

Insert coin here ...

CPL Bill Solomou

HAVE you ever wondered what happens with money raised from the Army and Air Force Canteen Service (AAFCONS) vending machines?

Don't be fooled, the machines are placed in prominent positions around the base for a reason – and we are reaping the rewards.

According to Air Force AAFCONS Board of Management non-executive director AIRCDRE Ian Pearson, the figures for the 2016-2017 financial year are in, and they will surprise you.

"In the financial year 2015-16, \$325,768 in vending machine profits was returned to Army and Air Force units," AIRCDRE Pearson said.

"I am very pleased to advise that last financial year, a significantly larger amount of \$538,126 was returned."

AIRCDRE Pearson said the vending machine profits were returned straight back to units, and all other profits from AAFCONS went to upgrading canteen facilities and to keeping canteen prices as low as possible.

"That means, for example, that the price you pay for an item in the Tindal canteen is the same price that you would pay at Richmond, Williamtown or Amberley," AIRCDRE Pearson said.

"At AAFCONS, our people are not financially disadvantaged by the remoteness of their location."

AIRCDRE Pearson said SADFOs periodically received vending machine proceeds from AAFCONS Head Office with a statement of

how much each vending machine, by tenant unit, had generated.

"In accordance with Air Force policy, SADFOs have discretion on how those funds will be distributed," AIRCDRE Pearson said.

"For example, if the vending machine is in a squadron crew room, the proceeds might go to that squadron's social club, relieving squadron members of the onerous duties associated with more traditional fund-raising processes.

"On the other hand, if the machine is in a public area, the proceeds might be more globally distributed, for example through the local welfare fund."

AIRCDRE Pearson said it was important that members realised that AAFCONS was not in competition with social clubs.

"AAFCONS seeks to complement their fund-raising efforts in accordance with its more focused mission statement, which is 'to contribute to Defence capability by enhancing personnel morale and wellbeing'," AIRCDRE Pearson said.

"There is absolutely no compulsion for units to use AAFCONS vending machines. From the perspective of AAFCONS, the machines are there more out of goodwill, noting it is the hosting base that receives the profits, unlike privately operated machines where the bulk of the profits go out the front gate," AIRCDRE Pearson said.

"Unlike days gone by when vending machines were either Coca-Cola or Smiths chips, the vending machines now operated by AAFCONS offer a much broader range of products."



AIRCDRE Ian Pearson says it is important personnel realise AAFCONS does not compete with social clubs.

COFFEE FIX

IN the first eight months of its operation, AAFCONS' redemption app (one free coffee after four purchased) returned 17,906 free coffees to its customers.

TOP FIVE

The five top Air Force base recipients were:

- Williamtown \$25,915
- Edinburgh \$18,074
- Amberley \$12,590
- Wagga \$12,176
- Darwin \$11,654

THE BENEFITS

AAFCONS is required to operate on a commercial and self-supporting basis with surplus funds either reinvested into the business by way of improvements to facilities or disbursed to welfare and trust funds for the benefit of Army and Air Force members and their families.

Services provided by AAFCONS are designed to enhance the living conditions and social environment of Army and Air Force members, their dependants and other persons employed in or in connection with Air Force installations.

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DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Who's leaving after 20+ years

Name	Must/Spec	Transfer date	Years
SQNLDR Phillip Youl	ELECTR	Sep 29	34
CPL Steven Gill	ALSFITT	Sep 19	30
FSGT Lee Cunningham	ATECH	Sep 25	27
CPL Craig Eisenhuth	MOV	Sep 28	27
SQNLDR Justin Cox	PCO	Sep 12	27
FLTLT Benjamin Nielson	JBAC	Sep 16	26
SQNLDR Gregory Mitchell	GRDEF	Sep 5	23
SGT Michael Turner	ATECH	Sep 18	22
SGT Sandra Baldrey	PCS	Sep 25	22
FLTLT Flynn Kenney	PLT	Sep 19	20



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