An Air Intelligence Analyst – Operational Intelligence from No 87 Squadron Air Mobility Tactical Intelligence Flight, provides No 35 Squadron pilot with a mission brief.





↑ RAAF aircraft conduct an air-to-air refuelling serial with a RAAF KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport, during a sortie as a part of Exercise Pitch Black 26.



HEADQUARTERS AIR MOBILITY GROUP

Headquarters Air Mobility Group (AMG) is located at RAAF Base Richmond and is led by Air Commodore Bradley Clarke, Commander Air Mobility Group.

AMG has a workforce of approximately 2,200 personnel at three bases across Australia and provides Defence with fixed-wing airlift and air-to-air refuelling capabilities.

When Defence needs to deploy somewhere quickly, the task typically falls to AMG, and often

it is a C-130J based at Richmond that responds.

The AMG capability ranges from flying up to 77 tonnes of cargo (in the C-17A Globemaster III), to air-to-air refuelling up to 11,000km from a home base (with the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport), and delivering payloads and personnel to the frontline of operations (using the C-130J Hercules and the C-27J Spartan). It also includes transporting VIP passengers using the 737 Boeing Business Jet, the Falcon 7X and the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft.

AMG was known as Air Lift Group until April 2013 and was renamed to better reflect the range of capabilities delivered by the group, and to align with terminology used by coalition air forces.

AIR MOBILITY CONTROL CENTRE

The Air Mobility Control Centre (AMCC) controls and supports those Air Mobility assets that are directed by strategic or operational authorities. In doing so, AMCC receives cargo and passenger movement requests from across Defence and government subsequently prioritising and allocating AMG resources to meet those requests in accordance with operational and strategic priorities.

AMCC also plans the use of Air Force's air-to-air refuelling capability, the KC-30A. This capability allows the RAAF to refuel other aircraft inflight and increase the reach of those aircraft across Australia and the wider globe.

AMCC conducts deliberate planning activities which may enable missions that are months in the creation, or can conduct dynamic planning in response to contingencies that demand immediate response such as disaster relief and crisis reaction around the world.

When required, AMCC reorients its posture to integrate with the joint force through the Air and Space Operations Centre commensurate to the Air Mobility commitment.

AMCC is a hive of activity and no two days are ever the same.



← Equipment from the NSW Rural Fire Service is loaded onto a RAAF C-17A Globemaster at RAAF Base Richmond, bound for France to assist with the 2026 wild fires.



NO 84 WING

No 84 Wing is one of two wings under Air Mobility Group. Located at RAAF Base Richmond, No 84 Wing is responsible for the guidance, governance and leadership of its three subordinate units –

No 37 Squadron, No 35 Squadron, and the Air Mobility Training and Development Unit. No 84 Wing manages the Force Generation and employment of the Air Force's light and medium combat airlift capability, as well as aerial delivery load clearances and select air logistics, aircrew and technical training.

No 84 Wing Headquarters, No 37 Squadron and its fleet of C-130J Hercules aircraft, along with the Air Mobility Training and Development Unit, are located at Richmond. No 35 Squadron and its fleet of C-27J Spartan aircraft are located at RAAF Base Amberley.

No 84 Wing has a proud history dating back to 1944 when it was formed as an Army Co-operation Wing in the South West Pacific

theatre of World War II. At the time, No 84 Wing governed squadrons of CAC Boomerangs and Wirraways, Auster observation planes, and Bristol Beauforts. Its duties included reconnaissance and artillery spotting, delivering supplies and marking targets for other attack aircraft. Dis-established in 1946, it remained dormant until being reactivated as a transport Wing in 1991.



AIR MOBILITY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Air Mobility Training and Development Unit (AMTDU) is an 84 Wing unit with a rich history. It was formed on 1 October 1965 to support the effective utilisation of new capabilities being introduced into ADF service at that time such as the Caribou aircraft and the Iroquois helicopter; and uniquely consisted of separate RAAF and Army components under separate commands until coming under a single RAAF command in

December 1997. The unit currently has a mixed workforce of approximately 70 Air Force, Army and Australian Public Service personnel.

AMTDU delivers air mobility effects through air cargo load clearances; core Air Mobility Group aircrew and technical training courses; and the qualifying of Air Dispatchers and other Army personnel to prepare cargo and vehicles for airdrop from aircraft, and external lift under helicopters.

Whenever Defence needs a new piece of equipment to be carried in an Air Mobility Group transport aircraft, safely air-dropped at 200kph, or carried underneath a helicopter, they come to one place. AMTDU engineers and loadmasters or air dispatchers assess the item to ensure that it is strong enough and can be restrained so there is no risk to the aircraft of it moving during flight, or of it being damaged during an airdrop or external lift. They also conduct loading trials to ensure that the item can fit in the required aircraft, or simulated airdrops from a crane to replicate the forces experienced when landing on the ground under parachute.

Requests for AMTDU's expertise can be wide and varied – ranging from large vehicles such as the Abrams tank or HX-77 series of trucks, to the Pope-mobile for a task within the South West Pacific; and from maritime airdrop of canoes or sea mines, to land airdrop of bulldozers or quad-bikes.

AMTDU supports a number of International Engagement activities, especially through its Air Dispatcher training courses that regularly include members from Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, or other Pacific neighbours. Collaboration in achieving mutual training or capability outcomes has also been undertaken with the New South Wales State Emergency Service and the Rural Fire Service.

Whatever their role across the unit, AMTDU's members strive every day to execute the unit motto of 'Develop and Deliver' in supporting the capability outcomes required for the ADF.



← AMTDU members conducting Land 19 Live Trials for the Deployable Data Centre Assembly at RAAF Townsville with 5 AVN Regiment and 3 CSR support.





↑ Attendees at 22SQN's 90th birthday celebration at RAAF Base Richmond.



NO 22 SQUADRON

For 90 years, No 22 Squadron (22SQN) has played a vital role in supporting RAAF operations while maintaining a strong connection with the City of Sydney and the Hawkesbury region.

From its beginnings as a Citizen Air Force unit to its current role at RAAF Base Richmond, the squadron's history reflects adaptability, service and resilience.

Formed on 20 April 1936 at RAAF Base Richmond, No 22 Squadron began as a Citizen Air Force unit, offering civilians the opportunity to serve part-time in aviation while continuing their civilian careers. Equipped with Hawker Demon and de Havilland Gypsy Moth biplanes, the squadron also ensured a pool of trained personnel was available in times of conflict.

Following the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the squadron was called to active service, conducting anti-submarine patrols off the Sydney coastline in Avro Anson aircraft.

In April 1942, 22SQN transitioned to A-20 Boston bombers, becoming an offensive combat unit. After operations along Australia's east coast, the squadron deployed to New Guinea in October

1942, undertaking missions against Japanese forces in the South West Pacific.

One of the squadron's most distinguished members, Flight Lieutenant Bill Newton, was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in March 1943, remaining the only RAAF pilot in the Pacific theatre to receive this honour.

The squadron later operated Beaufighter strike aircraft before returning to Australia and being disbanded in August 1946.

Re-formed in 1948 at Bankstown, 22SQN combined permanent and part-time personnel, operated aircraft including the Mustang and Tiger Moth, and was relocated to RAAF Base Schofields.

The introduction of the S-51 Dragonfly helicopter marked an early entry into search and rescue operations, while subsequent operation of the Vampire and Meteor aircraft saw the squadron enter the jet age. In 1953, it returned to RAAF Base Richmond.

Flying operations ceased in 1960 and the squadron transitioned into a support role within the Air Force Reserve. A major shift occurred in 2010, when the squadron assumed responsibility for Airbase Operations Support at Richmond.

Today, 22SQN delivers critical capabilities, including:

- Airfield firefighting and rescue
- Air movements coordination
- Vehicle and equipment maintenance

- Personnel support and physical training
- Base-wide operational coordination through the Airbase Operations Centre
- Flight line security and weapons training
- Logistics and safety

The squadron maintains strong partnerships with organisations such as the NSW Police and NSW Rural Fire Service, reflecting its enduring commitment to both Defence and community support.

From biplanes to bombers and now airbase operations, 22SQN has continually evolved to meet the needs of the Air Force. Today, it remains a cornerstone of capability at Richmond: prepared to meet the future.

↓ Commanding Officer 22SQN, Wing Commander Andrew Burke and Aircraftwoman Lily Fletcher cut the 90th birthday cake.



464 SQUADRON DETACHMENT RICHMOND

No 464 Squadron was re-established in January 2021 under the Information Warfare Directorate of the Air Warfare Centre, providing public affairs and imagery support. On 1 July 2023, as part of Plan Mulleun, No 464 Squadron's command and control transferred to the Chief of Staff Branch under Air Force Headquarters.

Headquartered at HMAS Harman in Canberra, the squadron has imagery sections at RAAF Bases Richmond, Williamstown, Amberley, Darwin, Edinburgh, and in Canberra. It also manages a number of public affairs officers – full-time and reservist – across the country.

The squadron provides public affairs and imagery support to numerous high-profile public events, Air Force and wider Defence exercises and operations, including supporting joint task forces in Australia and abroad.

Originally, the squadron was formed in September 1942, flying Ventura bombers from bases in England. It later re-equipped with Mosquito fighter bombers, which were flown in precision attacks on German targets. That included attacking the Amiens Prison in France – also known as Operation Jericho – and other similar raids, which led the squadron to be nicknamed 'The Gestapo Hunters'.

Imagery support requests for RAAF Base Richmond can be made by emailing 464sqn.imagerysupport-ric@defence.gov.au or 464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au.

↓ A SERCO nurse and RAAF medical technician take observations on a at the Richmond Joint Health Centre.

RICHMOND HEALTH CENTRE

Richmond Health Centre (RICHC) provides garrison-based primary healthcare services to ADF personnel and ensures the readiness of ADF personnel posted to RAAF Richmond, RAAF Glenbrook and Defence Establishment Orchard Hills. RICHC provides medical (general practice, occupational and aviation medicine), dental, mental health, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and pharmacy services as well as inpatient ward care. RICHC does not routinely provide aerodrome emergency health response (AEHR) coverage at RAAF Richmond. However, if AEHR coverage was required, it would be provided with support from 94 Wing unit personnel. RICHC has a blended workforce of ADF, APS and contractor personnel, including medical officers, nursing staff, dentists, dental assistants, physiotherapists, mental health professionals, pharmacist, rehabilitation personnel and administrative staff.

RICHC is open 0730-1630h Monday to Thursday and 0730-1430h Friday. The inpatient ward is open 24 hours 0730h Monday to 1200h Friday, with members transferred to Holsworthy Health Centre Simpson Ward for weekends if requiring ongoing care.

Contact details

For appointments and general enquiries, contact RICHC directly via phone or email as per below.

- **Medical** 02 4579 5688
jhunsw.richmondhc@defence.gov.au
- **Ward** 02 4579 4905
- **Dental** for appointments/routine enquiries email jhu-nnsw.richcdental@defence.gov.au. For urgent dental matters within 24 hours, call 02 4579 2091.
- **Pharmacy** for routine enquiries email pharmacy@defence.gov.au.

richmondhc@defence.gov.au. For urgent matters within 24 hours, call 02 4579 4774.

In emergencies, personnel should call 000 first and then notify the RICHC Medical Emergency Phone on 02 4587 2444.

defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/wellbeing/garrison-health-centres#nsw

NEW SOUTH WALES RURAL FIRE SERVICE

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) operates a fleet of large air tanker aircraft from RAAF Base Richmond, although these aircraft may deploy to regional airfields to be in closer proximity to local fires.

The large air tanker fleet includes a Boeing 737 large air tanker (named *Marie Bashir*) and an aero commander permanently operated by the NSW RFS throughout the year. During the bushfire season, a number of temporarily leased large air tankers and observation aircraft will be operated from RAAF Base Richmond as well.

The unprecedented bushfire season of 2019/20 saw the NSW RFS fly many of its large air tanker missions from RAAF Base Richmond. NSW RFS crews used these aircraft to fight local blazes at Gaspers Mountain, through Bilpin and Mt Tomah, and the Grose and Jamison Valleys.

In early 2021, the NSW RFS took delivery of two new Cessna Citation V aircraft in a boost to the service's aerial firefighting capability. The two aircraft (call signs Fire Scan 200 and Fire Scan 201) will serve a multipurpose role, able to perform lead plane functions for the NSW RFS 737 large air tanker and also conduct scanning operations and transport personnel.



PHOTO: SGT David Gibbs



↑ An F-35A Lightning II aircraft parked near the air traffic control tower at RAAF Base Richmond.



NO 453 SQUADRON RICHMOND FLIGHT

No 453 Squadron (453SQN) Richmond Flight provides air traffic services through a joint workforce of APS and military staff. Communications

electronic technicians are responsible for the maintenance of the air traffic systems, radios and various navigational aids utilised in the airspace. Air traffic controllers are responsible for providing airspace and airfield control around RAAF Base Richmond, including the management of multiple parachuting drop zones. Both workforces regularly support deployed operations on remote airfields, domestically and abroad.

453SQN was originally formed at Bankstown in May 1941 and served much of World War II as a fighter squadron in South Asia, flying the Brewster Buffalo and the Supermarine Spitfire. Disbanded in 1946, it was re-established in December 2010 to manage air traffic control capability for RAAF Bases Williamtown, NSW, Edinburgh, SA, Pearce, WA, East Sale, Vic, and Richmond, as well as HMAS Albatross at Nowra, NSW.

AIR LIFT SYSTEMS PROGRAM OFFICE

The Air Lift Systems Program Office (ALSPO), in collaboration with industry partners, delivers and sustains the C-130J Hercules and C-27J Spartan capabilities in support of Air Mobility Group operations. Located at RAAF Base

Richmond, ALSPO leads an integrated enterprise focused on planning and delivering reliable, medium air mobility sustainment.

Our multi-disciplinary team, comprising maintainers, engineers, logisticians, contract managers and financial experts, works alongside Defence personnel and industry specialists to ensure mission-ready aircraft. While frontline maintenance is performed by Air Force technicians, in-depth, long-duration maintenance is carried out by trusted Australian industry partners. ALSPO oversees key contracts for engine and propeller system sustainment, with specialist teams operating out of both Richmond and Amberley, Qld.

As a division of the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, ALSPO is committed to strengthening Australian industry capability. This includes expanding opportunities for Indigenous Australians to contribute to maintaining Australia's air mobility advantage. We foster long-term collaboration with industry, combining operational expertise with deep sustainment knowledge to support the C-130J and C-27J fleets.

ALSPO also manages aircraft simulator systems and contracts supporting fixed-wing and rotary simulators across the Army, Navy, and Air Force, ensuring ADF personnel are trained with cutting-edge technology.

Our team understands the complex network of stakeholders at Richmond and Amberley, aligning operations, assurance and governance to deliver integrated air mobility outcomes. This holistic approach ensures readiness and resilience across the fleet.

Our mission: deliver and sustain medium airlift and aerospace simulator capability for the ADF and to provide through-life support to the C-130J Hercules and C-27J Spartan.



↑ ALSPO at RAAF Base Richmond 2026.

NO 3 WING AIR FORCE LIAISON OFFICE – RICHMOND

The 3 Wing Air Force Liaison Officer office is responsible for the administration, governance, and facilitation of Australian Air Force Cadet (AAFC) squadrons throughout NSW and the ACT. The office organises active support from the Air Force to AAFC squadrons and acts as a point of contact between the two organisations. RAAF Base Richmond is also home to No 3 Wing Richmond Flight, a component of the Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS). The EFTS conducts aviation training activities, including Cadet Air Experience and Pilot Experience flights with the Diamond DA40 NG aircraft. Cadets as young as 16 years can learn to fly solo in a VH-registered powered aircraft. For more information, and to find your local squadron, see page 20.

JERICO LAB RICHMOND

As a part of the Edgy Air Force program, supported by Headquarters Air Command Innovation & Improvement, the Richmond Jericho Lab is one of the 11 'makerspaces' located throughout Air Force and integrated with Navy's Centres for Innovation and Army's MakerSpace program. Providing a place for people to meet, develop ideas and innovate in a supportive environment. Jericho Labs are rank-free spaces connected with local industry and across the ADF, creating a multi-layered innovation ecosystem.

