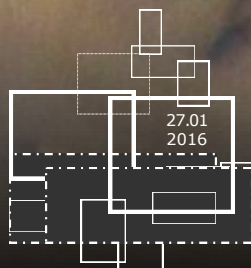
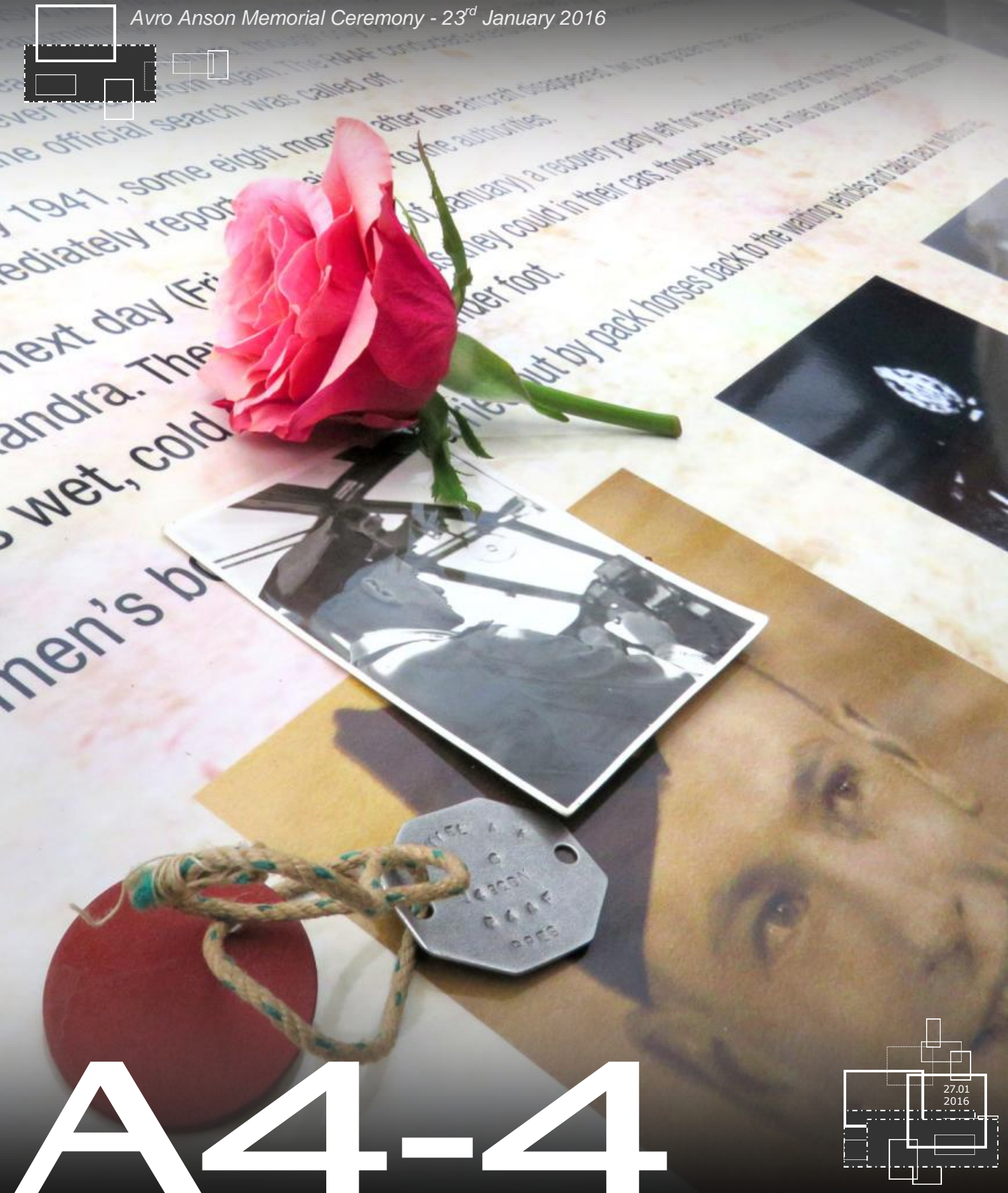


