

## Girls rule!!

The US 376th Expeditionary Air Refuelling Squadron, recently flew an ALL FEMALE [KC-135 Stratotanker](#) air refuelling mission over Afghanistan. The aircraft took off from [Ganci Air Base](#), Kyrgyzstan, carrying more than 180,000 pounds of fuel with an all-female crew-both pilots, a navigator and a boom operator.



The event marked the first all-female crew to fly an air refuelling mission into Afghanistan from Ganci. Capt. Heather, and the boom operator, Senior Airman Lyndi, are all assigned to the 99th Air Refuelling Squadron at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

The photo (right) was sent to us by Kev Rosser and was taken at East Sale in 1970. The bods are:

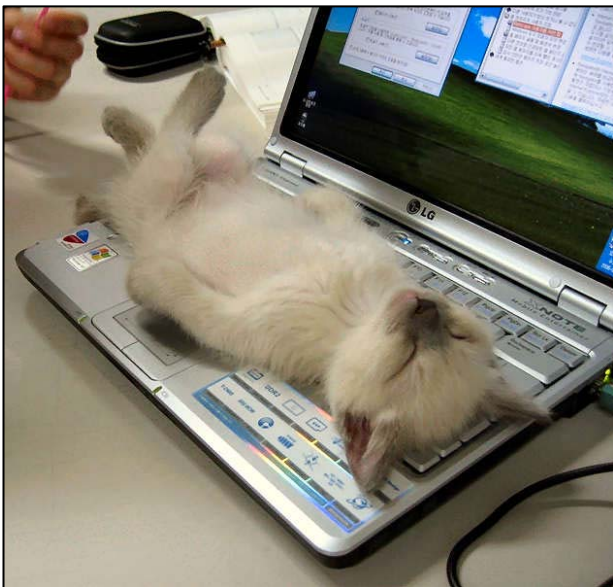
**Rear (L-R)** Bob Campbell, Kev Rosser, John Parker.

**Front (L-R)** Ron Carter, The WO, Otto (Mad Dog) Fahey, Jeff Cuff.



Ted Washbrook, who lives over in the West, says he saw **Tom McIntyre** (right) the other week. Tom made the trek across the Nullarbor from Queensland and was running in the annual International Hash Run (21-23 March) and as Ted says, “would you believe it, he runs in a kilt made from the McIntyre Hunting Tartan.”

(AH!!! - But the big question Ted is:- what does he wear underneath it – tb)



**I can't respond to any emails today. Something has crashed on my computer & my mouse is missing . . .**

### THE BLONDE ON THE PLANE

A plane is on its way to from Sydney to Melbourne when a blonde in economy class gets up and moves to the first-class section and sits down. The flight attendant watches her do this, and asks to see her ticket. She checks the ticket then tells the blonde that as she has paid for economy class, she will have to sit in the back. The blonde replies, "I'm blonde, I'm beautiful, I'm going to Melbourne, and I'm staying right here."

The flight attendant goes into the cockpit and tells the pilot and co-pilot that there is a blonde bimbo sitting in first class who belongs in economy and won't move back to her seat. The co-pilot goes back to the blonde and tries to explain that because she has paid only for economy, she will have to return to her seat. The blonde replies: "I'm blonde, I'm beautiful, I'm going to Melbourne, and I'm staying right here."

The co-pilot tells the pilot that he probably should have the police waiting when they land to arrest this woman who won't listen to reason. The pilot says, "You say she is a blonde? I'll handle this. I'm married to a blonde; I speak blonde." He goes back to the blonde and whispers in her ear and she says, "Oh, I'm sorry," and gets up and goes back to her seat in economy.

The flight attendant and co-pilot are amazed and asked him what he said to make her move without any fuss. He said "I just told her first class isn't stopping at Melbourne."

## **Butterworth**

Dick Harcourt, who was with the RAF at Butterworth has sent us some photos taken during his stay up there. These are sure to bring back memories for a bunch of blokes who went through Butterworth while it was a much sought after posting. If you've got any photos you would like to share with us, please send them in.



**RAAF Sabre.**



Butterworth ferry terminal.



**Penang swimming club..**



**Peter Ellis of the RAF  
and Cecilia Bocos.**



Mirages.



Mt Erskine Reservoir.



**Butterworth Transmitters.**

**AND!!!!** If you really want a trip down nostalgia lane ..... Kev Cragg was a groundy and used his tape recorder to tape a few minutes of Radio Mouth – have a listen to [THIS](#).

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Allan George tells the story about a certain Flt Looley he knew (no names, no pack drill) who was an AEO (Orion back-ender) but who wanted to become an engineer because he suffered from chronic air sickness. Allan asked him how he managed his flying and air sickness and the Flt Looley said his strategy was to eat a bar of chocolate before going flying. He reckons it didn't help the air sickness, but it sure made things taste a damn site better on the way back up!!!

## Wine

If you like a drop of good wine at a realistic price, try this [SITE](#). The wines are excellent (a lot are clean skins), are delivered to your door by Australia Post and are sold at a realistic price.



## RAAF Ubon,

Ubon, Thailand – National Reunion



The RAAF Ubon, Thailand Group (WA) will host the national reunion in Perth during 22-24 August 2008.