The purpose of the Jericho Labs program is to nurture bottom-up innovation by uplifting, upskilling and challenging our people to creatively design and rapidly prototype next-generation solutions to today's problems. Jericho Labs can help personnel realise or test their ideas, develop and expand their professional mastery and add to their network of contacts. The Richmond lab is equipped with a range of tooling and devices such as 3D printers and high-power computing hardware. Presently located in Building 50, anyone on base can get involved with the Jericho Lab. Contact edgy.af@defence.gov.au for more info or to arrange a visit.

RAAF'S SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS TRAINING

The RAAF School of Administration and Logistics Training (RAAFSALT) is headquartered at RAAF Base Wagga, NSW, however its Movements training is conducted at both RAAF Base Wagga and RAAF Base Richmond, to benefit from close engagement with Air Mobility Group (AMG) stakeholders. The RAAFSALT Richmond Campus delivers Initial and Post-Initial Employment Training for Movements personnel throughout their careers, ranging from basic air terminal functions to specific AMG aircraft

type load planning, and weight and balance.

The Richmond campus workforce comprises both Movements personnel and AMG loadmasters, working side by side as they do outside of the training environment. The Richmond campus also delivers Initial Employment Training for logistics officers, benefiting from close engagement with Air Force units at Richmond and Glenbrook, as well as Sydney-based Army and Navy units. As Air Force transitions into a fifth-generation force, RAAFSALT remains postured to deliver contemporary training that is agile, scalable and sustainable, graduating ready, resilient and resourceful aviators in support of the Chief of Air Force intent.

JOINT LOGISTICS UNIT – EAST RICHMOND

Joint Logistics Unit – East Richmond (JLU-E RIC) provides storage and distribution services via a collaborative partnership with the Australian Industry Partner Toll.

JLU-E RIC supports RAAF Base Richmond units and contractors, as well as other ADF elements

↑ **Checking stock in the main warehouse at RAAF Base Richmond.**

Australia-wide and overseas as part of the Joint Logistics Command Defence Logistics Network. This includes the bulk of the C-130J-30 platform inventory holdings, among other aeronautical product and land materiel. JLU-E RIC is a detachment of Joint Logistics Unit – East which is located at Moorebank, Sydney, and one of four detachments of this command across eastern NSW.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE DETACHMENT 1

Located in Hangar 308, USAF Detachment 1 is the only USAF Air Mobility Command port in Australia. USAF Det 1's mission is to execute rapid global mobility and provide logistics support for all USAF aircraft transiting RAAF Base Richmond. The primary support is for weekly C-17 channel missions moving materials to Australia. The detachment is open 0800h to 1600h Monday to Friday.



PHOTO: SGT David Gibbs



PHOTO: CPL David Gibbs

↑ **A C-17A Globemaster from the United States Air Force taxiing in to RAAF Base Richmond.**

CHAPLAINS' WELCOME

A listening ear,
a steady presence.

A **T RAAF BASE RICHMOND**, the Chaplaincy Team is dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of all Defence personnel and their families. Whether you are facing a challenge, seeking guidance, celebrating a milestone, or simply looking for a listening ear, the chaplaincy team is here for you.

Chaplaincy provides a confidential and professional service, available to all members regardless of faith, belief, or background. Defence chaplaincy are specially trained to support individuals through life's challenges, offering practical care, spiritual support, and guidance when needed. They also work closely with commanders, welfare boards, and support agencies to help foster a healthy and resilient workforce.

Importantly, chaplaincy support is available 24/7. Members can book an appointment by emailing ric.chaplains@defence.gov.au, call the 24/7 Duty Chaplain on 0427 281 741, or simply drop into the Chaplaincy Office in Building 14.

Richmond's chaplaincy service is a base-wide

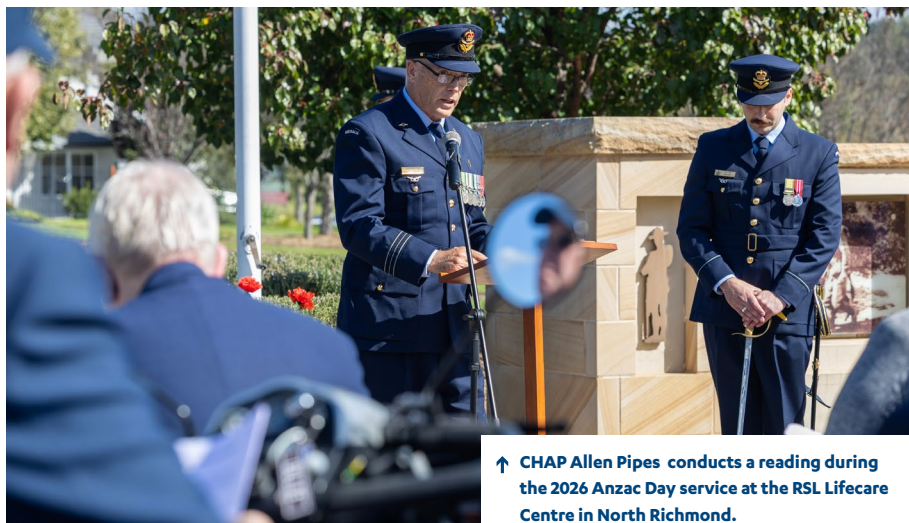


PHOTO: SGT Dan Pinhorn

↑ **CHAP Allen Pipes** conducts a reading during the 2026 Anzac Day service at the RSL Lifecare Centre in North Richmond.

resource, providing care, support and pastoral presence across the entire Defence community. The team consists of two full-time chaplains — CHAP Raphael Abboud and Stephen Gibbins, and four Reserve chaplains CHAP Karen Davison, CHAP Allen Pipes, CHAP Gayan Thamel and CHAP Laurence Gresser.

While much of chaplaincy's work happens

behind the scenes, the team is committed to being visible and accessible throughout the base. You'll often find chaplains visiting squadrons, units, workplaces, and participating in everyday base life.

So, if you see one of the team around Richmond, stop and say g'day. The Richmond Chaplaincy Team is here to serve, support, and walk alongside you as we work together in service of our nation.

BASE SERVICES AND FACILITIES

THE RAAF BASE RICHMOND main gate precinct is located on Dight Street, Richmond, and serves as the main entry/exit point for all personnel and visitors to the base. The roundabout at the front gate also serves as the entry driveway for the Pass Office (call 02 4587 2560), which is staffed 24 hours a day. No access to the base is permitted without an authorised pass and/or DCAC activation, which must be obtained from the Pass Office.

SPORTS FACILITIES: A variety of sporting facilities are available to Defence members and their families at the base, including squash courts, tennis courts, basketball/netball courts, volleyball court, a gymnasium, a 50m swimming pool, cricket pitch and soccer/football grounds.

GYM: Available for use by Defence members all year round, the gym is fully equipped with weights and cardio equipment and the staff can provide individual fitness programs. It is open 24/7 via DCAC swipe access with PTIs on duty from 7am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday (call 02 4587 2615).

POOL: The 50m pool is open during the warmer months, usually from the October long weekend until 31 March. It is also open to Defence families.

COURTS: All courts can be booked by contacting the gym.

BANKS: Both the Australian Military Bank (kiosk) and Defence Bank are located in McNamara Avenue. The Defence Bank has an automatic teller machine.

DEFENCE BANK - RICHMOND BRANCH

Open Mon-Fri 9.30am to 4pm Website: defencebank.com.au; phone: 02 4570 3600; email: richmond@defencebank.com.au

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY BANK

Australian Military Bank mobile banker is available by appointment. We know your time is valuable and that's why we've made banking simpler for you. We can meet you at a time and place that suits you. Call 1300 1323 28 or email richmond@australianmilitarybank.com.au australianmilitarybank.com.au

BETTER CAR, RAAF BASE RICHMOND

On-base mechanical service and repair facility, catering to all Air Force personnel, civilians and contractors on base. We supply warranty logbook service and scheduled vehicle servicing, tyres, registration inspections, fleet/government vehicle services and everything in between.

Open Mon-Fri, 7am to 5pm; Sat by appointment.

Contact mobile 0421 090 090; phone 02 4579 5551; email richmond@bettercargroup.com.

BASE BARBER

On-base barber offering haircuts for all Defence personnel and their families, civilians and contractors.

Open Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm.

Phone 02 4579 2195; 0433 944 444.

AAFCANS

Main Store (opposite pool):

Mon-Thu 7am to 3pm; Fri 7am to 2pm.

Trojan Kiosk (opposite 375QN):

Mon-Thu 7am to 1.30pm ; Fri 7am to 11.30pm.

↓ A RAAF F-35A Lightning II aircraft from No 2 Operational Conversion Unit conducts a flight over the Hawkesbury region.

FLYING OPERATIONS

From routine training and bushfire operations to visits by foreign military aircraft, the runway at RAAF Base Richmond is kept busy.

FLYING ACTIVITY AT RAAF BASE RICHMOND comprises of routine training along with operational missions by civilian and military aircraft alike. Defence aims to cease flying at RAAF Base Richmond between 11pm and 6am, however operational demands may require aircraft to land or take off between these hours – but that is the exception.

A squadron of 12 C-130J Hercules transports calls RAAF Base Richmond home, and crews conduct training in the local area and across regional NSW. During airdrop practice, Hercules and visiting Spartans and Globemasters deliver paratroops at Rickaby's Creek on the Richmond Lowlands, or cargo over Londonderry Drop Zone.

RAAF Base Richmond has a single asphalt

runway approximately 2,100m in length, with an Instrument Landing System (ILS) installed on the Windsor-end.

Fast jets such as the F-35A Lightning II or Hawk 127 Lead-In Fighter often train to use this ILS, in the event they cannot land at RAAF Base Williamstown. This training normally falls between January to March, and from June to August, and is advertised to the Hawkesbury via local media and RAAF Social Media.

Frequent visitors include foreign military aircraft – particularly from the United States, Singapore and New Zealand – which are managed in accordance with strict Australian customs and quarantine requirements.

Regular training missions to the base

is conducted by other Defence aircraft, including Air Force transport and surveillance aircraft, and Army helicopters.

The NSW Rural Fire Service also has a Boeing 737 large air tanker – named *Marie Bashir* – permanently based at RAAF Base Richmond, along with a smaller observation aircraft. Other NSW RFS aircraft operate from the base during the bushfire season.

Smaller aircraft can also be seen in the circuit around RAAF Base Richmond, including Diamond DA40s from the Australian Air Force Cadets, the Richmond Flying Club, and the Richmond Gliding Club.

Where to find out more: airforce.gov.au/news-and-events/flying-activity

AIR FORCE RESERVE

Enjoy a part-time job that complements your career and offers flexible hours, tax-free pay and an exciting lifestyle.

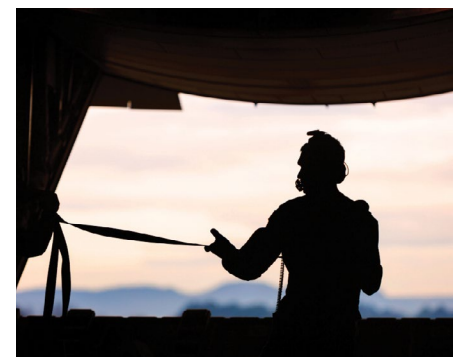
THE RESERVE PRE-DATES FEDERATION, when each of the states maintained locally based naval and army militia. Those forces served in the Sudan, in China during the Boxer Rebellion and in South Africa during the Boer War. The modern Australian Army was drawn from this base at Federation on 1 January 1901, with the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force following some years later.

Volunteers participated in active service during World Wars I and II, with large numbers transferring into the permanent armed forces. Since WWII, the role has changed gradually from separate Reserve units and formations, each

with their own identity and role, to a concept where permanent and Reserve personnel have combined to form a strong and viable force.

In 2001, Federal Parliament passed key legislation to enhance and modernise the Reserve. The legislation affects both Reservists and their employers and has resulted in significant changes to Reserve conditions of employment.

Reservists join the Navy, Army or Air Force as part-time members of the ADF. There are more than 33,000 active and standby Reservists, representing about 33 percent of the total force. They are volunteers who bring with them civilian skills and experience and gain new skills as part of their Reserve training.



Reservists can join as new recruits or can transfer from the full-time Defence Force. They are motivated individuals who are prepared to take on the challenge of training and, through their dedication and time, show a strong commitment to Australia. Defence Reservists make a commitment to train and serve in the defence and protection of Australia.

Further information can be found at adfcareers.gov.au/careers/reserves.



PHOTO: CPL Cath Kelly

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS (AAFC) is one of Australia's leading youth development organisations, inspiring and developing young Australians from 13 years of age through aviation, aerospace, leadership, adventure and STEM-based activities while fostering teamwork, resilience, belonging and a commitment to service.

Supported by the RAAF, the AAFC offers a diverse range of experiences that challenge and inspire young Australians while developing practical skills that can benefit them throughout their lives. Cadets meet weekly at their local squadron and can participate in camps, courses and activities conducted across Australia.

Throughout their cadet journey, members can take part in powered flying and gliding experiences, leadership courses, fieldcraft activities, navigation exercises, first aid training, community service activities, ceremonial activities and physical challenges. They also have

opportunities to attend camps and specialist courses, including activities conducted on Air Force bases, providing valuable exposure to aviation and Defence environments.

As cadets progress through the training program, they have opportunities to advance through the cadet ranks and undertake increasingly challenging leadership and instructional responsibilities. Promotion is achieved through the successful completion of training requirements and leadership courses, enabling cadets to develop confidence, responsibility and practical leadership skills that will benefit them both within and beyond the organisation.

Cadets also have the opportunity to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. Many activities undertaken within the AAFC can contribute towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award levels, providing formal recognition of a cadet's commitment to service, skills development, physical recreation and adventurous activities. The award is

↑ Australian Air Force Cadets drill team at the RAAF Richmond Air Show 2025.

internationally recognised and complements the leadership and personal development opportunities available through the AAFC.

The AAFC continues to evolve alongside emerging technologies and offers exciting opportunities through its Air and Space Program and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) Program. Cadets can explore aerospace concepts, space and aviation technologies, and emerging developments within the air and space domain, while also developing practical drone operating skills and aviation safety knowledge. Eligible cadets may have opportunities to gain valuable skills and experience in drone operations through participation in the RPAS Program.

Beyond the activities themselves, the AAFC helps young people build lifelong friendships, develop leadership and teamwork skills, learn to take responsibility and gain experiences that

support future pathways in aviation, aerospace, Defence, emergency services and a wide range of other professions.

Within No 3 Wing, which covers NSW and the ACT, cadets regularly participate in camps, courses and activities that bring together young people from across the region, creating lasting memories and experiences while fostering personal growth and achievement.

Recruitment opportunities are offered subject to squadron capacity and local intake arrangements. Young Australians interested in joining are encouraged to contact their local squadron to learn more about recruitment opportunities and where the AAFC experience could take them.

LOCAL AAFC SQUADRONS

No 3 Wing Australian Air Force Cadets supports four squadrons within the Richmond, Hawkesbury, Penrith and Blue Mountains regions, providing local young Australians with opportunities to participate in the AAFC program.

No 323 (City of Blue Mountains) Squadron

Located opposite the main entrance to RAAF Base Glenbrook, No 323 Squadron has been serving the Blue Mountains community for more than

70 years. The squadron has a strong reputation for community engagement and service and was granted Freedom of the City by Blue Mountains City Council in recognition of its contribution to the local community, including support provided during the 2013 Winmalee bushfires.

The squadron has also achieved significant success within No 3 Wing, being recognised as NSW and ACT Squadron of the Year in both 2022 and 2023.

Parade night: Wednesday, Glenbrook.

No 336 (City of Hawkesbury) Squadron

Based at RAAF Base Richmond, No 336 Squadron has a proud history of supporting young people throughout the Hawkesbury region. The squadron maintains strong links with both the local community and RAAF Base Richmond and was granted Freedom of Entry to the City of Hawkesbury in recognition of its ongoing contribution and service.

Parade night: Monday, RAAF Base Richmond.

No 320 (Windsor) Squadron

Established in 2024, No 320 Squadron is the newest squadron within No 3 Wing. Formed to meet the growing demand for AAFC within the Hawkesbury region, the squadron provides

additional opportunities for local young people to participate in the AAFC program.