ESPLASH

Avro Anson Memorial Ceremony - 23rd January 2016



AVRO ANSON MEMORIAL AND TRACK CEREMONY

- LEST WE FORGET -

AVRO ANSON CEREMONY

MT TORBRECK - 23RD JANUARY 2016

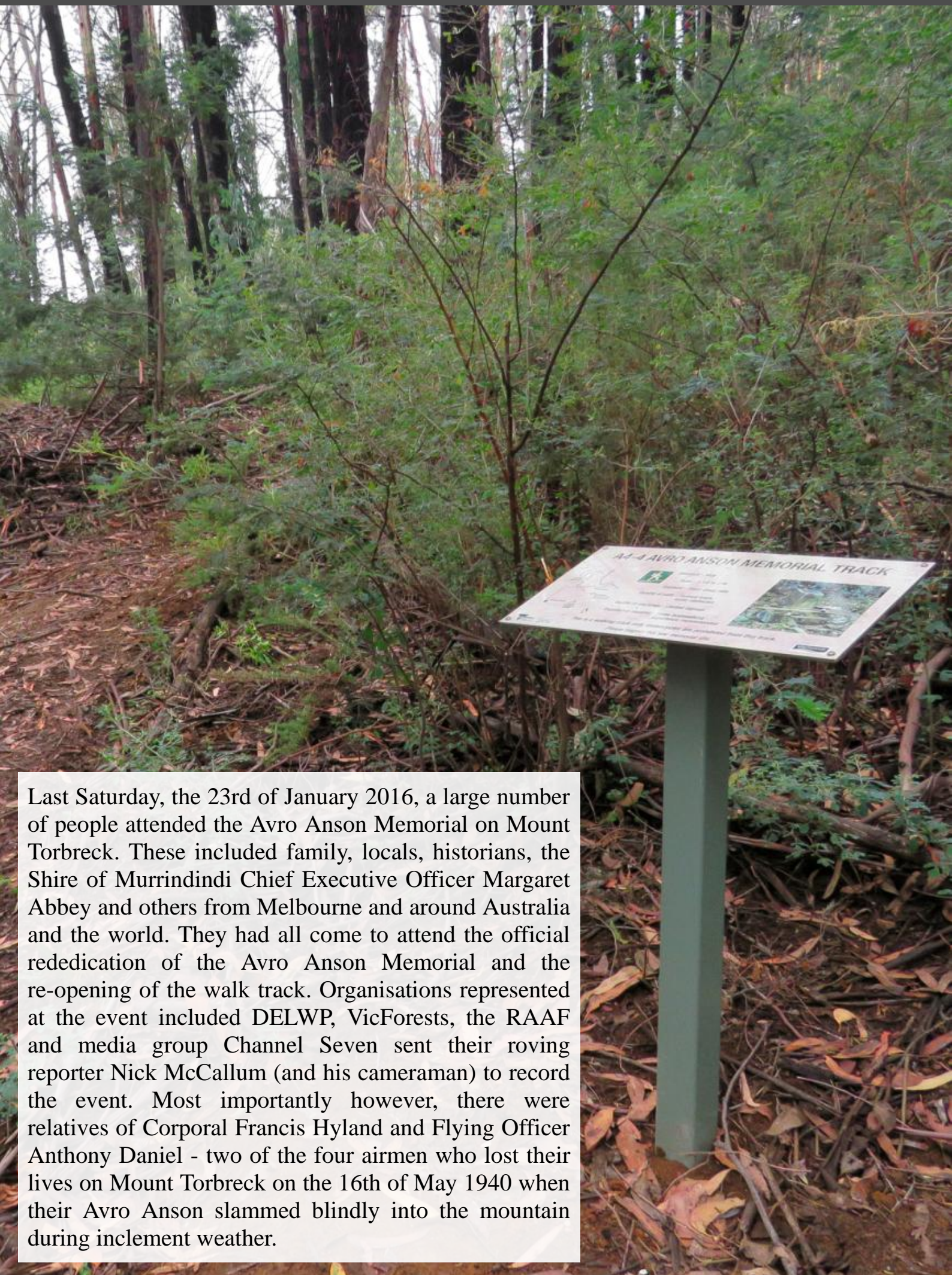


Photograph © John Norbury 2016.

Avro Anson Memorial Re-opening

Saturday the 23rd of January 2016 was a date that will be remembered forever as the day that four airmen who lost their lives on Mount Torbreck were recognised locally - thanks to some amazing volunteers.

Remembering those that went before us.



