



PARLIAMENT
OF
AUSTRALIA
House of Representatives



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JG:ws-F

Graham McAleer
190 Penguin Head Road
Culburra Beach 2540

Dear Graham,

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the reunion dinner of the 'Daffodil Squadron'. Unfortunately, and regrettably, I will not be able to attend as I will be on secondment as the Australian Parliamentary Delegate to the United Nations in New York until the end of the year.

However, I would be grateful if you could read out the following message to all attendees at your dinner on my behalf;

Firstly, welcome all those who have made the journey for the first time to the beautiful Shoalhaven and to all members and partners of the No 7 R.A.A.F Engineering Apprentice Intake - The 'Daffodil' Squadron.

I hope your stay will be an experience that you will treasure for a long time and that perhaps you might consider coming back to visit us again sometime in the future.

Tonight you will be sharing many fond memories, memories that compelled you to take the journey here today to catch up with past friendships.

There is always something special about military service. The bonds and camaraderie that were developed in those early, formative years stay with you forever and the shared experience of service life is a connection that is not easily relinquished.

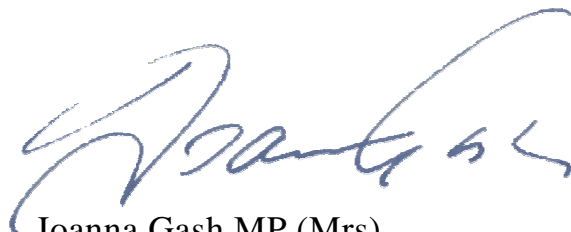
I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution the members of the squadron have made both in terms of the many years of service you each committed of your lives but also the work that you did in those years that helped grow the RAAF into what it is today.

It must have been quite a unit because I understand that two books have been written about you and the fact that you have quite a comprehensive association website, which I have visited, speaks volumes of the strength of your friendships that were born at Forest Hill, Wagga Wagga.

The website tells me this is not your first reunion and I'm sure it will not be your last. But you have chosen a beautiful part of Australia to enjoy your celebrations and I know these few days together will be memorable ones.

Enjoy your stay and thank you for the loyal service you all rendered your country. We, the Australian people, are eternally grateful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joanna Gash', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joanna Gash MP (Mrs)
Federal Member for Gilmore
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism

Getting the Job Done!