The squadron is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers from diverse military, aviation, professional and educational backgrounds, many of whom are former cadets.

Parade night: Tuesday, RAAF Base Richmond.

No 345 (Penrith) Squadron

Based at Penrith Anglican College, No 345 Squadron supports cadets from across Penrith and the greater Western Sydney region. Since its establishment, the squadron has provided local young people with opportunities to develop leadership skills, build confidence and contribute to their community through participation in the AAFC program.

Parade night: Thursday, Penrith Anglican College.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

For information about joining the AAFC, including current recruitment opportunities and intake periods, please visit the AAFC website at airforcecadets.gov.au. The website provides the latest information on eligibility, recruitment processes and local squadron availability.

HARS Aviation Museum

Highly acclaimed collection of lovingly restored aircraft as well as a selection of Australia's Aviation Heritage aircraft. An incredible tour with a team of knowledgeable tour guides who provide outstanding commentary on your visit.

Over 40 aircraft including:

- DHC-4 Caribou (A4-210, A4-234)
- F-111C (A8-109)
- PB-6A Catalina
- AP-3C Orion (A9-753)
- CAC CA-27 Sabre (A94-901)
- P2V-7 Neptune (A89-273)
- Douglas C-47 (A65-94, A65-95, A65-90 - now N2-90)
- CA-25 Winjeel (A85-435)
- English Electric Canberra (A84-502)
- DH-115 Vampire T-35 (A79-637, A79-665)
- Mirage IIIO (A3-42)

Most displays under cover
- a great rainy day venue

Well stocked shop with
memorabilia from aviation
history

Award winning café with great
coffee, breakfast & lunch menus

High-tech conference
and meeting rooms with
state of the art equipment

Last tour 2pm
café 10am - 2pm



Image: © Hars Aviation Museum



Open 7 days from 9:30am – 3:30pm | 02 4257 4333 | hars.org.au | Shellharbour Airport, Albion Park Rail NSW

HEADQUARTERS AIR COMMAND

The role of RAAF Base Glenbrook is largely to support Headquarters Air Command and execute Australia's Air Command activities.



LOCATED IN THE LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS and overlooking the Sydney basin, RAAF Base Glenbrook is home to the RAAF's Headquarters Air Command (HQAC) which is responsible for the majority of personnel in the Air

Force and all of the operational aircraft and bases.

In 2026, Air Force and HQAC experienced leadership changes with Warrant Officer Gregory Clive CSM appointed as the Air Command Warrant Officer in early 2026, Air Vice-Marshal Harvey Reynolds AM appointed as Air Command Australia in April, and Air Commodore Stewart Seeney OAM appointed Deputy Air Commander Australia in May.

HQAC has undergone numerous changes since its initial formation in May 1942 as Headquarters Eastern Area Command, which relocated to the then-newly established RAAF Base Glenbrook in February 1950. In 1953, it was re-formed as Headquarters Home Command, then Operational Command in 1959 and then Air Headquarters Australia in 1987. In 1996, it took on its current title as Headquarters Air Command.

The job of Air Command is to raise, train and sustain Air Force's air and space power to meet the government's objectives. Its counterpart organisations are Australian Fleet Command in the Royal Australian Navy and Forces Command in the Australian Army.

Directly under the command of HQAC are the RAAF's six Force Element Groups, these are Air Combat Group (HQ at RAAF Base Williamtown), Air Force Training Group (HQ at RAAF Base Williams), Air Mobility Group (HQ at RAAF Base Richmond), Air Warfare Centre (HQ at RAAF Base Edinburgh), Combat Support Group (HQ at RAAF Base Amberley), and Surveillance and Response Group (HQ at RAAF Base Williamtown).

While RAAF Glenbrook does not have

an airfield, it does have a helipad. The base has excellent facilities with an impressive Combined Officers' Mess, formerly known as the Old Lapstone Hotel before HQAC's establishment, commanding views over the Sydney basin.

The base enjoys close ties with the nearby Blue Mountains community, and has cooperated closely during several Defence Assistance to the Civil Community initiatives – key among which are responses to bushfires in the local Blue Mountains area and more recently flooding in the Penrith/Richmond area.

GLENBROOK HEALTH CENTRE

The Glenbrook Clinic is a satellite clinic to Richmond Health Centre. Glenbrook clinic provides outpatient services and remote pharmacy support, and is open 0730-1630 Mondays to Thursdays and 0730-1400 on Fridays. Sick parade services can be accessed all day.

Other services available: Dental (Tuesdays); Aviation Medical Officer (Wednesdays); and Physiotherapy (Wednesdays).

Contacts For general enquiries and medical appointments: 02 4723 1679; jhunns.w.richmondhc@defence.gov.au. In an emergency, please call 000.

GLENBROOK FACILITIES

MAIN GATE AND ACCESS is via Knapsack Street, off the Great Western Highway. New passes are issued between 1-3pm Tuesdays and Thursdays (call the pass office on 02 4737 7203).

THE GYM (Building 112) is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Physical training sessions are run on Tuesdays at 2pm and Thursdays at 8:30am. Members who are interested in attending should bring a water bottle and towel.

TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS are located opposite the Combined Officers' Mess. There is a swimming pool at the front of the mess looking over Sydney, which is open to all staff and their families. Between October and March, the pool is open 6am to 7pm week days and 9am to 7pm on weekends.

THE MESS is open to all members of the RAAF Glenbrook community for lunch in the heritage dining room. The mess grounds are well manicured and open to all staff and families. While there are ATM facilities at the Combined Officers' Mess, please note there are no bank branches located on RAAF Base Glenbrook.



↑ Incoming Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Harvey Reynolds AM (right), and outgoing Air Vice-Marshal Glen Braz AM, CSC, DSM, with the newly planted tree after the change of command ceremony at RAAF Base Glenbrook.

PHOTO: LACW Neil Bradbury



← SQNLDR Coen on a rowing machine during the KARI Foundation charity workout at Headquarters Air Command.



↑ A physical training instructor counts burpees during the workout.



↑ Headquarters Air Command personnel participate in the charity workout.



↑ Personnel who participated in the KARI Foundation charity workout.

SWEATING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

In May 2026, ADF members participated in a charity workout at RAAF Base Glenbrook.

PERSONNEL AT RAAF BASE GLENBROOK traded their daily routines for butterfly sit-ups, jerry can carries and burpees as they took part in a charity work out to support the KARI Foundation.

The event brought personnel together for a series of physical challenges that tested endurance, teamwork and resilience – all to raise funds and awareness for the First Nations not-for-profit organisation.

The event's facilitator and Senior Indigenous Liaison Officer (SILO), Squadron Leader Henry Coen, said participants surpassed their fundraising target, raising \$1,025.

"To stand here as the SILO knowing everyone gave the workout a red-hot crack speaks to the calibre of personnel we have in Air Force," SQNLDR Coen said.

"Their actions showed we are 'all in' when it

comes to practical reconciliation outcomes, promoting *esprit de corps* and a warfighter mindset, while raising vital funds for the KARI Foundation [that] will help many people."

The workout pushed participants physically, featuring gruelling sequences of Ski Erg and Bike Erg intervals superset with body-weight exercises.

But beyond the physical test, the day offered a valuable opportunity for members across the base to connect outside their usual work environments, strengthening the professional relationships that underpin daily service.

Participant Flying Officer Jean Mar said she was proud of how everyone came together to share the load for a cause bigger than themselves.

"No matter the rank, we all felt the pain," she said. "Everyone's always busy, but it was awesome to see such a strong turnout and a bit

of healthy competition. Stuff like this is great for charity and really lifts morale, too. It just shows the kind of positive example our leaders set."

The KARI Foundation empowers First Nations children, young people and families through programs celebrating culture, leadership and community achievement.

"The KARI Foundation was selected for its extensive, impactful work within First Nations communities," SQNLDR Coen said. "This event provided a meaningful opportunity for the Air Force to engage in tangible, practical reconciliation."

As the challenge wrapped up, participants left with more than just tired muscles.

"We were so sore for days after," FLGOFF Mar said, "but it was all worth it."

Laura Monaghan, defence.gov.au

SOCIAL CLUBS AND SERVICES

You don't need to feel left out at your new posting. Joining one of the social, welfare or recreation clubs at the base will keep you busy.

METRO CINEMA

The RAAF Base Richmond Metro Cinema supports the local Defence community through its screenings of family friendly and mature-themed films at minimal cost for all Defence members, their families and friends across the RAAF Richmond, Glenbrook and DEOHS posting locations. Films are screened on Friday and Saturday evenings, with family friendly screenings on a Saturday matinee. More information can be found at facebook.com/RichmondMetroCinema. Special event screenings have seen costumed characters from Star Wars and Marvel films join our patrons, and we regularly host other themed nights to create an atmosphere of fun. Volunteers are essential for the running of the cinema and we welcome new members who can assist with screenings. For more information, email ric.metrocinema@defence.gov.au.

FLYING CLUB

The RAAF Richmond Flying Club provides Defence and APS personnel from across the Sydney area with access to general aviation flying and training. The club is made up of a combined mix of military and civilian members, while its diverse fleet of aircraft can cater for any experience level. It can provide numerous services including Trial Instruction Flights, ADF Flying Currency Scheme hire and flying training up to a Private Pilot License level, as well as a number of endorsements, ratings and reviews. More information is available from rrfc.org.au or email info@rrfc.org.au.

GLENBROOK WELFARE CLUB

The Welfare Club at RAAF Base Glenbrook has numerous outdoor and recreational items available for use, including: camping and kayaking equipment, mountain bikes, trailers, and other miscellaneous items.

The Welfare Club also has passes offering discounted access for Taronga Zoo in Sydney and the Western Plains Zoo near Dubbo.

Information about the RAAF Base Glenbrook Welfare Club, including the equipment available for use, is available by searching 'Glenbrook Welfare Club' on Defence Intranet. You can also purchase work baseball caps and patches from the Welfare Club website. Enquiries can be forwarded through to glnhqac.welfare@defence.gov.au.

FOOTBALL CLUB

The RAAF Base Richmond Football Club coordinates mixed indoor and outdoor football (soccer) tournaments throughout the year, with matches played during lunchtime. Teams are largely formed around workplaces or units at RAAF Base Richmond. More information can be found at <http://drnet.defence.gov.au/raaf/RAAFRFC/pages/Welcome.aspx> or email enquiries to richmondfootballclub@dpe.protected.mil.au.

RAAF RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

The RAAF Richmond Golf Club (RRGC) was formed in October 2002 and is proudly supported by our local Richmond Golf Club. The RRGC's goals are to foster and promote the game, as well as provide regular opportunities for members to play, relax and socialise.

Rounds are normally played on the last Friday of each month with tee times from 1200 to 1245. Monthly and annual championship rounds are held at the Richmond Golf Club.

The RRGC is your gateway to intra/inter-service, tri-service and prestigious charity golfing events and dinners. From beginners to advanced players, membership is open to all ADF, APS and contractor staff employed at RAAF Richmond, Defence Estate Orchard Hills and RAAF Glenbrook. Players without an AGU Handicap are provided a local RRGC handicap.

For further information email the committee at ricgolfclubcommittee@drn.mil.au or go to the club's website at: <http://drnet.defence.gov.au/raaf/AirForce/RRGC/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

AIR FORCE DRONE RACING ASSOCIATION

The Air Force Drone Racing Association offers Air Force personnel the opportunity to represent their service in the sport of drone racing. The association primarily operates in the RAAF Base Richmond region with other members from Canberra. All Air Force personnel regardless of skill level are encouraged to join the sport and to further their knowledge in the engineering behind the drones.

In addition to the competitive side of drone racing, the team conducts science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) engagement activities in the local region



↑ Members of the RAAF Drone Racing Team fly their drone in a payload delivery serial at the Military International Drone Racing Tournament at RAAF Base Richmond.

and across Australia. Further information and membership enquiries can be requested from AFDR.team@defence.gov.au.

MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

RAAF Model Aircraft Club (MAC) is a radio-control aircraft club located next to RAAF Base Richmond, offering Defence personnel and other members a large open area to fly on weekends and public holidays. Club members fly a range of RC aircraft including scale, sport, aerobatic, glider, nitro and electric. RAAF MAC also hosts a number of model competitions throughout the year, including scale and pylon racing. RAAF MAC is perfect for any skill level, with instructors available to help improve your RC flying experience. Further information can be found at raafmac.org or by emailing RAAFMACpresident@gmail.com or raafmacsecretary@gmail.com.

GAMING CLUB

The Gaming Club is for Defence members who would like to engage in friendly table-top/card/digital gaming. The club gives Defence members a common community to bond through provision of a safe and engaging atmosphere to build comradery, friendships and network outside of their core roles. Hours of operation are Thursday 1630-2130 at RSL LifeCare, Lower Ground Floor, 36 Argyle Street, South Windsor. Membership is \$50 per annum. Email RAAF_Richmond_Gaming_Club_raaf.richmondgamingclub@resources.defence.gov.au for further information.

FISHING & RECREATION CLUB

The Fishing and Recreation Club offers personnel the opportunity to explore inland, off-shore, estuary and beach fishing and boating. We regularly conduct training workshops to share skills and knowledge associated with these activities, as well as participating in competitions internal and external to the club. On Wednesdays we meet at the club, from 1600-2200. For further information, get in touch with RIC Welfare Committee ric.welfarecommittee@defence.gov.au.

WINGS WOMEN INTEGRATED NETWORKING GROUPS

WINGS Women Integrated Networking Groups (WINGS) is a localised program that facilitates mentoring and networking amongst Air Force women. Sydney WINGS offers ongoing opportunities for all Air Force women at all stages of their career to optimise their potential by strengthening professional networks, engaging in supportive and nurturing forums where individuals can share experiences, and creating networks and friendships with Air Force women in the local area. Contact ricwings@dpe.protected.mil.au to be added to the Sydney WINGS distribution list and for further information.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

KISSINGPOINT COTTAGE

Kissingpoint Cottage is a tri-service community house located just behind Timor Barracks, 282 Kissing Point Road, Dundas. Their aim is to support military partners and their children in a fun and friendly environment where everyone understands the unique lifestyle and challenges faced by Defence families. If you are new to the area or would simply like to make some new friends, come along and try some of their weekly sessions. They would love to meet you! Join them for one of their many planned activities such as fitness classes, drop in coffee mornings, playgroup or their after school sessions for school aged children. For more information email kissingpointcottage@gmail.com or visit the Kissingpoint Cottage Facebook page.

DEFENCE FAMILIES OF AUSTRALIA

Defence Families of Australia (DFA) is the official ADF families advisory body to the Minister for Defence Personnel and the Chief of the Defence Force. It advocates for and provides advice to Defence and other stakeholders for ongoing improvement in policy and practical support in the best interests of ADF families across three core areas:

1. Family Readiness

Supporting families to be well-prepared in the face of the unique demands of Defence life. This includes advocating for systems and resources that equip families to manage

absences, deployments, and relocations with confidence and stability.

2. Contemporary Families

Recognising and championing evolving family structures within the Defence community. Modern families are diverse and current policies and supports do not always reflect this. DFA is committed to ensuring inclusive representation that acknowledges single-parent families, blended families, same-sex couples and other non-traditional configurations.

3. Family Wellbeing

Advocating for services and supports that enhance the overall wellbeing of Defence families. This includes ensuring access to mental health resources, community connection, employment support and family-friendly policies that are fit for purpose and responsive to real-world challenges.

Follow DFA on social media for advocacy updates or go to our website at dfa.org.au.

DEFENCE SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP

The Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc. (DSNSG) is a national not-for-profit benevolent volunteer organisation. DSNSG provides support, information, assistance and advocacy for all ADF families who are currently serving as well as ex-serving with special needs located both around Australia and overseas. For more information visit dsns.org.au or email National coordinator@dsns.org.au.



DEFENCE SUPPORT

Defence offers a range of programs and services to help ADF members and their families.

DEFENCE FAMILIES play a vital role in the wellbeing of ADF members and the success of their missions. Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS) provides support for ADF personnel and their families to prepare for and respond to military life. DMFS services assist families with member absence, posting cycles, childcare, children's education, crisis situations, family wellbeing and special needs. It also holds information sessions and events to connect you with your community.