Last Saturday, the 23rd of January 2016, a large number of people attended the Avro Anson Memorial on Mount Torbreck. These included family, locals, historians, the Shire of Murrindindi Chief Executive Officer Margaret Abbey and others from Melbourne and around Australia and the world. They had all come to attend the official rededication of the Avro Anson Memorial and the re-opening of the walk track. Organisations represented at the event included DELWP, VicForests, the RAAF and media group Channel Seven sent their roving reporter Nick McCallum (and his cameraman) to record the event. Most importantly however, there were relatives of Corporal Francis Hyland and Flying Officer Anthony Daniel - two of the four airmen who lost their lives on Mount Torbreck on the 16th of May 1940 when their Avro Anson slammed blindly into the mountain during inclement weather.



The walk to the track was beautiful and was only hindered by our own fitness levels. The track was in perfect condition (especially compared to my first trip to the site on the 14th of January 2012 with a group of dedicated explorers). On this amazing day Anthony and his track clearing team had even established free drink stations and set up a toilet at the carpark and another at the Memorial site.



Photograph © John Norbury 2016.

- LEST WE FORGET -



Outstanding views through tall Mountain Ash.

- LEST WE FORGET -



A walker's backpack at the Memorial site.

- LEST WE FORGET -



The Memorial site before most people arrived. Photographs © John Norbury 2016.



Most people had assembled at the Memorial site by 1250 hours and to organisers' amazement - initial crowd estimates exceeded 70 people. Final numbers swelled to just under 100 people when the ceremony officially commenced at 1300 hours. The weather on the day was perfect and although the mountain had received a good dose of rain the day before, it presented perfectly for the occasion. A light cloud covering stayed in place until the ceremony ended - helping photographers who wanted soft defused light.

The track clearing team headed by Anthony Dykes, organised the event after years of hard work clearing the Memorial site, walk track and carpark area. In the final lead-up to the ceremony, they even relocated the remaining engine to the Memorial site where they mounted it using an engine mount graciously donated by the 'B24 Liberator Memorial Restoration Fund' located at Werribee.




January 2012



- LEST WE FORGET -



Relics now securely mounted at the Avro Anson Memorial Site.

A photograph of Margaret Abbey, a woman with short, curly blonde hair, wearing a maroon and black short-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. She is standing outdoors with her hands clasped in front of her, in front of a background of green bushes and a white tarp on the left. A text box in the top right corner contains a quote from her.

Shire of Murrindindi
Chief Executive Officer
Margaret Abbey
attended the site with
the Artworkz team and
later commented on
how it was one of the
more touching
ceremonies she had
attended.

Margaret Abbey at the Memorial site.



Visitors to the site appreciated seeing the newly mounted engine. The track clearing team had recovered the engine from a gully, mounted it on a donated engine mount, secured this to a stronger frame they manufactured and then concreted it into place. Here Alexandra local John Kilpatrick (centre left) is seen chatting with other visitors about the engine. John remembers riding into the crash site on horseback with his father around 1947. They rode from the Snobs Creek 'No. 6' Mill where they were living and John's father Arthur 'Jersey' was a blacksmith.

Channel Seven's roving reporter Nick McCallum and cameraman were on site for the ceremony. Like their first trip to the Memorial site, they again managed to get lost!



Channel Seven's Nick McCallum and cameraman on site to record the event.

- LEST WE FORGET -



Cameras were everywhere.



The ceremony commenced on time and went according to Anthony's plan. At one point almost everyone had tears in their eyes as 76 year old Lorraine (daughter of Corporal Francis Hyland) spoke of her loss at losing her father as a baby girl. Diana Davidson, the niece of Flying Officer Anthony Daniel also spoke and likewise - her words were deeply touching. The Royal Australian Air Force highlighted the importance of the event by sending Squadron Leader Glen Coy (Executive Operations Officer Point Cook Museum) to officiate.

- LEST WE FORGET -



Lorraine Hansen talking of her loss and grief at losing her father when just a baby.

- LEST WE FORGET -



Anthony Daniel's niece Diana Davidson talking of her family's loss.

- LEST WE FORGET -



The laying of wreaths.