An invitation is extended to all ex-RAAF members of 79 Squadron, Base Squadron and No 5 Airfield Construction Squadron who served at Ubon from 1962 to 1968.

Expressions of interest are sought now.

Contact:

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## Music.

The way music is stored and played has changed considerably during our life-time. Most of us can remember the days when the only way you could listen to music was to hear it live or to listen to it over the radio. There were cylinders and records of course for private use, but not every home could afford either the player or the cylinders/records. It's interesting to note that the quality of music produced by the old cylinders was equal to or better than that produced by the disc. Recordings made on a cylinder remain at a constant linear velocity for the entirety of the recording, while those made on a disc have a higher linear velocity at the outer portion of the groove compared to the inner portion



What swung the balance towards acceptance of the disc over the cylinder was it could be easily mass produced by moulding and stamping and the disc recordings required less storage space than did the cylinders. The disc player also used a heavy cast-iron turntable which acted as a flywheel and helped maintain a consistent rotational velocity. The cylinder disappeared in the 1920's and the "shellac" 78 ruled for quite a while.



In 1948 Columbia Records developed and introduced the “microgroove” record which was made of vinyl and which played at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  RPM instead of 78 RPM as did the old shellac records and then in 1949, RCA Victor released the first 45 rpm single. With these “new” cheap to produce records on the market, manufacturers very quickly geared up and record players of hugely different varieties began to hit the shops. There were inexpensive little ‘portable’ units to large wooden units that were a piece of furniture and which dominated one’s lounge room. However, these “new” records only provided mono sound, and it wasn’t until 1958 that Audio Fidelity in the USA and Pye in the UK released the first “Stereo” records and this is when things really began to change.

Stereo records were produced of trains rushing along tracks, aircraft taking off, animals screeching, cars racing, people speaking, anything that demonstrated the stereo sound was recorded and snapped up by an amazed public. (I think in my old collection I still have a record titled “Dot stereo sampler” - tb).

With the ‘new’ and better sound came the demand for better equipment on which to play it. The idea of the record player, amplifier and speaker all being in the one unit went by the way as different manufacturers specialised in individual components. Companies began to produce better record players, or turn-tables as they were now called. Costlier turntables were made from heavy aluminium castings with heaps of mass and inertia and this helped to minimize vibration and maintain a constant speed without “wow or flutter”. They usually employed ball bearings or roller bearings in the spindle to reduce friction and noise. Most were belt or direct drive, but some used an idler wheel. The Swiss "Lenco" drive (right), (many a bloke bought the L75 from the Yankee PX shops in Vietnam - tb) had a very heavy turntable coupled via an idler wheel to a long, tapered motor drive shaft. Many platters had a continuous series of strobe markings machined or printed around their edge to show that the thing was turning at the correct speed. Some had anti-skate weights built into the tone arm, though whether they did any good is debatable. Then there was the huge variety of ‘needles’ one could buy, from the basic crystal needle to the hugely expensive magnetic cartridge.



Amplifiers and speakers changed too. Valve amplifiers went and were replaced by transistor powered units, these in turn went and were replaced by a tiny chip. FM tuner amps were introduced and snapped up in their thousands by the public. Names like Sansui, Kenwood and Pioneer ruled.

Electro-magnet speakers were replaced by permanent magnet speakers (who can remember getting their first set of Rola 8MX twin cone speakers - tb) then cross-over networks (usually a 25mfd capacitor in the cheaper units) were introduced, then mid range speakers were added, as were tweeters, bass horns etc. AR (right) were one of the leading manufacturers in the mid to late 60’s as were Sansui, JVC and Pioneer.



Reel to Reel tape recorders had been around for a while but in the late 60's these flourished as better quality tape and much better circuitry allowed true Hi-Fi recording. The little cassette tape, which had been a novelty item during the 60's and early 70's also got a leg up as quality of sound increased, due mainly to a bloke named Dolby and eventually it replaced the reel to reel. Cassette players sprang up everywhere, there were elaborate home units, portable units and any car worth having was built with an in-dash cassette player.

In 1979, Philips and Sony joined forces to produce the CD and music became a series of zeros and ones and in 1982 (a bare 26 years ago) the first CD player was marketed and this new concept virtually killed the record and tape industry overnight.

People bought CD's in their millions and once again, a whole industry sprang up around them. CD burners became available during the 90's, and as the 90's ended, the thing to have was a personal CD burner capable of burning at 8 times. Cassette players were yanked out of cars, and in their place was put the 6 stacker CD player.



About 10 years ago, the first few MP3 players were released, and this started the eventual decline of the purchased CD. Today, the music landscape has changed again as online music downloads has become a way of life for many of us. No longer is it necessary to buy a whole CD which everyone knows usually contains one or perhaps 2 good tunes with 16 or so "also rans". Today we just 'buy' the track we want, store the music onto a portable MP3 player or computer and play it.

No longer is it necessary to have record or cassette or CD collections. Today many thousands of songs can be stored, sorted and played on a device no large than a packet of cigarettes.

It seems that every 10 years or so, the whole music scene changes – we can only wonder what is in store for us 10 years from now.....

#### **IDIOTS AT WORK.**

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the sales assistant noticed that I had not signed my name on the back of the card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature on the credit card with the signature I just signed on the receipts. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared that signature to the one I signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.