Your local DMFS team includes military and civilian staff, across a range of roles to provide services to support Defence families, including:

- support in times of crisis
- deployment and absence support
- mobility and relocation support
- professional counselling for personal, relationship and family problems
- information sessions, social or support groups
- local education advice and assistance
- special needs recognition and review
- partner employment assistance
- finding childcare.

Make sure you don't miss out on the virtual and face-to-face events DMFS hosts to build and maintain connection with other Defence families in the area. Go to DMFS's Eventbrite page to register for free tickets to events. You can also see what

local events are on by visiting the events calendar at defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/family-programs-local-services/events. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date.

WHO CAN YOU MEET AT THE LOCAL OFFICE?

- **Defence Social Workers** are qualified professionals who are knowledgeable about the ADF and the military lifestyle.
- **Family Liaison Officers** can help families connect with local community groups and support services. They also organise a range of information sessions and social events.
- **Education Liaison Officers** provide information and support to families around children's education and schools in the area.
- **Military Support Officers** are uniformed members who provide advice, assistance and practical support in relation to military matters.

DMFS PROGRAMS & SERVICES

24-HOUR SUPPORT

If you need support, help or advice at any time, contact the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608. The helpline operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week and is staffed by qualified human services professionals, including social workers and psychologists.

PARTNER EMPLOYMENT

The Partner Employment Assistance Program provides funding for initiatives to assist ADF partners with employment when they are relocated on posting, or if their ADF member is medically transitioning, and for some re-registration costs. Partners have the flexibility of opting to receive services from Defence's professional employment services provider or a provider of their choice.

DEPENDANTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Families who have dependants with special needs can get information and practical assistance to reduce the impact of relocation.

SUPPORT DURING DEPLOYMENT

AND TIME APART

DMFS provides a range of services, practical assistance and products to help inform and prepare ADF members and families for every stage of deployment. Support includes advice and referral to local support services, access to resilience programs, assistance in emergencies and crisis, and connection to community groups. Families can opt in to receive regular deployment support calls by registering with the helpline on 1800 624 608.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

DMFS has dedicated Education Liaison Officers to provide advice to families, and funds Defence School Mentors to support Defence children through changing schools and parental absence.

ACCESS TO CHILDCARE

DMFS maintains a network of childcare centres around Australia, with priority placement for ADF families. Families who are facing difficulties accessing childcare, such as when they move to a new area or change their work or care arrangements, can also access an individual case management service to help them find registered childcare services in their local community.

TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE

Joint Transition Authority delivers support to members and their families transitioning to the Reserves or separating from the ADF. There is a range of support programs to assist ADF members and their families when they transition to civilian life, enabled by a transition coach. The coach helps to build a personalised package of support based on the circumstances and post-transition goals of the member and their family. The coach remains with the member and their family for up to two years post-transition. For more information, email transition.richmond@defence.gov.au.

EMERGENCY AND CRISIS SUPPORT

DMFS provides a range of practical and emotional support programs for families facing emergency or crisis, including assistance in time of illness, injury, domestic crisis or bereavement. Members and their families can access 24-hour support, social work and assessment, or referral from the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline.

SUPPORT FOR RESERVISTS

The families of Reserve members can access a broad range of support services when the Reservist is on continuous full-time service or away on deployment or exercise.

PARENTS

DMFS offers information and support services for the parents of ADF members to help them understand and manage the challenging aspects of having a son or daughter in the services.

CONNECTION WITH COMMUNITY

Defence families are strongest when they are connected with their local communities. DMFS provides a number of support and information services to help families connect with and contribute to their community.

CONTACT DMFS

The Defence Member and Family Helpline is your first point of call for support, information and connection with your community. It is staffed by qualified human services professionals, including social workers and psychologists, who can assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Phone 1800 624 608

Email memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au

Website defence.gov.au/members-families



MAILING LIST

Scan the QR code to join the DMFS Richmond mailing list and keep up-to-date with information.

DMFS RICHMOND WELCOME EXPO

The Welcome Expo is an opportunity for Defence families to get to know their local DMFS team, the services and support provided in the region, and to build community and social networks with other ADF families.

The 2027 Richmond expo will be held early in the year. For information on the expo and other events, see defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/local-services-events/events.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

The squadrons at Richmond rely on the support of industry partners to operate the airfield infrastructure.



PHOTO: LACW Mikaela Fernlund

↑ Commander Air Mobility Group, AIRCDRE Benjamin Poxon CSC, left, and Director General Airlift and Tanker Systems, AIRCDRE Noel Corbet, right, with industry partners at the AIR5440 project completion event at RAAF Base Richmond.

AIRBUS

Australia is a key market for Airbus, with a presence dating back more than four decades. In July 2026, Airbus celebrated 45 years in Australia. With more than 900 employees across Australia and New Zealand, Airbus supports aircraft for the ADF with maintenance, repair and overhaul centres for military fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

Airbus has been present at RAAF Base Richmond since 1993, beginning with the AP-3C deeper maintenance program. Since 2009, Airbus has served as Defence's Through Life Support (TLS) contractor for the RAAF's C-130J capability. Together with industry partner Lockheed Martin, the Airbus team provides deeper maintenance, engineering, supply, logistics and field service support to enable the C-130J's global operations.

Airbus also holds an enterprise stewardship role to ensure all Defence and industry stakeholders are aligned and working in the best interests of the C-130J capability. Airbus team members are embedded within RAAF C-130J organisations to maximise integration and teamwork.

More than 250 Airbus maintenance technicians work alongside RAAF maintenance teams, with a focus on developing skills and experience through exposure to deeper maintenance.

The Airbus team at Richmond includes subject-matter experts across all TLS disciplines. Airbus is committed to renewing its workforce through active programs for aircraft maintenance engineer

(AME) apprentices and graduate engineers. Four of the 2025 AME apprentices were recruited from schools in the Hawkesbury region.

Airbus remains committed to providing effective support to the C-130J fleet through to its planned withdrawal date and assisting the ADF in transitioning to the new fleet.

In June 2011, the RAAF welcomed its first Airbus A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport, becoming the launch operator for the most popular tanker in the world (holding 90 percent of the market share outside the US).

ROLLS-ROYCE

Rolls-Royce is extremely proud to have powered the Australian Defence Forces for the past 100 years. Its relationship with the Australian Defence Forces began with the Rolls-Royce Eagle 8 engine fitted to the Fairey IID in service with the RAN in 1920 and the RAAF in 1921. Today, No.35 Squadron's C-27J Spartan is powered by the Rolls-Royce AE2100D2A engine, while the AE2100D3 variant powers No. 37 Squadron's Hercules C-130J. The engines are supported on-site by Rolls-Royce Field Service Representatives embedded within the relevant RAAF squadron.

Rolls-Royce is proud to be a long-term partner of the Australian Defence Forces. It is committed to strengthening Australia's military capability to support the security and stability of the Commonwealth of Australia.

MAPS OF THE AREA



PHOTO: Destination NSW



PHOTO: Destination NSW

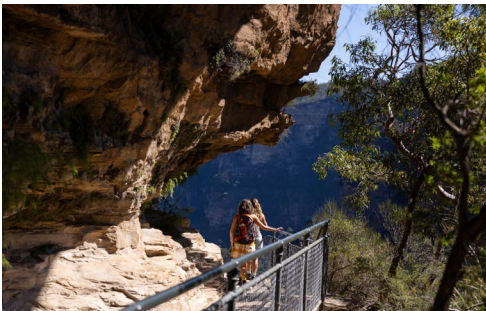
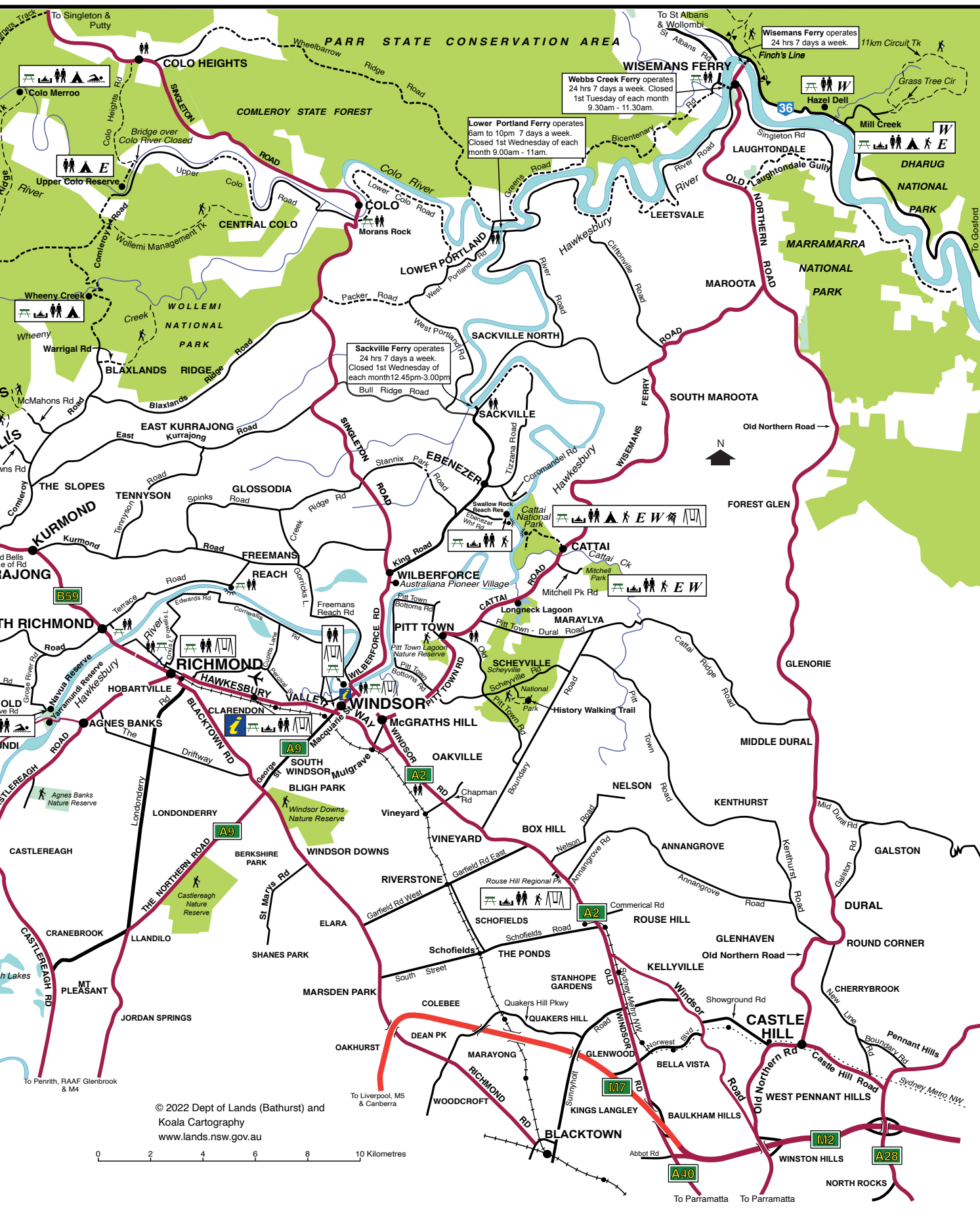


PHOTO: Destination NSW



PHOTO: Destination NSW





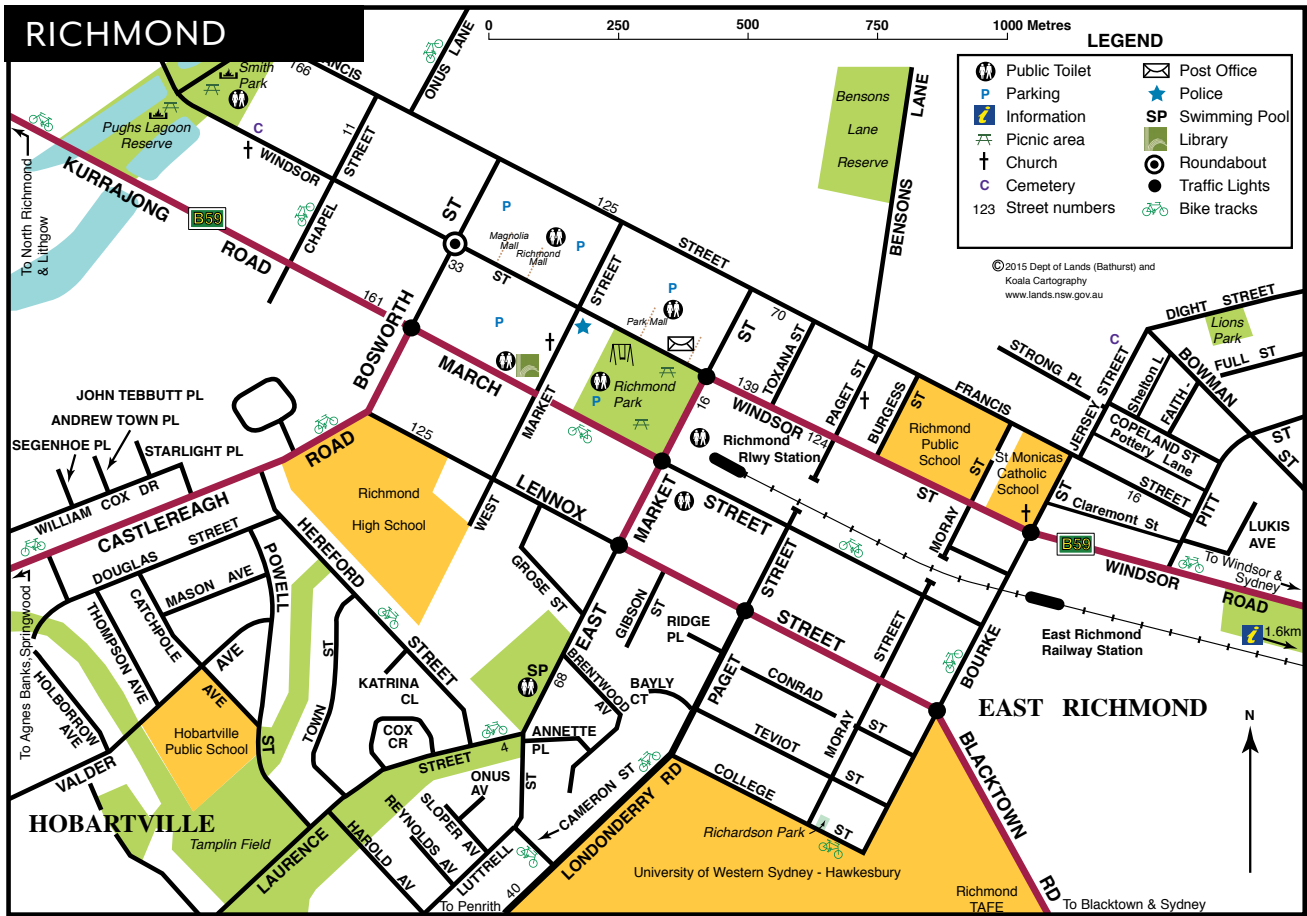
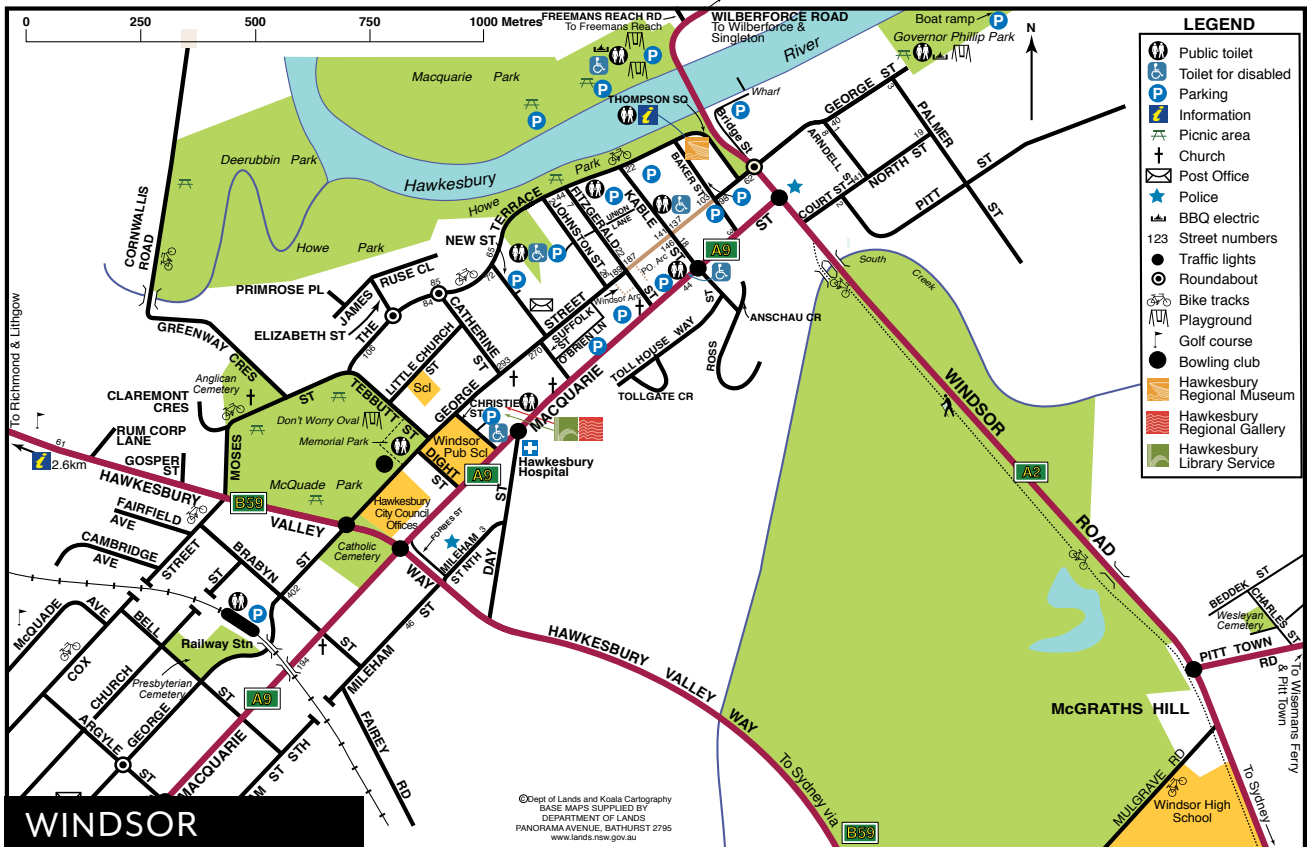




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LOCAL SERVICES

To help you establish your family in the Richmond and Glenbrook region, here's a quick guide to local services and amenities.