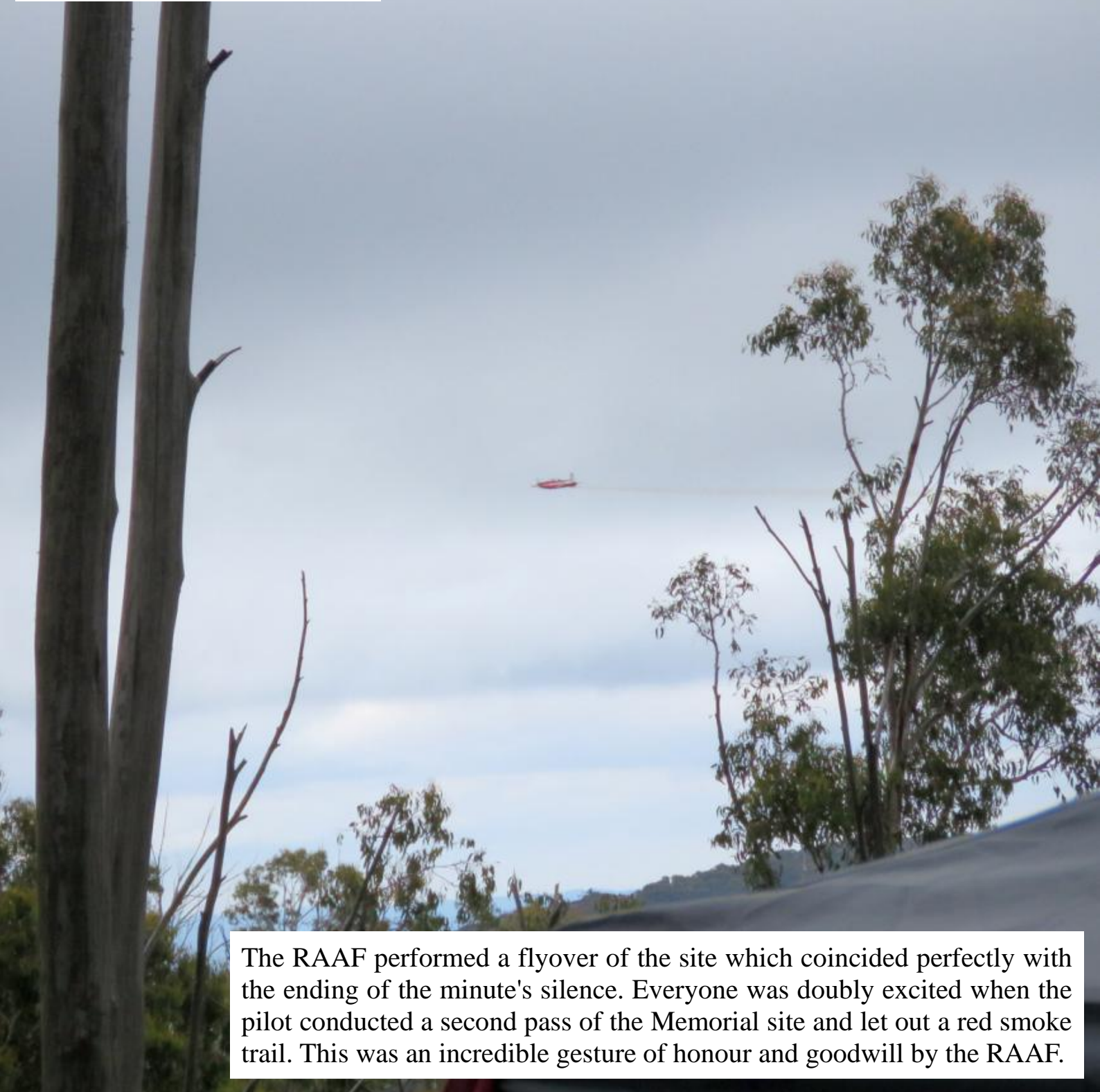
- LEST WE FORGET -



The laying of wreaths.



The intended flight path of the PC-9 was 221 SW, which was established by the court of enquiry as being the heading of Anson A4-4. This was to take the PC-9 over the Memorial and Mt Torbreck. Unfortunately the weather (low cloud), just like 75 years ago, prevented this. However by remaining below the cloud, the PC-9 was able to safely circle Mt Torbreck within sight of the Memorial.



The RAAF performed a flyover of the site which coincided perfectly with the ending of the minute's silence. Everyone was doubly excited when the pilot conducted a second pass of the Memorial site and let out a red smoke trail. This was an incredible gesture of honour and goodwill by the RAAF.

