

EXPERIENCE AIR FORCE HISTORY

RAAF Base Wagga has become known as the 'home of the airman'. It is now the single recruit training establishment for all non-commissioned Air Force personnel and also provides 'ab-initio' aviation technical training for all Army and Navy aviation technicians.

Inside the Heritage Centre are important artefacts and memorabilia representing over 50 years of Air Force history.

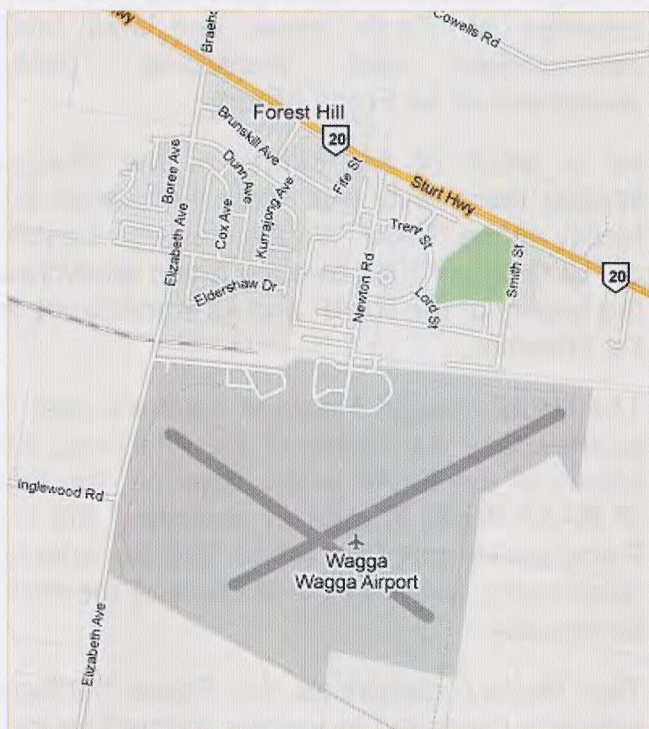
Outside the Heritage Centre, are specially developed gardens and picnic areas with a commemorative section dedicated to No. 31 Beaufighter Squadron, the only operational Squadron based from RAAF Base Wagga in World War II.



Some elements of history displayed in the Centre have been classified into initial recruit training, aviation trade training, clerical and supply for ease of viewing. Other important elements of the history of RAAF Wagga's functions are displayed throughout the various rooms.

GETTING THERE

The RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre is located in the old Guard House at the entrance to RAAF Base Wagga at Forest Hill, ten kilometres east of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales. From Sydney, take the Wagga Wagga exit from the Hume Highway – the Base is located 35km along the Sturt Highway.



The front gate of the Base is easily recognisable by the static aircraft on display next to the Heritage Centre. These aircraft represent over 50 years of RAAF flying history and are completely accessible for the public to view and photograph.



RAAFWAGGA

HERITAGE CENTRE

*Experience Air Force history
in the Riverina.*

The RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre showcases Air Force history, along with representing the significant involvement of the RAAF in the Riverina region of New South Wales.



STURT HIGHWAY, FOREST HILL
NEW SOUTH WALES
AUSTRALIA

OPENING TIMES

10AM – 4PM

WEDNESDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

(except public holidays)

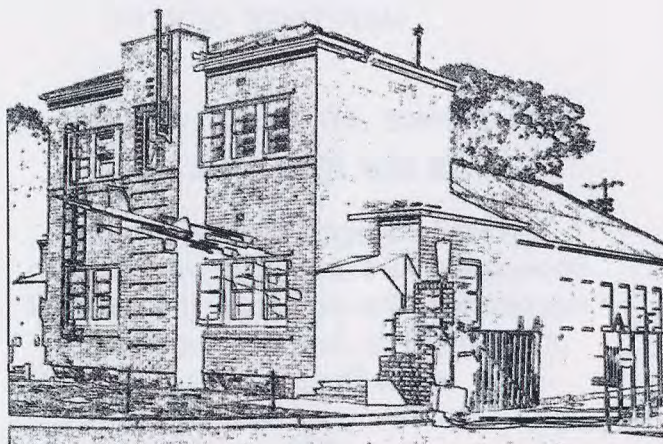
Disabled Facilities Available

ADMISSION FREE

TELEPHONE (02) 6937 5402

Overview of the RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre at RAAF Base Wagga was originally opened in 1993 as an annex to the main RAAF Museum at Point Cook in Victoria, to provide a focus on the RAAF's involvement in the Riverina and to provide access to the history and memorabilia of military aviation and training.



The original museum annex was a concept proposed by a group of enthusiasts headed by Wing Commander Brian Duddington and progressed through the significant efforts in the early 90's of RAAF Base Wagga personnel, particularly Flight Sergeant Doug Vickers and Mrs Gabi McCormack.

Unfortunately, in 2003, staffing concerns and a need to refurbish the building led to its closure and most of the artefacts were transferred back to the main RAAF Museum in Victoria for safe keeping.

In 2008, the Wagga Wagga community called for the Centre to be re-opened and the local Member of Parliament, Mrs Kay Hull tabled a

petition in Parliament to support the re-establishment of the Centre. The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Dr Mike Kelly and the Chief of Air Force also supported the request and in 2008 discussions commenced with the Wagga Wagga City Council and community to re-establish the display.

Air Force recognises the value of regional heritage centres in strengthening the links between Air Force bases and their local communities and increasing public awareness of Air Force history.

As a result of the efforts of the Wagga Wagga community, Air Force re-opened the facility as the "RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre" on 12 October 2010 to once again showcase the history of the RAAF and its significance in the Riverina.

The RAAF Wagga Heritage Centre's goal is to showcase the history of the Air Force, the history of the RAAF in the Riverina, the role of RAAF Base Wagga in preparing the Air Force workforce of the future, and the special relationship between the Base and the local community.

The display comprises Air Force heritage artefacts displayed in various themed rooms, including a 'Community Room', which is devoted to temporary displays of community-loaned items.

The memorabilia, photographs and documents on display represent Air Force activities in the wider region during World War II and the subsequent activities at RAAF Base Wagga since then.

The Heritage Centre forms an important adjunct to the promotion of present day RAAF activities and tourism for Wagga and the Riverina region. The Centre strives to maintain these strong historical regional specific links.

As the last remaining Riverina World War II Base within a network of Bases incorporating Narrandera, Temora, Deniliquin, Tocumwal and Uranquinty; this Heritage Centre represents the only repository for regional specific Air Force memorabilia.

The gardens next to the Centre also have the memorial for No. 31 Beaufighter Squadron, formed in Wagga Wagga in 1943 and disbanded at the close of WWII. 31SQN was the only operational flying Unit to have flown out of Forest Hill and as a result, the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin reformed the Unit at Forest Hill on 01 July 2010 as the Base Headquarters.

The high standard of the Heritage Centre and surrounds are a tribute to the many personnel who spent countless hours re-establishing the facility.

The Wagga community, service clubs and local businesses contributed significant resources into the development of the Heritage Centre and surrounds, and donated some of the memorabilia and displays. Ongoing maintenance and administration of the Centre and exhibits are now the responsibility of both serving members of the RAAF and a significant band of keen community volunteers, many of which are ex-serving personnel, who willingly volunteer their own time to ensure that this important link with the Riverina is maintained.