RAAF BASE RICHMOND

LOCATED BETWEEN Windsor to the east and Richmond to the west, RAAF Base Richmond sits within the Hawkesbury City Council boundaries. Neighbouring councils include Penrith, Blacktown, The Hills District and Blue Mountains.

TRANSPORT

RAIL There are CityRail stations at Richmond, East Richmond, Clarendon, Windsor and Mulgrave (transportnsw.info). A train trip to Sydney's Central Station takes about 80 minutes.

ROAD RAAF Base Richmond is adjacent to Hawkesbury Valley Way, which links eastbound with Windsor Road (connecting with the M7 and M2 motorways). Alternatively, Racecourse Road intersects with Hawkesbury Valley Way in Clarendon, and links with Richmond Road (connecting with the M7 motorway). Sydney Airport is about a 70-minute drive (off peak).

BUS Bus routes connect RAAF Base Richmond with local town centres and train stations. Route information can be found at transportnsw.info.

HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

Council office: 366 George Street, Windsor. 02 4560 4444. Call centre: 8:30am-5pm Monday

to Friday. Front Counter: 9am-4pm Monday to Friday. hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

COMMUNITY HALLS

Council provides 18 community centres and halls. Centres vary in size and facilities. Centres, halls and outdoor spaces can be booked for one-off or regular meetings or functions via the council's webpage.

ANIMAL SHELTER

The Hawkesbury Companion Animal Shelter is open 9am-12.30pm and 2-4.30pm Monday to Friday, 8.30-12pm weekends and public holidays. at 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave. 02 4560 4644.

COMMUNITY NURSERY

The Hawkesbury Community Nursery propagates and sells Hawkesbury native plants. Open to the public 9am-1pm Wednesdays and 9am-midday on the first Saturday of the month, from February to November. 10 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave. hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/your-spaces/nursery

LIBRARIES

Hawkesbury Central Library, Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor. 02 4560 4460.

Richmond Library, 29 West Market Street, Richmond. 02 4560 4270.

The libraries are free to join. Items that can be borrowed or used in the libraries include:

- Current and popular fiction and non-fiction books for children, teenagers and adults
- Newspapers, magazines, books on CD, large-print books, music CDs and DVDs
- Local and family history research materials
- Reference materials and online databases.
- Free streaming service.

Computers with internet access and wireless access are free for members to use at both libraries. Audio books and ebooks can also be borrowed from home. A home delivery service for people unable to visit the libraries due to infirmity, disability or prolonged illness is also available. www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library

DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

Pool Park, corner of Ham and Cox Streets, South Windsor

Peel Park, Arthur Phillip Drive, North Richmond

Yarramundi Reserve, Springwood Road, Agnes Banks (not fenced)

Pound Paddock, corner of Blacktown and Bourke Street, Richmond.

Deerubbin Park, Greenway Crescent onto Cornwallis Road, Windsor.

SWIMMING POOLS

Hawkesbury Oasis, corner Drummond and Church Streets, South Windsor (managed by Y NSW). Indoor heated leisure pool & 25m pool, outdoor 50m heated pool, spa, sauna, steam room, gym and creche.

Richmond Swimming Centre, 71 East Market Street, Richmond. 50m outdoor pool, wading pool and shaded toddler pool.
hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/your-spaces/pools.

RAAF BASE GLENBROOK

SITTING AT THE FOOTHILLS of the Blue Mountains, adjacent to the Great Western Highway, RAAF Base Glenbrook is in the City of Blue Mountains council area, which also includes the townships of Springwood, Blaxland, Wentworth Falls and Katoomba, along with many other towns and villages. The base is also adjacent to the Penrith City Council area.

TRANSPORT

RAIL The CityRail Station at Glenbrook is 2km from RAAF Base Glenbrook and runs services westbound to Springwood, Katoomba and Lithgow or eastbound to Penrith, Blacktown, Parramatta and Sydney (transportnsw.info). A train trip to Sydney's Central Station takes about 65 minutes.

ROAD RAAF Base Glenbrook is adjacent to the Great Western Highway. Eastbound, the highway passes through Penrith, Parramatta and Parramatta Road (which leads to Sydney, a 60-minute car trip without traffic). The highway is also a 17-minute drive from the Lighthorse interchange in Sydney's west, which connects via the M7 to the M2 (to the north) and M5/Hume Highway (to the south). Sydney Airport is approximately a 70-minute drive (off peak).

BUS Blue Mountains area bus routes information can be found at cdcbus.com.au. The nearest bus stop is on Knapsack Street, immediately outside RAAF Base Glenbrook.

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL

Katoomba office 2-6 Civic Place, Katoomba. 02 4780 5000. 9am-4pm Monday to Friday.

Springwood office 104 Macquarie Road, Springwood. 02 4780 5000. 9am-4pm Monday to Friday. bmcc.nsw.gov.au

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

Penrith Civic Centre, 601 High Street, Penrith. 02 4732 7777. 8.30am-4pm Monday to Friday.
penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

LIBRARIES

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL operates six library branches and an eLibrary, which offers online resources for members.

Blaxland, 33 Hope Street. 02 4739 4284.

Springwood, 104 Macquarie Road. 02 4780 5040.

Katoomba, 30 Parke Street. 02 4780 5750.

Blackheath, Community Hall, Great Western Highway. 02 4780 5901.

Lawson, San Jose Ave & Loftus Street. 02 4780 5903.

Wentworth Falls, School of Arts Building, Great Western Highway. 02 4780 5902.

Digitl library – online resources for members, include eBooks, audiobooks and access to free online streaming of movies and more. For details and opening hours, see library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au.

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL operates three library branches.

Penrith 601 High Street. 02 4732 7891.

St Clair Shop 12, St Clair Shopping Centre, Bennett Road & Endeavour Avenue. 02 9670 6853.

St Marys 207-209 Queen Street, St Marys. 02 4732 7455.

For opening hours see penrithcity.nsw.gov.au

Penrith eLibrary – a range of online resources for members, including eBooks and magazines.
penrith.overdrive.com

DOG OFF-LEASH AREAS

Penrith City Council has off-leash dog parks in Cranebrook, Emu Heights, North St Marys, South Penrith, St Clair and Werrington. For maps, see penrithcity.nsw.gov.au.

LEISURE CENTRES

BLUE MOUNTAINS CITY COUNCIL has five dedicated leisure centres with swimming pools and other facilities.

Glenbrook Swim Centre, cnr Fletcher & Wascoe Streets, has an outdoor heated 50m pool and an enclosed heated program pool for swim classes. 02 4780 5987.

Katoomba Sports & Aquatic Centre (Catalina Ave) and **Springwood Aquatic and Fitness Centre** (11 Plateau Road) are open year round with a range of competitive and recreational pools and programs as well as fitness centres and group fitness classes. Outdoor pools at **Lawson** (St Bernards Drive) and **Blackheath** (Gardiners Crescent) are open seasonally.

bmcc.nsw.gov.au/LeisureCentres

Ripples Leisure Centres in Penrith and St Marys offer a variety of aquatic, fitness and wellbeing services, including indoor and outdoor pools, spa and sauna. ripplesnsw.com.au

HOSPITALS

Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital, Woodlands Road, Katoomba, 02 4784 6500.

Hawkesbury District Health Service, 2 Day Street, Windsor, 02 4560 5555.

Nepean Hospital, Gate 7, Somerset Street, Kingswood, 02 4734 2000.

Springwood Hospital, 7 Huntley Grange Road, Springwood, 02 4784 6500.

Westmead Hospital, corner Hawkesbury and Darcy Road, Westmead, 02 8890 5555. For more health services, see healthdirect.gov.au.

NSW POLICE

Hawkesbury Police Area Command 13 Mileham Street, Windsor, 02 4587 4099.

Blue Mountains Police Area Command 4 Jerseywold Avenue Springwood, 02 4751 0299. police.nsw.gov.au

FLOOD, FIRE & EMERGENCY

In the event of a life-threatening emergency call 000 to connect to Police, Fire and Ambulance. For assistance or information for:

- **Floods or storms** call 132 500. ses.nsw.gov.au
- **Bushfires** call 1800 679 737. rfs.nsw.gov.au
- An emergency involving a council service or facility call your local council office.

SHOPPING

These are some of the larger shopping centres in the area.

Lennox Village, Cnr Great Western Highway and Pyramid Street, Emu Plains. Aldi, Woolworths, retail stores and services. lennoxvillage.com.au

Nepean Village, Station & Woodriff Street, Penrith. Coles, Kmart, retail stores, banks and services. nepeanvillage.com.au

North Richmond Village, 6-16 Riverview Street, North Richmond. Coles and a small selection of stores.

northrichmondvillage.com.au

Penrith Homemakers Centre, Cnr Mulgoa Road & Wolseley St, Jamisontown. furniture, homewares, bedding, electrical.

homemakergroup.com.au/penrith

Richmond Mall, 271 Windsor Street, Richmond. Coles and a small selection of stores.

Richmond Marketplace, 78 March Street, Richmond. Big W, Woolworths, fashion, retail stores, banks and services. richmondmarketplace.com.au

Westfield Penrith, 585 High Street, Penrith.

Aldi, Coles, Woolworths, Myer, Big W, retail, banks and cinema. westfield.com.au/penrith

Winmalee Shopping Centre, 32-44 White Cross Road, Winmalee. Coles and specialty retailers. winmaleevillage.com.au

Windsor Marketplace, 6-16 Kable Street, Windsor. Woolworths and a small selection of stores. windsormarketplace.com.au

Windsor Riverview Shopping Centre, 227 George Street, Windsor. Coles, retail stores and services. windsor-riverview.com.au



HOUSING

MOVING HOUSE CAN be both an exciting and daunting prospect – some big decisions need to be made, the most important one being where you are going to live. Children's education, distance to work for both the member and spouse/partner, health care, lifestyle preferences and the amenity of available housing are all factors to be considered.

SERVICE RESIDENCES

Unless you own a suitable home in your new posting locality, your first port of call is Defence Housing Australia (DHA). DHA provides housing and related services for Australian Defence Force members and their families through its portfolio of service residences (SR). DHA's portfolio comprises modern houses, townhouses and apartments in selected locations. The majority are off-base, integrated throughout the local community and in reasonably close proximity to Defence bases and establishments, amenities and services. DHA maintains the currency of its portfolio by upgrading existing properties, sourcing new properties through a variety of construction activities, acquiring properties through traditional real estate markets and directly sourcing and leasing properties from private owners. You are eligible for a SR if you fit into any of these groups:

- You have a spouse, recognised interdependent partner or children who live with you (Accompanied Resident Family)

- You are a member with unaccompanied resident family and your dependants need housing (Unaccompanied Resident Family)
- You have Recognised Other Persons who normally live with you.

More detailed information on entitlements can be found in the Pay and Conditions Manual, Chapter 7, pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-7, and on DHA's website, dha.gov.au.

SINGLES

DHA also holds some apartments suitable for single members – called Members Choice accommodation. The process for accessing Members Choice or a private rental under Rent Allowance (RA) is the same as for families accessing SR, outlined below.

FINDING A SERVICE RESIDENCE

As soon as you know you require a Service Residence, call DHA on 139 342 to obtain a username and password to access Online Services, a unique online tool that will allow you to select your new home. Online Services will show you:

- Homes within your entitlement
- Interior and exterior photos of the homes
- Property details for each home
- A floor plan
- A map showing the location of the home and nearby facilities.

Once you have researched your options, you can reserve a home on Online Services. Note that, whether you are an Accompanied Resident Family

or a single, if you own a home in your current posting location which is suitable for you to live in, you will not be eligible for a SR or RA.

PRIVATE RENTAL

If DHA cannot provide you with a suitable SR, you may be eligible for RA. While DHA will manage your RA application, it is up to you to find a suitable rental property. Rental properties in the region can be sourced from local real estate agencies or on any of the following commercial websites:

- realestate.com.au/rent
- domain.com.au/rent
- rent.com.au
- property.com.au/rent.

BUYING A HOUSE

You may feel it's time to enter the housing market or wish to sell your home in your losing locality and purchase in the gaining locality. Assistance for home purchase may be available through:

- The Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme, which pays a monthly subsidy on a member's home loan interest. The scheme is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, for details see dhoas.gov.au.
- The Home Purchase or Sale Expenses Allowance reimburses reasonable buying and selling costs. For details see the Pay and Conditions Manual, pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/chapter-7/part-3.

Note that a decision to purchase your own home in your new locality does not need to be made before you proceed on posting, you can decide at any time during your posting. However, if you are in RA accommodation, you will need to consider the penalties in your lease for early termination.

MORE INFORMATION

For information on all accommodation options, application forms and to access Online Services, visit DHA's website, dha.gov.au.

At times, finding the right housing solution can be challenging. The Directorate of Relocations and Housing is responsible for the provision and delivery of quality housing and related services to ADF members under national contracts and in accordance with Defence Policy. If you require additional support please email DRH.DRHM@defence.gov.au with your enquiry and your local Defence Relocation Manager will be in touch.

POSTINGCONNECT

PostingConnect provides direct access to posting services, including Toll and DHA, and is accessible from any device. It allows members and their families to navigate the many aspects of a posting within one application. See defence.gov.au/about/staff-resources/serviceconnect.

more
than
money



NAB DEFENCE FORCE HOME LOANS



Big on Defence

It's why ADF members trust us to help them buy a home. With years of DHOAS insight, we know what Defence life looks like and have the team and reach to back you, wherever service takes you.

 **NAB Defence Force Home Loans**

Let's talk

0436 621 685

linda.zabakly@nab.com.au



T&Cs, fees, charges, eligibility and lending criteria apply. Applicants must satisfy requirements of the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS). DHOAS is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs on behalf of the Department of Defence. For eligibility criteria, see www.dhoas.gov.au.
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HEALTH

There are a number of services to help manage your family's health in a new posting.