Plane: RAAF Roulette Pilatus PC-9
Pilot: Flight Lieutenant Tim Dresser
From: Sale

*Image supplied by the RAAF
and used with permission.*



RAAF Roulette Pilatus PC-9 fly-over.

As Anthony mentioned during his speech, one local family deserved recognition for their significant contribution. Acheron locals Stephen and Melissa Handbury of Anvil Angus made ongoing contributions of a bobcat and other heavy machinery amounting to many thousands of dollars. As a direct result of their graciousness, the project was finished for the 75th Anniversary of the crash site being discovered.



Anthony Dykes speaking at the ceremony.



The unveiling of the large interpretive sign by relatives of lost airmen.



They even oversaw the production of interpretive signage (thanks to a VicForests' grant and the team's own generous contribution) and then mounted one sign at the track head and the other much larger sign at the Memorial site where it was unveiled at the end of the ceremony.



The interpretive signage at the Memorial site.



Local John Kilpatrick talking about his experiences with the site.

- LEST WE FORGET -



Track clearing team coordinator Anthony Dykes with his wife Lauren and son Jack.



The oldest man on the mountain that day was Anthony Dykes Grandfather Brian Dykes who at 82 years of age was adamant he was walking the entire track. Talking to him after the ceremony, he reflected on just how incredibly proud he was of the work done by the clearers and his grandson. I suspect Anthony has a good dose of his tenacity, as there was no way Brian was not making it to the top. Brian also lost his father during World War II when he was just a young boy and was deeply moved by Lorraine's speech as he could relate to her feelings of great loss at losing her father.

- LEST WE FORGET -




The cleared track back to the carpark.

One local identity who made it to the site for the ceremony was John Norbury - along with his wife Maureen. John's previous attempt to visit the Memorial site on the 4th of May 2014 resulted in a full emergency evacuation for him from the mountain after he suffered a bad break of his femur. For John this return to the mountain and his successful trip to the Memorial was a fitting end to his own personal journey. Well done John! On the day John also acted as an official Artworkz Photographer. See his PhotoEssay later in this publication.



John Norbury on the walk track for the first time since his accident at the site.

Attendee PhotoEssay

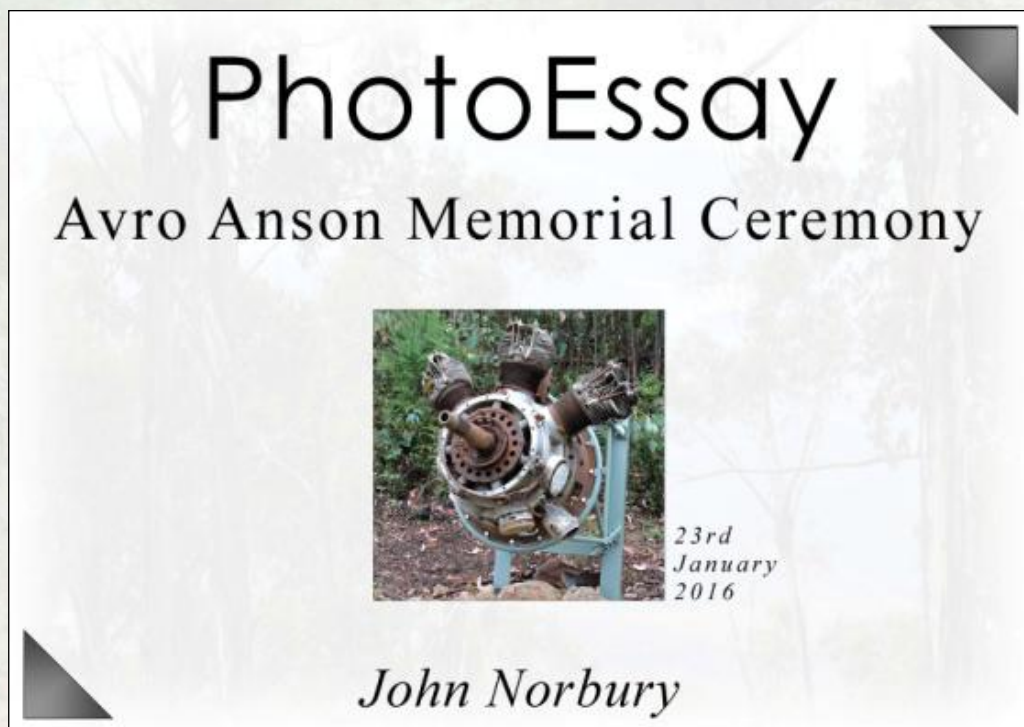


Rededication of the Memorial to
Flying Officer Daniel and Corporals
Hyland, Sass and Stowdor
at Mt Torbreck, Victoria

23rd January 2016

Press cover to view

Attendee PhotoEssay



Press cover to view

Ceremony Audio File



Press button to listen

Channel Seven Coverage



Press button to view

Dear Anthony

24th January 2016

Thank you for making yesterday possible.

