



# END OF AN ERA



## THE OFFICIAL FAREWELL TO THE RAAF DHC4 CARIBOU AFTER FORTY FIVE YEARS SERVICE

Caribou Colleagues,

Unfortunately, the time has come when we witness the retirement of the de Havilland Canada Caribou from active service with the Royal Australian Air Force.

To mark the occasion, 38 Squadron is hosting a farewell function at RAAF Base Townsville on Saturday 7 November 2009.

The following activities are planned for the day:

- **Morning:** A combined 35 and 38 Squadron Colours Parade, including the formal laying-up of the 35 Squadron Colours.
- **Mid morning to mid afternoon:** Squadron Open Day – a chance to touch those controls/engines/props/wheels/fuselages/CGU1B etc for possibly the last time!
- **Evening:** In true Caribou tradition, a Hangar Bash.

**Costs** for the function are expected to be minimal (covers finger food/nibbles); liquid refreshments will be pay-as-you-go. Costs will be advised at a later date.

**Memorabilia** will be available; the Social Club is organising suitable items (so you can add yet another neoprene stubby cooler to your collection) – there will be more information forwarded closer to the event. The Social Club is sourcing a suitable commemorative port.

**Transport (service air):** I've had several requests in regard to the provision of service air for personnel to attend the event. I understand there will be

some ALG assets doing a sweep, but recent experience has demonstrated that sudden world events can overtake previous plans and result in assets reallocated at short notice. My personal recommendation is for individuals to organise their own travel as withdrawal of service transport at the last minute would seriously disrupt if not scuttle your attendance at the event.

**Transport (within Townsville):** Early days yet but we anticipate providing transport to and from major focal accommodation points.

**Accommodation on base:** Due to base facility restructuring and asbestos issues with the older buildings, there is very little on-base accommodation at RAAF Townsville. We're making enquiries with Serco, but I'm not confident there will be any significant on-base accommodation available for attendees. There are no competing events (as far as we know) in Townsville at that time and the northern tourist season will be wound down by then, so commercial accommodation should be readily available.

**Photography on RAAF Base Townsville:** I don't envisage any restrictions on personal photography within the 38SQN precinct or individual messes, but normal ADF restrictions will apply outside those areas. Further details will be supplied closer to the day.

**Enquiries and contact details:** feel free to pass these on to others you know in the Caribou community.

- Email: [38SQN.45Yrs@defence.gov.au](mailto:38SQN.45Yrs@defence.gov.au)
- Fax: Event Coordinator (07) 4752 1382
- Mail: Event Coordinator  
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Further information will be passed on as plans mature. I'll be seeking definite numbers from early August in order to firm up for infrastructure planning.

Regards,



David Falls  
Squadron Leader  
38 Squadron

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