ADF MEMBER HEALTH

Defence provides essential health care to all ADF members, on and off base, including medical and dental, mental health, ambulance transport and hospitalisation. ADF members do not need a Medicare card.

RICHMOND HEALTH CENTRE

Enquiries & appointments 02 4579 5688;
jhunns.w.richmondhrc@defence.gov.au
For details, see page 15.

GLENBROOK CLINIC

Enquiries & appointments 02 4723 1679;
jhunns.w.richmondhrc@defence.gov.au
For details, see page 22.

24-HOUR HEALTH SUPPORT

ADF members needing urgent medical treatment when away from base should call 1800 IM SICK (1800 467 425). The IM SICK line is a toll-free, all-hours service for ADF personnel to discuss health concerns over the phone and receive immediate advice on where they need to go to receive appropriate treatment. The service is provided by BUPA under the ADF Health Services Contract.

RECOGNISED DEPENDENTS

Members need to make arrangements for the healthcare of their families, but note that financial assistance is available (see under: DEFENCE FAMILY HEALTH CARE).

FINDING A GP

To find a GP in your locality, a good place to start is the 'find a health service' tool on the Australian Government's Health Direct website, healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services, which allows you to filter out GPs who don't bulk bill. GPs who don't bulk bill will charge you for the visit. You can claim the 'schedule fee' from Medicare, but it will probably be less than the GP's account, leaving a residual cost. Many doctors now offer a service called HICAPS that allows you to claim your Medicare rebate when you pay at the doctor's surgery. Joining a social group to connect with others in your area is also good way to glean advice on local GPs and medical centres.

DEFENCE FAMILY HEALTH CARE

The National ADF Family Health Program will reimburse dependants of ADF members for out-of-pocket expenses for all GP visits that fall under the Medicare Benefits Schedule. Specialist services will also be reimbursed, up to a total of \$800 per dependent per year, which can be shared between dependents. For more information visit adffamilyhealth.com or phone 02 6266 3547.

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

Medicare makes adequate provision to cover all Australian citizens for their essential health needs. However, Medicare doesn't cover many 'extras' such as ambulance services, most dental services, spectacles, contact lenses, hearing

aids and cosmetic surgery. You may choose to take out private health insurance to provide your family with a wider range of options and more comprehensive cover. Health insurance policies can be either hospital or general treatment (extras) or a combination of both. Your decision to purchase private insurance is a personal one and will be based on a number of factors:

- the advantages of having more choices, for instance the ability to choose your surgeon/obstetrician/specialist and the hospital you prefer from the private health insurer's agreed providers
- the probability of obtaining treatment faster than you might do on a public hospital waiting list
- your desire to be covered for the extras
- the cost of private health cover for different options that are offered by the numerous providers in the health-insurance market.

With respect to the cost, you will also need to consider the tax implications of the Medicare Levy surcharge, which (as distinct from the Medicare Levy) is an additional tax imposed on those with a taxable income above a certain threshold who do not have a prescribed level of private health insurance.

The cost of your private health insurance policy will also be influenced by your age when you commence your policy. Once you turn 31, a Lifetime Health Cover (LHC) loading of two percent is added to your hospital cover premium for every year you're without hospital cover, e.g. if you delay until age 40, your LHC would be 20 percent. Note that permanent ADF members are considered to have had private hospital cover while serving.

This article is published as general education and should not be taken as professional advice.

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES

Health insurance

- acc.gov.au/consumers/specific-products-and-activities/private-health-insurance
- privatehealth.gov.au
- choice.com.au/money/insurance/health

Medicare Levy

- Go to the Australian Tax Office website, ato.gov.au, and search 'Medicare Levy'.
- See the Pay and Conditions Manual at <https://pay-conditions.defence.gov.au/pacman/tax-alerts/div-4>

SUPPORT FOR DEFENCE CHILDREN

If you're keen to minimise any disruption to your child's education as a result of your family's relocation, talk to Defence Member and Family Support.

DEFENCE MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT

(DMFS) provides information, resources and programs to help with the transition between schools and education systems when ADF members and their families move, and provides support for the unique needs of Defence children.

ADF EQUIP

The ADF Equip Program is designed to help children manage the challenges associated with Defence life. The program supports children to learn appropriate strategies to help them manage the challenges of parental absence and relocation related to service. It includes facilitated sessions tailored to age group and is open to children aged between five and 18 years.

EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICERS

Education liaison officers are experienced staff who help Defence families as they move around the country, providing information, advice, referral and specialised assistance. They are located in each state and territory and have extensive knowledge about the local schools and education systems as well as the challenges faced by Defence children. The assistance provided includes:

- informing families about local schools and education systems
- linking families with special education providers, resources or support agencies according to their children's individual needs (including special-needs students)
- working with schools to ensure a supportive education environment and to raise awareness of issues facing Defence children
- informing families about Defence support services available, such as financial assistance under the Education Assistance Scheme.

DEFENCE SCHOOL MENTORS

DMFS's school mentor program provides support to the children of ADF members, particularly when moving in and out of a school on posting, or when a parent is absent from home. Under the program, mentors in primary and secondary schools support Defence

students transitioning from school to school and during times of parental absence. Mentors help schools, families and children develop strategies to successfully integrate into the school and community. Their role includes:

- coordinating appropriate welcome and farewell activities
- smoothing the transition between different schools and different education systems (including minimising the impact of relocation on learning outcomes)
- monitoring the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of Defence students
- helping students develop self-confidence, self-reliance and resilience
- referring students to services or school community programs that meet their needs.

To find out which schools in your area are currently funded under the program, see defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/family-programs-services/support-for-children/defence-school-mentor-program

CHILDCARE

DMFS maintains a network of childcare centres around Australia and has programs to support

the availability of childcare services to Defence families, who might face difficulties accessing childcare. That includes access to an individual case-management service to help them find registered childcare services in their community.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Defence families can access a range of financial support to help minimise disruption to schooling caused by posting and relocations, including:

- tutoring assistance
- boarding school allowance
- tertiary accommodation
- students with special needs
- reimbursement of a lost scholarship
- reunion travel.

The aim is to provide students with educational stability or short-term assistance to help overcome any immediate difficulties with education or emotional wellbeing as a result of relocation.

CONTACT DMFS

For more information about these services, contact the 24/7 Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608, visit defence.gov.au/members-families or email memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au.



↑ Richmond Defence children participating in the ADF Equip program.

EARLY LEARNING

Choosing the right childcare and early-learning service will depend on your family's needs and the environment with which you and your child will feel most comfortable.

AS WELL AS PROVIDING CARE, child care and early-learning services provide an opportunity for your child to develop social, emotional and learning skills. Approved childcare services are required to meet high national standards to ensure children are safe and are given opportunities for learning and development on a regular basis. These services are given National Quality Standard (NQS) quality ratings to help families choose the best service for their child and family. When deciding on the type of care that is best for your child, you may want to ask:

- How many hours of care do I need?
- Do I want my child cared for in a home environment or in a centre?
- What kind of qualifications and experience do the staff members have?
- Does the service offer a preschool program?
- What learning and play opportunities do I want my child to have?
- What kind of routine will my child have?
- Do I want the service to provide lunch?
- What is the carer-to-child ratio?
- Has the service been NQS rated?
- What ages of children are cared for?
- Can I claim the Child Care Subsidy?

LONG DAY CARE

Long day care is also referred to as centre-based care and is generally provided in a building or part of a building that has been created specifically to be used as a childcare centre.

Centres usually operate between 7-8am and 6pm and offer professional care for children from birth to six years. Child care is usually available for all day or part of the day.

Centres are run by private companies, local councils, community organisations, individuals, non-profit organisations or by employers for their staff. The majority are approved childcare services, which means families using the service may be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy. Approved services must also show they are meeting certain quality standards. To find and compare services, see startingblocks.gov.au.

FAMILY DAY CARE

Family Day Care services deliver flexible home-based education and care for children aged six weeks to 12 years via a network of family day-care educators. An educator may provide care in their home for the maximum number of children, including their own children, in accordance with the national laws and regulations. These services can provide flexible care, including all-day, part-time, casual, overnight, before and after school, and during school holidays. The majority of family day-care services are approved childcare services, which means families using the service may be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy. nswfdc.org.au

PRESCHOOL

Preschools generally provide early education and care for children aged from three to five years, although some may be licensed to take children from two years of age. Some preschools offer half-day sessions, with children attending either five mornings or five afternoons per week. Others provide full-day attendance for two, three or five days a week.

The preschool program is designed to stimulate children's thinking, communicating, investigating, exploring and problem-solving skills. The program includes play-based

activities that help children learn how to interact positively with other children. It also supports the development of early language, literacy and numeracy skills. Preschools generally operate from 9am to 3.30pm, in line with public school terms, and close during school holidays.

Public preschools provide educational programs for children one year prior to enrolment in kindergarten. A child may be eligible for enrolment in preschool from the beginning of the school year if they turn four years before 31 July that year. For more information, see education.nsw.gov.au and startingblocks.gov.au.

OCCASIONAL CARE

This service is suitable for families who would like someone to look after their children occasionally, for example when they have a medical or other appointment. Most occasional care centres have flexible operating hours and can cater for children whose parents work irregular or unpredictable hours, such as shift workers. With this type of care, you only pay for the hours you use. careforkids.com.au/occasional-care





IN-HOME CARE

In Home Care (IHC) is government-subsidised care provided in the child's home by an approved educator, monitored and supported by an approved agency. The IHC program provides up to 100 hours of subsidised care per child per fortnight with a capped hourly rate. It is targeted to assist parents or carers who are unable to access mainstream childcare options, such as those who work non-standard hours, are geographically isolated or have families with challenging and complex needs. Families accessing IHC due to complex needs may have circumstances which include one or more of the following:

- a child with additional needs or a disability whose early childhood education and care requirements cannot be catered for in another approved childcare setting, or through other government-funded or community-based services
- a family where a parent is undergoing treatment for a serious illness

- other complex family situations that prevent families from accessing other approved childcare types.

IHC services must comply with applicable state regulations and licensing requirements when providing care to children.

australianhomechildcare.com.au

CHILD CARE SUBSIDY

The Australian Government provides families with financial assistance to help them cover the costs of approved child care, under the Child Care Subsidy. The Child Care Subsidy is income tested and is usually paid directly to approved childcare services to reduce the fees that eligible families pay. You can apply for the Child Care Subsidy online or in person through Centrelink. To apply online, visit the Services Australia website, servicesaustralia.gov.au/child-care-subsidy.

CHILDCARE CONNECT

One Tree Community Services (OTCS) offers a free service called Childcare Connect to help Defence families find appropriate child care, especially after relocating.

Childcare Connect considers individual needs and will engage with local registered childcare providers to provide available solutions, including: long daycare; family daycare; the Australian Government In-Home Care Support Agencies; before and after-school care; and vacation care. Additionally, OTCS can provide information on unregistered informal care providers. ADF families finding it difficult to secure child care in a new location can find out more about Childcare Connect by contacting the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

LOCAL CARE

RAAF Base Richmond has two One Tree Defence Childcare units. Little Eagles is a long-day-care centre for babies and children aged up to five years, 6.30am to 6pm, Mon-Fri, phone 02 4579 2403, email Littleeagles.dcu@onetree.org.au. The Blue House provides vacation and outside-school-hours care, phone 02 4579 2108, email Thebluehouse.dcu@onetree.org.au. dcu.onetree.org.au/our-services



SCHOOLING

There's a lot to learn about how schools function – especially as different states have different arrangements. Here's some information about NSW.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary school in NSW follows a curriculum based on stages of learning. Each stage is approximately equivalent to two school years. For each learning stage there are skills, knowledge and levels of understanding that each student should develop.

FINDING A SCHOOL

Each NSW public school has a defined local enrolment area. This means your child is designated to a particular school based on the permanent residential address of the primary caregiver. Every public school reserves enough places within their school for students in their local enrolment area. Non-local applications may be considered by the school's enrolment panel, according to the department's policy and subject to selection criteria such as availability of appropriate staff and classroom accommodation. Contact the school to find out about their out-of-area selection criteria. To find local schools and for information on enrolment, see schoolfinder.education.nsw.gov.au.

Alternatively, parents may choose an

independent/private school (aisnsw.edu.au/finding-a-nsw-independent-school) or a Catholic school (csnsw.catholic.edu.au).

STARTING SCHOOL

Starting school is an important step. Children develop at different rates and learn skills in different ways. It is the school's task to respond to the needs, learning styles and rates of progress of individual students. Specialist advice and support is available to parents/caregivers of children with disabilities to help them access educational services. Talk to the school as early as possible about these services.

ORIENTATION DAY

Most schools have orientation days towards the end of the previous year to welcome children to kindergarten. Many schools also have transition to kindergarten programs over several weeks in the second part of the year.

KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6

Children may enter kindergarten at the beginning of the school year in NSW government schools

if they turn five before 31 July in that year.

By law, all children must start school by their sixth birthday. Kindergarten to Year 6 focuses on the key learning areas of English, mathematics, science and technology, personal development, health and physical education, creative arts, and human society and its environment (history and geography).

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Outside of school hours care services provide care, play and learning for primary school-age children before and after school, in school holidays and on pupil-free days. In NSW, some services may refer to themselves as out-of-school-hours services. They are located within NSW public schools, private and independent schools and off school sites. Operating hours vary depending on community needs and school hours and can range between: 6.30am to 9.30am; 2.30pm to 6.30pm; and 6.30am to 6.30pm for vacation care (during school holidays). Vacation care includes indoor and outdoor activities and the centres are sometimes run by the same organisation that runs before-and after-school care.

The majority of OSHC centres are approved childcare services, which means families using the service may be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy. Approved services must also show that they are meeting certain quality standards.

HIGH SCHOOL

NSW students enter high school in Year 7.

Once you have determined which high school you would like your child to attend, the next

step is to complete an expression of interest for placement in Year 7 form. If your child is already attending Year 6 in a public primary school, you will receive this form towards the end of Term 1.

SCHOOL LEAVING AGE

Students must complete Year 10 (or its equivalent) then remain in approved education or training or a combination of education and paid work until the age of 17.

SENIOR YEARS

Students in Year 10 choose the subjects they wish to study for the Higher School Certificate (HSC). There is a lot to consider and support is provided by your school to help students make informed decisions about their future. The school's career adviser is available to guide and support each student's subject choices in line with individual career and transition planning. Sound advice for young people and their parents/carers about choosing school subjects is available at the My Future website myfuture.edu.au.

STARTING YEAR 11

Students begin to prepare for their HSC in Year 11 so it's important to get settled into a good study routine at the beginning of the year. Study requirements will increase markedly in Year 11 and more so in Year 12. To gain their HSC, students must complete at least 12 units of preliminary courses (usually in Year 11) and 10 units of HSC courses (usually in Year 12), including English. Most HSC courses are worth two units.

There are two types of HSC courses: Board-developed courses, which are set and examined externally and can contribute to the calculation of a Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), and Board-endorsed courses, which are developed by schools, TAFE or universities and count towards the HSC, but do not count towards the student's ATAR.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses give students work-related skills in a

variety of industry and can count towards the HSC if students sit the HSC exam. Students will receive a nationally recognised qualification when they successfully complete their course. From Year 9, students can study VET courses at school, or through TAFE NSW or other training providers.

YEAR 12

Students and their families can find the HSC year stressful. For study tips and information on preparing for and completing the HSC, see studentonline.nesa.nsw.edu.au.

The most obvious forms of support parents can offer are the practical, physical things.

- Provide a good place to study. Ideally it should be quiet, a comfortable temperature, with good ventilation, good lighting, adequate desk or table space and free from distractions such as TV, noise, telephone, conversations and little brothers and sisters.
- Provide balanced meals. Encourage sensible levels of sleep and some regular exercise.

Of equal, or perhaps greater importance, are the things you can do to provide a positive and understanding emotional environment.

- Be supportive and encouraging. If you have doubts, keep them to yourself.

- Highlight strengths and successes.
- Encourage your child not to dwell on failures.

Appreciate that most students will be experiencing quite a high level of stress, frequently without any obvious indicators. Many fear they might let their family down or will not be able to match the performance of siblings or relatives. There are also many pressures other than exams. Many students experience a sense of impending departure; leaving home, leaving lifelong friends, the prospect of starting university. Appreciate that it is normal for people under pressure to become super-sensitive and explosive from time to time. Family members are usually the first targets. Try not to overreact to such outbursts.

