



## **CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

### **Monday 12 November 2012**

8.00 – 9.00 am **Conference Registrations**

8.45 am **Doors Open**

### **SESSION ONE | Australia's Air War 1914-1918**

9.00 - 9.02 am **Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speaker**  
**Major-General Jim Barry, AM, MBE, RFD, ED (Rtd)**  
MHHV Inc. Patron

9.03 am **Opening Address**  
**Wing Commander Nick Leray-Meyer AM (Rtd)**  
Vice-President RAAF Association Victoria

9.18 am **Conference Opening and introduction of keynote speaker**  
**Colonel Marcus Fielding**  
Conference Chair and MHHV Inc. President

9.20 – 10.00 am **Keynote Address: The AFC experience and the Development of the RAAF**  
**Dr Chris Clark**  
RAAF Historian and Head of the Office of Air Force History

**10.00 -10.30 am MORNING TEA**

## SESSION TWO | The Airmen

**Session Chair:**

**Mr David Gardner, OAM**  
Director, RAAF Museum Point Cook

10.30 -11.10 am

**Paper: 'Quite the right type': Recruiting and reinforcing Australia's effort in the air, 1914 - 1918**

**Mr Michael Molkentin**  
Writer, battlefield guide and author of 'Fire in the Sky' and 'Flying the Southern Cross.'

11.15 am – 11.55 pm

**Paper: The AFC in Hotter Climes; The Air War Over the Desert**

**Dr Mark Lax OAM** (Air Commodore RAAF Rtd)  
Former Director General of Strategic Policy

12:00 pm

**Paper: 'Caged Birds': The capture and imprisonment of AFC airmen during the Great War, 1915 - 1918**

**Mr Aaron Pegram**  
Historian at the Australian War Memorial and Managing Editor of *Wartime* magazine

**12.40 – 1.40pm**

**LUNCH**

Museum visit and Sopwith Pup demonstration flight (subject to weather and aircraft availability)

## SESSION THREE | Air Combat

**Session Chair:**

**Mr Andrew Kilsby**  
Executive Officer, MHHV Inc and historian,  
Coee History and Heritage

1.40 – 2.20 pm

**Paper: The Fighter Aces from Australia**

**Mr Gareth Morgan**  
President, Australian Society of WWI Aero Historians

2.25 – 3.05 pm

**Paper: The Machines: A Pilot's View**

**FLT LT Mark 'Darcy' O'Connor, RAAF**  
RAAF Museum Pilot

**3.05 pm**

**AFTERNOON TEA**

## SESSION FOUR | Commemoration and Research

### Session Chair:

**Dr Daryl Moran**

Conference Convenor and MA (Military History) candidate  
Monash University

3.30 – 4.10pm

**Paper: Remembering Lt Merz: Australia's  
military aviation medical pioneer**

**Air Commodore Dr Tracy Smart, AM RAAF**

4.10 – 4.30 pm

**Panel Discussion:**

**What research remains to be done?**

**Panel Chair** Dr Chris Clark

Wing Commander Nick Leray-Meyer, AM

Air Commodore Dr Tracy Smart AM

Mr David Gardner, OAM

**Close of Day** – Conference Chair

4.30 - 5.15 pm

Inspect RAAF Museum Collection or  
Tour RAAF Museum Aircraft Restoration Area (optional)  
Aircraft that are being restored or built in this area  
include; a *BE2a* (c1912); a *Bristol Military Box-kite*; a  
*Mosquito A52 – 600*

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