When my husband Phil and I arrived at the carpark we were amazed with the number of cars that were there with no one around so parked and got going quickly as it was 12.30 pm. We were grateful for the cool conditions and got up there in about 22 minutes as we were worried we would miss out on the event. Shane Bayliss and Shane Millard greeted us and were interested to know how we heard about the event and whether anyone else was behind us which to our knowledge were not and they said we made 95 I think.

It was pleasing we had made it on time and all very different to our hike up there 22nd December 2015 when it was warmer and we had walked 2.5 km to the carpark due to fallen trees. That occasion definitely gave us a greater appreciation of the isolation as the bird life was amazing and we even spotted a stag. Our daughter's comment on that day was that if you had to die anywhere it was indeed a beautiful place.

Yesterday I was immediately struck by the huge number of people in attendance, how the Memorial site presented right down to the stones neatly lining the pathway up to it, the small Australian flags, the beautiful floral wreaths signifying remembrance to the fallen and the thoughtfulness of a gazebo with seating. The mood of the crowd was nothing short of reverent to those who had died, those who were left and awe inspiring to those who had given so freely of themselves to remember these four men *Lest We Forget*.

All aspects of the ceremony were wonderful and very thought provoking. Lorraine's speech was so moving I don't think there was a dry eye there and it brought home the personal impact that such a tragedy has on so many lives. Her one medal for the tragic loss of her father was so poignant and justifiably worn so proudly. What you have done for that lady will never be fully known but I would hazard a guess that it has perhaps assisted with some sort of closure for a lifetime of grieving for her father. Diana's off the cuff speech was excellent too and I was reminded of my Mum's unfound brother still lying somewhere in the Owen Dixon Ranges in PNG.

The RAAF chap did a great job and certainly added to the formality of the occasion which was essential for such an important event. His spoke well with the

reminder to all of the actual events with the addition of relevant information of that era also. Having the flyover occur was an amazing coup which you must have put a lot of effort into to get that craft off the Sale tarmac - I was rapt to get a glimpse of it and didn't even bother trying to photograph it so I could just take in the moment. Your speech was a fitting end to the occasion and from the heart which had a big impact on us all.

What a generous and fabulous idea providing the public with the story of the Avro Anson tragedy in the form of the information board for all those visiting the site to stop and remember the futility of war. The pomp and unveiling of it was a very fitting role for the deceased airmen's families to perform. The survivors of the heroes are heroes too as they endure their lifelong pain.

What you and your team achieved is very commendable. Your efforts were great and your personal sacrifice selfless as you worked so diligently towards achieving your goal. The obstacles you must have encountered along the way were not just fallen timber but all the associated hurdles that accompanied them from equipment, the elements, injuries etc. etc.

The smooth running of yesterday from a spectator point of view was flawless. I started noticing little red and white A4-4 signs on the signposts to our destination very early on and the provision of shelter, toilets, transport and water were just very well thought out and considerate for the comfort of all in attendance. A few of Artworkz friends caught up for refreshments in Alex afterwards and were all so impressed with the outcome of a very successful, important event.

As well as having the opportunity of meeting the two Shanes, yourself and your wife we also met Andy Kelly who reassured us that the track was going to be maintained a few times annually as you all get together. He also spoke of future planned adventures which captured our imagination and which we hope also come to fruition for you all. Please pass on our thanks to all those concerned with making the day possible. It was a privilege to be in attendance.