Encourage a reasonable balance between work and leisure. Planned leisure periods are an essential component of a good study program. An occasional total escape for a few days may also be excellent therapy for a student who is feeling excessively stressed.

It is important to encourage and allow your child to be as independent as you can possibly stand. The more independent they can be in meeting the demands of Year 12, the better prepared they will be to succeed at a tertiary level or in the workforce.

2027 PUBLIC SCHOOL DATES

Independent and Catholic school dates can vary so check with the relevant school.

PERIOD	START	FINISH
Term 1	Wednesday 3 February	Friday 9 April
Term 2	Thursday 29 April	Friday 2 July
Term 3	Tuesday 20 July	Friday 24 September
Term 4	Tuesday 12 October	Monday 20 December
Summer holidays	Tuesday 21 December	Friday 28 January 2028

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www.onegiantleapaustralia.com



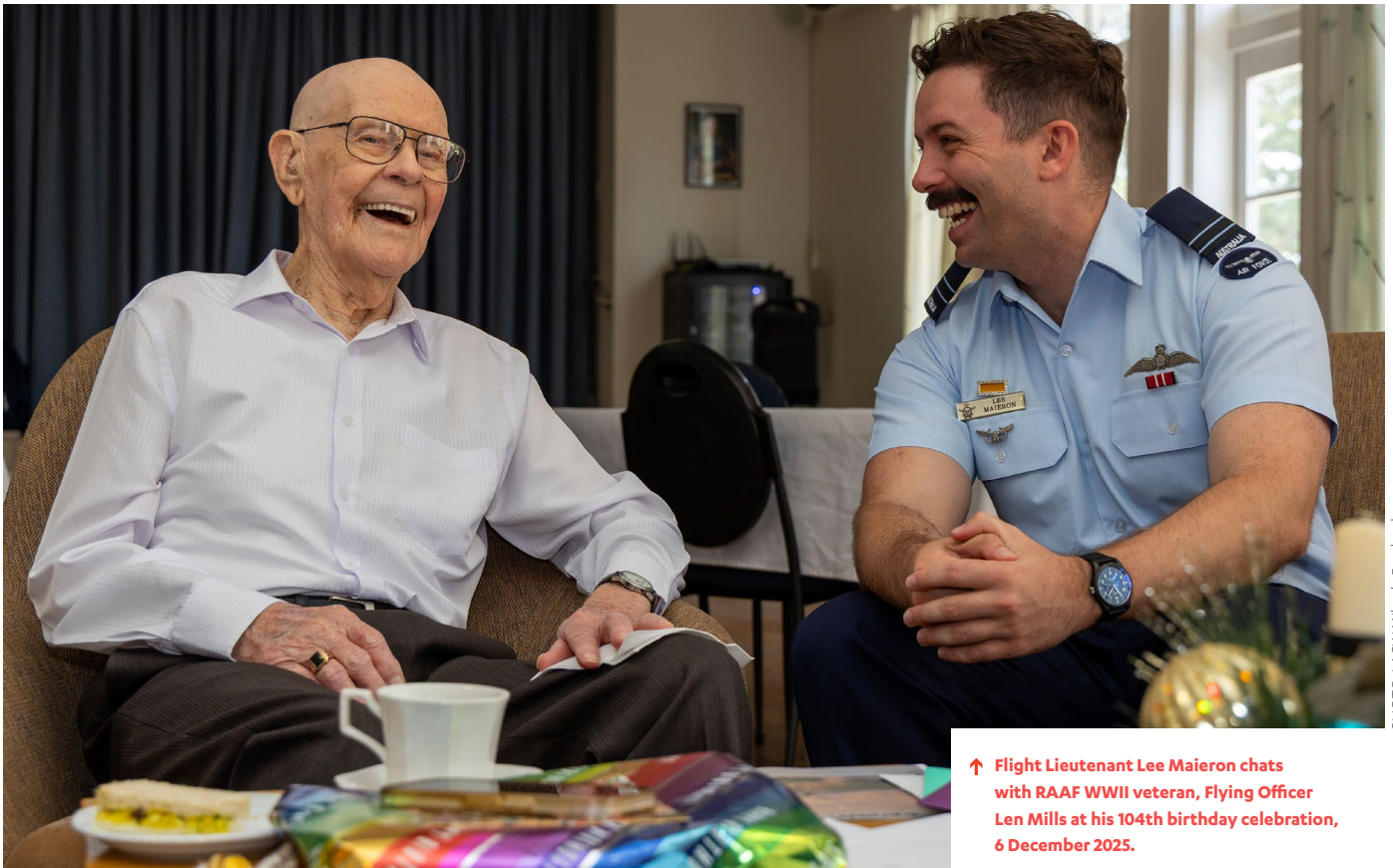


PHOTO: LACW/Mikaela Fernlund

↑ Flight Lieutenant Lee Maieron chats with RAAF WWII veteran, Flying Officer Len Mills at his 104th birthday celebration, 6 December 2025.

THE VETERAN COMMUNITY

There is wide range of support available to veterans of all ages.

AS THE EMPLOYER of the Australian military enterprise, the Federal Government has, over time, established a number of agencies and functions to provide post-service support and welfare to military personnel, primarily through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA).

THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NSW

The NSW Division of the Air force Association (AFA NSW) has a robust working relationship with DVA. Together with NSW RSL, other high-profile ex-service organisations (ESOs) and agencies, we provide essential supplementary

engagement with those government services and work assiduously to promote veteran support and concerns.

Serving veterans are encouraged to engage with their aligned ESO and exploit that network to promote and debate conditions of service and post-service support and welfare. In other words, serving RAAF members are encouraged to participate with, and adopt, the AFA as your equivalent to a workplace union. AFA NSW has one serving member on its State Council and two serving members on the State Council Support Team.

Membership of AFA NSW provides personal and material benefits derived through:

- assisting families during times of hardship

- welfare, face-to-face counselling and advocacy support
- providing assistance to navigate government processes to access DVA support
- creating and sponsoring awards and trophies for personal or unit excellence
- commemorations
- social functions.

Enabling activities

To maximise our effectiveness, AFA NSW promotes strong working relationships with all ESOs in NSW, particularly the RSL, the Premier's Department, DVA, NSW Ex-Service Organisation Round Table members and local councils.

We also keep our members conversant with changes within government and DVA, and local issues that have an effect on their wellbeing.

Regular communication is maintained with our members through our quarterly newsletter (SITREP), social media sites and our high-quality aviation magazine, *WINGS* (wingsmagazine.org) which is published by our publishing company, RAAFANSW Publications Pty Ltd, which publishes this Welcome guide. For further information visit raafpublications.org.au or raafansw.org.au.

Current AFA NSW projects under development include:

- provision of transition coaching to civilian

- employment for serving members
- supporting and providing Assistance Dog placement programs
- financial support for RAAF students through a scholarship program
- development of a Crisis Centre with major partner RSL NSW, other NSW ESOs and Veteran Centres for 24/7 veteran support
- providing bursaries and educational support for veterans' children where required.

NSW branches

AFA NSW comprises a number of dispersed branches, some based on geographic location, others based on squadron or historical aircraft affiliation. There are also satellite organisations, such as Bomber Command Association in Australia, formed to retain a camaraderie and solemn remembrance of those who served in respective wartime operations. Those satellite organisations do not aim to function as ESOs, but through the bond of Air Force men and women derive some strength and presence from the AFA.

Until recently, the veteran community was bounded by those military personnel who had served on active operations. Today it encompasses all military personnel, serving and post-service regardless of active operational experience. The family has grown and has the strength of numbers and the capacity to influence policy direction and implementation.

Contact AFA NSW

If you need help or know of someone needing support, contact your local branch listed on the AFA NSW website (raafansw.org.au) or email the NSW president at president@raafansw.org.au.

If you wish to become an advocate, please contact the president, who would be happy to discuss and provide assistance in the process to enrol and qualify. For AFA membership enquiries, email Peter Gustafson at membership@raafansw.org.au, or refer to the website.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (DVA)

DVA services include:

- financial support
- health care
- rehabilitation
- mental health care
- help returning to civilian life
- commemoration and recognition
- home-care assistance
- help with housing
- historical information.

DVA has been supporting the veteran community in Australia since the end of World War I. Today, the government invests more than \$11.5 billion a year to support veterans and families. The department's services and supports are continually evolving to ensure that DVA looks after veterans, not just during their service, but through their transition into civilian life and beyond.

Mental health support

DVA has a strong focus on mental-health treatment. Under a program called Non-Liability Health Care, DVA funds treatment for all mental-health conditions, whether related to service or not, for those with at least one day of continuous full-time service in the ADF, as well as eligible Reservists. Search for 'Non-Liability Health Care' at dva.gov.au. In addition, mental-health support including free and confidential counselling 24/7 is offered through Open Arms (see right).

Finding employment after the ADF

For ADF personnel transitioning back into civilian life, there is an information page for veterans on the government's Workforce Australia website (workforceaustralia.gov.au) to help translate service training and skills to the civilian workforce. There is also an optional 'Defence Force experience desirable' flag for vacancies listed on the website.

The government's Veteran Employment Program website offers information and advice

on moving to civilian employment or starting your own business. veteranemployment.gov.au

On-base support

Veteran Support Officers (VSOs) can offer members information and advice about the support and entitlements they may be able to receive through DVA. The levels of support range from information on MyService through to instructions on how to submit a claim while you are still enlisted. VSOs are DVA staff located on Defence bases. To make an appointment, email vso@dva.gov.au. For general enquiries, DVA can be contacted on 1800 838 372.

Connect with DVA online

Through DVA's online portal, MyService, you can update your personal and contact details, submit claims and view your veteran profile. To register visit dva.gov.au/myservice.

OPEN ARMS

Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling is Australia's leading national provider of quality, free and confidential counselling and support services for Australian veterans and their families. As with other community-based mental health services, Open Arms' clients experience depression, anxiety, substance use challenges, workplace struggles, and relationship, parenting and family issues. The difference with Open Arms is that staff members have specialist training in the military experience. And, while they support families experiencing the routine daily challenges, they also understand the unique stressors military and veteran families experience relating to the posting cycle, training exercises, deployments and partner employment.

Open Arms' Community and Peer Program connects veterans and family members with peers who have served in the ADF, or had family members who have served, and have had the experience of accessing mental health services for their own wellbeing. Peers work collaboratively with veterans, family supports, community agencies and mental health clinicians to complement other services.

There are six Open Arms office sites in NSW and the closest to RAAF Richmond and Glenbrook is in Parramatta.

Contact Open Arms If you or someone you know wants someone to talk to, even just for a chat, Open Arms is available 24/7, phone 1800 011 046. The service is free and confidential.

LEGACY

Legacy's mission is ensuring partners and children of veterans who gave their lives or health in service to our nation can fully realise their potential. It was founded in 1923, on a promise made from one digger to another to "look after the missus and the kids". legacy.com.au/sydney

HOW THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION BEGAN

Just over 100 years ago, members of the Australian flying Corp held a dinner in Melbourne with Sir Ross Macpherson Smith and crew to celebrate their magnificent achievements, in particular, the Great Air Race triumph. That dinner spawned an association to foster and sustain the friendship and comradeship among airmen forged during the war and to establish a support network for veterans of the Air arm. The Australian Flying Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Association was born.

Over time the association grew and established divisions in each state and the ACT. Its name also changed with time, first to Royal Australian Air force Association and now simply, Air force Association. Officially, the NSW Division has retained the Australian Flying Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Association (NSW Division) title but is now commonly referred to as AFA NSW (formerly RAAFA NSW). AFA is now one of the more substantial Ex-Service Organisations in Australia and strives to promote the wellbeing and welfare of serving and post-service Air Force veterans and their families.

↓ Autumn colours on display at Wildwood Garden, Bilpin.

TIME OUT

From history and culture to nature and adventure, there's plenty to keep you busy around Richmond and Glenbrook.

PHOTO: Destination NSW

THE HAWKESBURY

THE HAWKESBURY is one of Australia's earliest settlements and many of the area's original buildings have survived, creating a time capsule of Australian colonial history. Historic towns and rural settlements dot the area, many beside the Hawkesbury River, interspersed with farms, orchards and national parks.

HISTORIC TOWNS

Windsor

Settled in 1791, Windsor has a number of colonial buildings still used for their original purposes, including the Macquarie Arms Hotel (1794), Windsor Court House (1822) and St Matthews Anglican Church (1817), the latter two designed by Sir Francis Greenway. Thompson Square is the oldest public square in Australia and the mall is lined with historic buildings. Windsor has a regional museum, gallery, stores, cafes and markets, where you can stock up for a picnic in Deerubbin Park.

Richmond

The town's historic buildings include the Richmond School of Arts, St Peters Anglican

Church (1841), the post office, courthouse and Victorian mansions along March Street, West Market Street and Windsor Street. Richmond Park boasts a pavilion built in 1883-4 and hosts the Richmond Good Food Market on Saturday mornings (richmondmarket.com.au).

Wisemans Ferry

Beside the Hawkesbury River, the town is named after Solomon Wiseman who settled there in 1817 and started the ferry service. His 1826 residence has been preserved as the Cobham Hall Museum, part of the Wisemans Inn Hotel (wisemansinnhotel.com.au).

The Old Great North Road – World Heritage walk in Dharug National Park includes parts of the convict-built road that ran 240km to the Hunter Valley (nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).

Bilpin

In the mountain foothills, Bilpin is known for stone fruit and apples and during harvest you can pick your own. Cafes and stores sell seasonal fare such as cider, apple pies, honey, jams and berries. Bilpin has cider companies offering tastings and

sales and Wildwood (wildwoodgarden.com.au), a luxuriant cool climate garden that is open twice a year for spring (from early August until the first week of November) and autumn (March until the first weekend of June).

St Albans

Historic St Albans sits in the Macdonald Valley. Stop for lunch at the Settlers Arms Inn (settlersarmsinn.com.au), built in 1836 from convict-hewn sandstone and once a stopover for stagecoaches travelling between Sydney and Newcastle. St Albans hosts an annual folk festival around the Anzac weekend (stalbansfolkfestival.com.au) and the Convict Mountain Bike Ride (convict100.com.au) in May, one of Australia's most challenging MTB marathon races, following the historic Convict Trail through the Dharug and Yengo National Parks.

Wilberforce

Wilberforce is home to The Australian Pioneer Village (theapv.org.au), a collection of historic working buildings set on 11ha along the riverbank. Just up the road is The Butterfly Farm and Indy 800 Kart Track with riverside picnic areas and water skiing (butterflyfarm.com.au).

Pitt Town

Pitt Town and surrounds were the location for

the long running TV series *A Country Practice*. The village's heritage buildings include the Bird in the Hand Inn (1825). Nearby Scheyville National Park and Longneck Lagoon are great for birdwatchers (nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).

Ebenezer

On the banks of the Hawkesbury River, Ebenezer was settled by the British in 1803 and is home to Australia's oldest church (1809) and school house (1810). A short bushwalk (Swallow Rock Reach Walking Trail) along the river has interpretive signs and some breathtaking views of the water.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Hawkesbury Regional Museum

A good place to learn about Australia's third mainland European settlement, the museum includes the 1820s Howe House, which is open to the public on the first Saturday of each month. 8 Baker Street, Windsor.

hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/museum

Hawkesbury Regional Gallery

A changing program of exhibitions includes visual art, craft, photography and design with talks, workshops, film screenings and tours. Deerubbin Centre, 300 George Street, Windsor.

hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/gallery

Rouse Hill Estate

Built in the early 1800s, Rouse Hill House is now a museum. The estate also features the restored 1888 Rouse Hill schoolhouse and a section of the original Windsor Road turnpike proclaimed by Governor Macquarie in 1813. 356 Annangrove Rd, Rouse Hill. mhns.wa.au/visit-us/rouse-hill-estate

Hawkesbury Artists & Artisans Trail

Explore galleries, visit studios and meet the

artists. Some members hold regular classes and workshops. haat.com.au

Kurrajong Radio Museum

A collection of radio memorabilia that is mostly in operational condition. Open by prior arrangement. 842 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Hills. kurrajongradiomuseum.com.au

PICK YOUR OWN PRODUCE

The Hawkesbury's rich soil is perfect for farming. Depending on the season, the Hawkesbury offers the opportunity to visit the farms and pick your own produce, including apples, blueberries, chestnuts, mandarins, oranges, plums, peaches, strawberries, tomatoes, walnuts and assorted vegetables.

PARKS & WILDLIFE

The Hawkesbury is cradled by four gigantic national parks: the Blue Mountains National Park to the west, Yengo and Dharug National Parks to the north and Wollemi National Park to the north-west. These and the region's numerous smaller parks are ideal for bushwalking, canyoning, cycling, canoeing, picnicking, camping and bird watching.

The mighty Hawkesbury River runs 120km from Yarramundi to the sea and offers plenty of opportunities for fishing, kayaking, wakeboarding and water skiing. For details about the Hawkesbury's most popular bushwalks, cycling routes and other outdoor activities, see discoverthehawkesbury.com.au. For more information about the National Parks, see nationalparks.nsw.gov.au.

The Wild Cat Conservation Centre

The Wild Cat Conservation Centre at Wilberforce runs the only conservation breeding program



Hillbilly Cider, Bilpin.
PHOTO: Destination NSW



Madisons Mountain Retreat, Kurrajong Heights. PHOTO: Destination NSW

for Clouded Leopards and Cheetahs in Sydney. Private tours can be arranged by appointment, and there are a few open days each year.

wildcatcentre.org.au

MORE INFORMATION:

Visitor Information Centre,
1/328 Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond
(opposite RAAF Base Richmond).
02 4560 4620.

discoverthehawkesbury.com.au



Discover
the
Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre

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Ham Common (opposite Richmond RAAF Base)
328 Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond NSW
(02) 4560 4620 | discoverthehawkesbury.com.au



↓ Echo Point lookout, Katoomba, with views the Three Sisters and Jamison Valley.

Anderson's Tours, Echo Point. PHOTO: Destination NSW

BLUE MOUNTAINS

RISING TO THE WEST of Richmond, the Blue Mountains region is one of the state's premier tourism destinations. With stunning natural beauty, charming villages, gardens, galleries and good food, it draws visitors year-round. Spend a day canyoning, abseiling, caving, bushwalking or mountain biking, unwind at a day spa, relax over afternoon tea at an old-world cafe, lunch at an historic grand hotel, browse through boutique shops or enjoy a round of golf at one of the four mountain courses.

VILLAGES

Wentworth Falls

This pretty village has cafes, restaurants, specialty shops and galleries, surrounded by spectacular bushland. There are extensive trails and Wentworth Falls Lake is a good picnic and barbecue spot with children's' play equipment.

Leura

A good spot for morning or afternoon tea or lunch, Leura has heritage buildings, glorious gardens and a charming main street lined with stores, restaurants and cafes. There are numerous walking tracks around Leura and panoramic mountain views from Sublime Point. leuravillage.com.au

Katoomba

Along with restaurants, antique shops and galleries, Katoomba is home to the historic Carrington Hotel (thecarrington.com.au), Australia's oldest remaining resort-style hotel which offers accommodation, dining and bars, and is home to The Katoomba Brewing Co. Scenic World (scenicworld.com.au) has one of the world's steepest railways, the steepest aerial cable car in the Southern Hemisphere and the glass-floored Skyway cable car.

The Beyond Skyway experience takes four guests to the middle of the Jamison Valley, 270m above the rainforest canopy, and then



↑ Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah.

PHOTO: Destination NSW

allows them to climb through the hatch and out onto the roof of the cable car.

Blackheath

The relaxed village hosts an annual Rhododendron Festival (rhodofestival.org), and is close to numerous walking tracks.

A winding road leads to Megalong Valley where you can horse ride, mountain bike or bush walk.

Medlow Bath

The small village sits at an elevation of 1,050m and is home to the oldest and grandest hotel in the Blue Mountains, the Hydro Majestic (hydromajestic.com.au) which has breathtaking



↑ **Victory Theatre Antique Centre, Blackheath.**



↑ **Grand Cliff Top Walk, Wentworth Falls.**

views of the Megalong Valley and offers accommodation, dining, high tea and a spa.

Mount Victoria

The westernmost village in the Blue Mountains, Mount Victoria has historic buildings dating back to the mid 19th century, including the Imperial Hotel, The Manor House and Toll Keepers Cottage. About a kilometre from town, One Tree Hill is the highest point in the Blue Mountains and there is a lookout and picnic area at nearby Mount Piddington.

WORLD HERITAGE AREA

Covering a million hectares, the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area includes numerous spectacular National Parks.

The Blue Mountains National Park has walking tracks, camp sites, canyoning, climbing and mountain biking trails. Bush walks range from easy strolls around lookouts such as Govetts Leap and Sublime Point, to longer walks such as the Grand Canyon Track. On the escarpment in Katoomba, Echo Point Lookout has views of the Jamison Valley and the Three Sisters and is the gateway to many great walks, including the Giant Stairway down more than 800 steps to the valley floor and the Federal Pass. At picturesque Wentworth Falls, Jamison Creek drops over the escarpment plunges 187m into the Valley of the Waters. Bushwalks in the area vary from 10 minutes to more than four hours. nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

ARTS & CULTURE

Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

The Blue Mountains City Art Gallery showcases local and national artists and touring exhibitions. 30 Parke Street, Katoomba. bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au

Braemar Gallery

Situated in the beautiful historic Braemar House, the community gallery hosts changing exhibitions each month that showcase works of local and regional artists. 104 Macquarie Road, Springwood. bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au/braemar-gallery

Blue Mountains Heritage Centre

Drop in for expert advice on walking tracks, Aboriginal heritage, plants and animals, activities and all you need to know about the Blue Mountains National Park. 270 Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath.

Blue Mountains Theatre

A 418-seat theatre with a full program of performances, including comedy, world music, jazz, rock and pop, film, dance, drama, children's theatre and workshops. 106 Macquarie Road, Springwood bluemountainstheatre.com.au

Norman Lindsay Gallery

The former home of artist Norman Lindsay is now a gallery displaying his diverse work. 14 Norman Lindsay Crescent, Faulconbridge. normanlindsay.com.au

GARDENS

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

The cool-climate garden covers 28 hectares with more than 40,000 plants from around the world. There are picnic areas with barbecues and Bell Bird Cafe with views of Wollemi National Park. Bells Line of Road, Mount Tomah. botanicgardens.org.au/blue-mountains-botanic-garden-mount-tomah

Campbell Rhododendron Gardens Covering 18.3ha, the gardens include rhododendrons, azaleas, maples and other deciduous trees and pristine native bushland. Bacchante Street, Blackheath. rhodogarden.org.au

Everglades Gardens

The beautiful Everglades House and gardens are owned by the National Trust and open to the public all year round, Wednesday to Monday. 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura. nationaltrust.org.au/places/everglades-house-gardens

Windyridge Garden

Two hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens showcasing an extensive range of cool climate plants including Japanese Maples, camellias, azaleas and hydrangeas. 25 Queens Avenue, Mount Wilson. windyridgegarden.com



↑ **Olympian Rock Lookout, Blue Mountains National Park.**



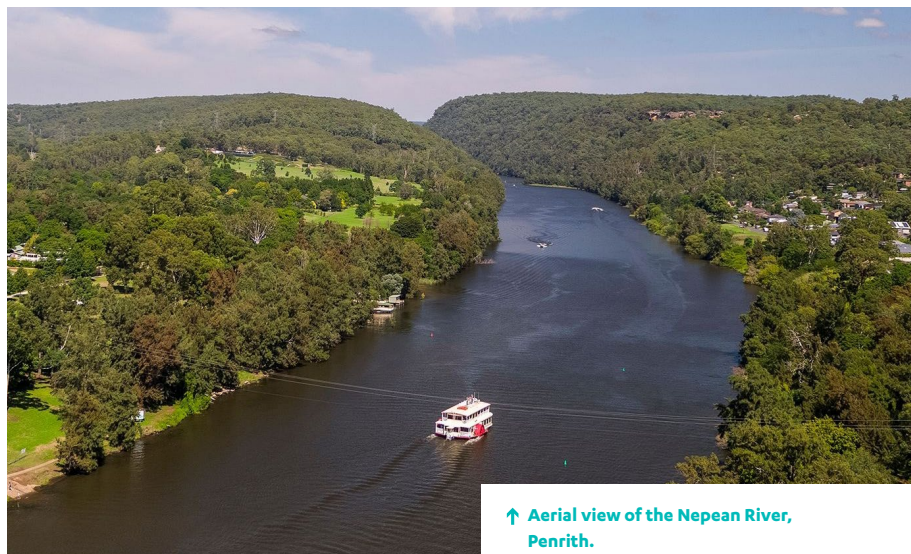
MORE INFORMATION:

Echo Point Visitor Information Centre,
Echo Point Road, Katoomba.
Glenbrook Visitor Information Centre,
Hammett Place, Glenbrook.
visitbluemountains.com.au



PENRITH & SYDNEY'S GREATER WEST

AT THE FOOT of the Blue Mountains to the south of Richmond, the City of Penrith is the gateway to Western Sydney and has been dubbed the adventure capital of NSW. It features world-class sports venues and thrilling sporting events. There is also an exciting mix of weekly, monthly, seasonal and annual events including markets, performances, festivals and shows.



↑ Aerial view of the Nepean River, Penrith.

FUN & ADVENTURE

Penrith Whitewater Stadium

The centre offers whitewater rafting, kayaking, swiftwater rescue training and local, national and international slalom competitions. McCarthy's Lane, Cranebrook. penrithwhitewater.com.au

Jetpack Adventures

Fly through air and water with a water-powered Jetpack or Flyboard. Gate A Sydney International Regatta Centre, Old Castlereagh Road, Cranebrook. jetpackadventures.com.au

International Regatta Centre

An Olympic rowing venue with 5km of cycling and walking paths, picnic grounds, lakeside barbecue facilities and function rooms. Open for public recreation on non-event days. Old Castlereagh Road, Cranebrook. regattacentre.nsw.gov.au

iFLY Indoor Skydiving

A state-of-the-art vertical wind tunnel provides a fun and safe way to experience true human body flight. Next to Panthers Entertainment Complex, 123 Mulgoa Road, Penrith. ifly.com.au/locations/sydney

Cables Wake Park

Try cable skiing, wakeboarding and knee-boarding at this world-class facility, which features two main cable lakes. 405 Jamison Road, Penrith. cableswakepark.com.au

Luddenham Raceway

Outdoor karting centre with two tracks – a Pro Circuit and a Rookie Circuit designed for eight to 14 year olds. There is also a Motorsport Park with a purpose built circuit, and four paintball fields. 849 Luddenham Road, Luddenham. luddenhamraceway.com

On the river

Hire a canoe, kayak or stand-up paddleboard to explore the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, or take a cruise on an old-world paddlesteamer. Nepean Belle Paddlerwheeler cruises explore the Nepean Gorge, departing from the boarding jetty at Tench Reserve, Tench Avenue, Jamisontown (nepeanbelle.com.au). There is also a public boat ramp at Tench Reserve.

Great River Walk

See the Nepean River from both sides on the Great River Walk, which covers about 8km in total, the bulk of which is the 6.4km Bridge to Bridge loop. The easy route is suitable for walkers and cyclists and offers stunning views of the river and the Blue Mountains. penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/facilities-recreation/nepean-river

Zambi Wildlife Retreat

Founded in 2012, Zambi is a retreat for exotic animals retired from the circus, film and TV industries or private zoo collections. It

opens its gates to a limited number of visitors each year, allowing the animal residents to live in a safe and tranquil environment. Visits are by appointment only. zambiwildliferetreat.org

ARTS & CULTURE

Penrith Regional Gallery

The beautiful gallery set in heritage gardens on the Nepean River in the former home of sculptor Gerald Lewers and his wife Margo Lewers, a well-known artist. Open 10am-4pm daily. 86 River Road, Emu Plains. penrithregionalgallery.com.au

The Joan

The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre is a world-class venue with superb performances in music, theatre and dance. 597 High Street, Penrith. thejoan.com.au

Museum of Fire

One of the most popular family attractions in Penrith, the museum has an impressive collection of fire-fighting vehicles and memorabilia. Open 9.30am-4.30pm daily. 1 Museum Drive, Penrith. museumoffire.net

Museum Of Printing

The Penrith Museum of Printing has 23 working letterpress printing machines on display, dating back more than 100 years. Open Sundays 10am - 2pm for general viewing and demonstration. Penrith PACEway, Ransley Street, Penrith. printingmuseum.org.au

The Nepean Naval Museum

A vast range of Naval equipment not usually seen outside of the Defence Force. The collection reflects the technological development from the 1950s to the 1990s. Open Sundays 11am-3pm. Gold coin donation for entry. 40-42 Bruce Neale Drive, Penrith. nepeannavalmuseum.org



Zambi Wildlife Retreat, Wallacia
PHOTO: Destination NSW



The Climbing Centre, Penrith.
PHOTO: Destination NSW

MORE INFORMATION:

Penrith Tourism, Civic Centre, 601 High Street, Penrith. visitpenrith.com.au

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SMART

Smart™ is the exclusive provider of salary packaging benefits to the Department of Defence. We've proudly supported over 50,000 Defence members for more than 20 years. As one of Australia's leading salary packaging providers, we're here to help you take home more of your pay by making it simple to access the potential financial advantages of salary packaging and novated leasing.



CONTACT smart.com.au/defence

EDUCATION

ONE GIANT LEAP

One Giant Leap Australia has been established to advance education by providing opportunities for students and educators to develop and build their knowledge and understanding of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The continuation of studies in primary, secondary and tertiary education is encouraged by various activities, including providing education programs about space science, technology and exploration.

CONTACT onegiantlepastralia.com



RECREATION

HARS AVIATION MUSEUM

The museum showcases a lovingly restored collection of significant, and in some cases rare, military and civilian aircraft. Board a record-breaking 747-400, sit in the pilot's seat of an F-111C and view the workstations on an AP-3C Orion. Tour guides provide insights, family passes are available and there is an award-winning cafe on site. A great all-weather venue, the interactive museum is open daily from 9.30am to 3.30pm (last tour 2pm). 747 Premium Tours are available – see website for details.

CONTACT 02 4257 4333, 54 Airport Drive, Albion Park Rail, NSW, hars.org.au



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CONTACT 1300 131 809, apsbenefitsgroup.com.au



HAWKESBURY VISITOR CENTRE

Start your adventure at the Hawkesbury Visitor Centre – your one-stop destination for inspiration and information. Nestled in the heart of our stunning region, the centre offers expert advice, maps and insider tips to help you uncover hidden gems, scenic escapes and local treasures. Whether you're chasing nature, culture or cuisine, your journey begins here. The centre is open seven days 9am-4pm.

CONTACT 1/328 Hawkesbury Valley Way, Richmond, Ham Common (opposite Richmond RAAF Base). discoverthehawkesbury.com.au



NAB DEFENCE FORCE HOME LOANS

As one of the first Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) approved home-loan providers, NAB is committed to serving those who serve. Whether you're still in the ADF or transitioning out, NAB is there for you. ADF members are eligible to apply for a NAB Defence Force Home Loan provided they satisfy the requirements under the DHOAS.

CONTACT Linda Zabakly, linda.zabakly@nab.com.au, 0436 621 685, nab.com.au/defence



VETERANS & DEFENCE

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NSW

The Air Force Association specialises in providing important services to ex and currently serving veterans and their families. We use our skilled volunteers to provide expert engagement with government, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, and are able to generate the support available, resolve administrative hurdles and promote veteran concerns. Go to our website for the full range of veteran services we offer.

CONTACT secretary@raafansw.org.au, raafansw.org.au





AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

• YOUR ASSOCIATION •



TOGETHER WE CAN
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
BECOME A MEMBER

www.raafansw.org.au



Follow us on Facebook

RAAF Association - NSW Division

www.instagram.com/airforceassociationnsw/

The Air Force Association NSW is run by retired and serving veterans of the Royal Australian Air Force.

We are the voice for the RAAF Veteran and together we advocate for the support and welfare of RAAF personnel and their families with various government bodies. We **honour** and **preserve the history** and memory of those who served and we offer **camaraderie**, **mateship** and foster life-long connections within the RAAF family.



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Wills & Estates