Lest We Forget
Kathie Maynes

TRACK CLEARERS

Anthony Dykes (Coordinator)

Shane Bayliss

Mick Braybon

Steve Considine

Evan Desira

Kevin Desira

Ryan Desira

Nick Dykes

Steve Dykes

Nathan Earl

Paul Fletcher

Angus & Kate Fletcher

Andy Kelly

Michael Large

Brenton Luke

Mitch Luke

Andrew Mason

Jack Mason

Zach Mason

Shane Millard

Pat Mills

Tim Slade

The families of all workers.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Steve Considine
Ron Cooper
James Cowell
Squadron Leader Glen Coy
Chris Daniel
Jim Davey
Evan Desira
Kevin Desira
Ryan Desira
Flight Lieutenant Tim Dresser
Anthony & Lauren Dykes
Nick Dykes
Steve Dykes
Nathan Earl
Lee Faulkner
Paul Fletcher
Angus & Kate Fletcher
Lloyd Foster
Phil Guinta
Stephen & Melissa Handbury
Joshua Hibbert
Mitchell Hibbert
David & Debbie Hibbert
Lawrence Hood

Richard Hyland
Andy Kelly
John Kilpatrick
Ryan Lane
Michael Large
Allan Layton
Leisa Lees
Brenton Luke
Mitch Luke
Macedon CFA
Andrew Mason
Jack Mason
Zach Mason
Kathie & Phil Maynes
David McMillan
Shane Millard
Pat Mills
Steve Nicholls
John & Maureen Norbury
Kelly Petersen
Tim Slade
John Steer
Russell Sturzaker
Robert Woolfe
John Zerafa



I would like to recognise all those who took time to attend this local historic ceremony. A drive into deep bush and up the side of a mountain, followed by a long walk up a constant elevation is not easy for many. Yet 95 people still chose to attend and be a part of this significant ceremony. Well done to all who made it and became part of history!

I wish to again recognise coordinator Anthony Dykes, the track clearers and their families. We are amazed and immensely proud of what your sacrifice has resulted in. I am not sure what your future holds, we all just hope it includes us and our district.

Also a huge thanks to the numerous Government departments and organisations who have been a part of this journey. Without everyone pulling in the same direction, this outcome could not have been achieved.

Finally a huge thanks to Stephen and Melissa Handbury of Anvil Angus for the support and equipment made freely available to the project team.

David Hibbert
Artworkz creator

I would like to use this as an opportunity to personally thank the 100 people who made the trek up Mt Torbreck to attend the 75th Anniversary of the discovery of Avro Anson A4-4 and her crew – Flying Officer Tony Daniel, Corporals Frank Hyland, Ivan Stowdor and Fred Sass. As I was standing at the bottom of the walking track meeting and greeting the people arriving, I couldn't believe my eyes when vehicles just kept arriving one after the other – I am still completely overwhelmed by the amount of support that this special event received.

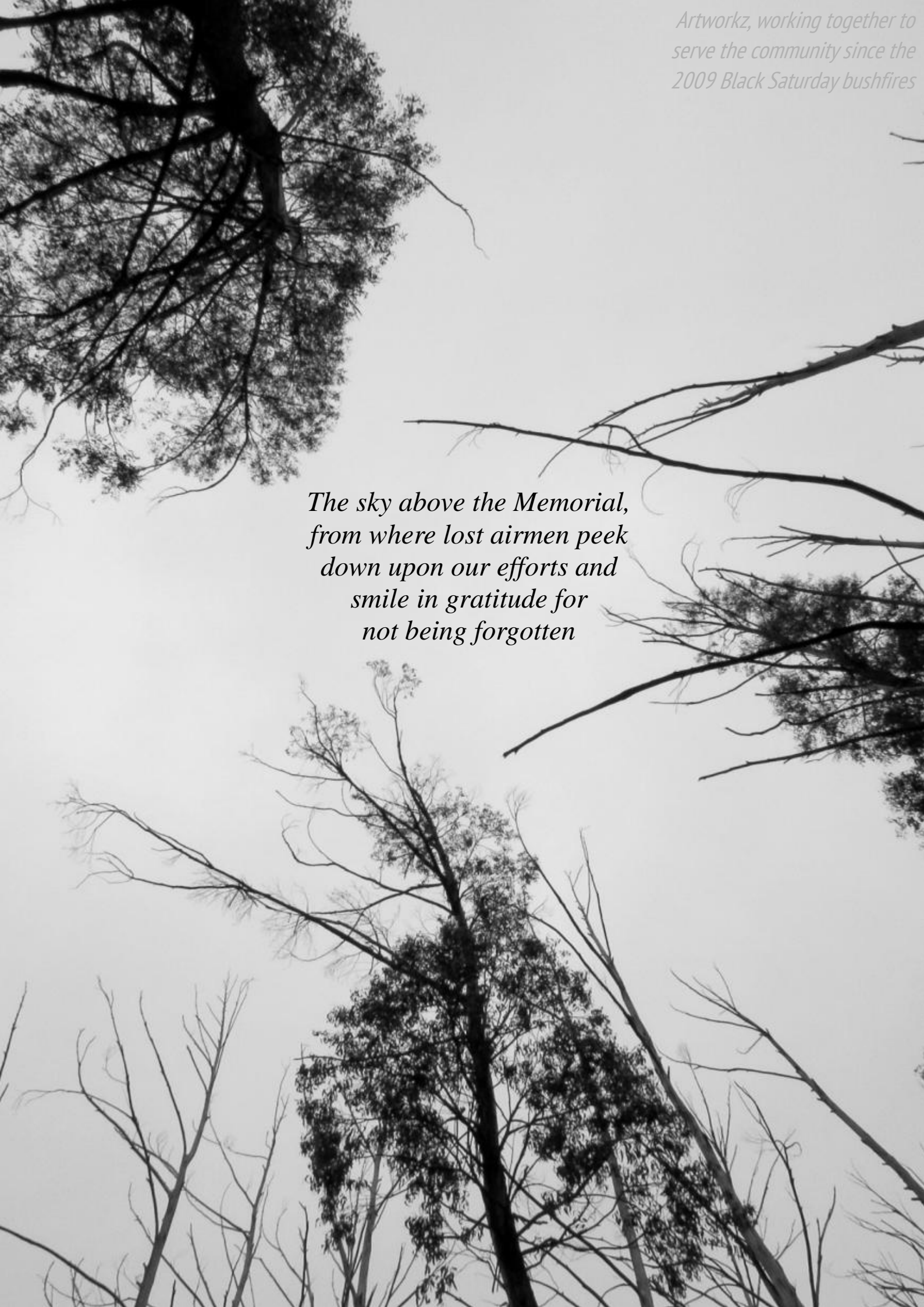
For me personally and I know I can speak on behalf of everyone that has been involved on the ground in re-opening the track and restoring the memorial site, meeting some of the family members of the men immortalised on the memorial plaque was the highlight of the weekend. To meet the daughter of Frank Hyland, Lorraine Hansen and at least a dozen other Hyland relatives spanning three generations and Tony Daniel's niece Diana Davidson and nephew Chris Daniel* was both an honour and a privilege and made all that we had done to make this day possible all the more worthwhile. * *Chris and his wife Christine travelled from the UK specifically for the ceremony*

The Royal Australian Airforce's involvement in the ceremony was extremely honourable and respectful to the lost four of their own. Squadron Leader Glen Coy (Executive Operations Officer Point Cook Museum) was the MC for the ceremony and provided a very insightful account as to why the memorial was there. A wreath laying ceremony, the reciting of The Anzac Ode, the bugle recording of The Last Post followed by a minute silence was nothing short of spine tingling. Flight Lieutenant Tim Dresser from CFS Sale was in the cockpit of the RAAF Roulette PC9 for the flyover at the conclusion of the ceremony and put on a fantastic display flying through the valley that captivated the audience. To Glen, Tim and other officers of the RAAF that made your involvement possible please accept my sincere thank you.

When it came time for family members of the crew to speak, Lorraine Hansen's account of growing up without her father in her life was so moving I don't think there was a dry eye on the mountain. Diana Davidson's speech was just as moving as she provided an insight into how deeply Tony's loss affected his immediate family which had a ripple effect through to the Daniel generations of today. It filled myself and our track clearing group with a deep sense of pride that we were able to give you the opportunity to pay your respects to your lost loved ones at their place of death that you didn't have previously.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for the involvement and support over the last two years. DELWP, Anvil Angus, Artworkz, VicForests, Sign Foundry and every single person that has sacrificed their weekends away from their families to make the day possible – having said that, the small sacrifice we gave is nothing compared to the ultimate sacrifice that those four young men paid on the 16th of May 1940.

Lest we Forget



*Artworkz, working together to
serve the community since the
2009 Black Saturday bushfires*

*The sky above the Memorial,
from where lost airmen peek
down upon our efforts and
smile in gratitude for
not being forgotten*