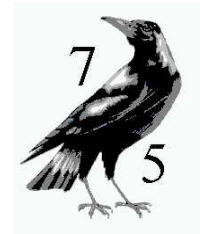




# 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC



President:	Dr Daryl Pudney	0410 554 367
Vice President:		
Secretary:	SQNLDR Peter Nelms (Retd)	0468 456 760
Treasurer:	SQNLDR Peter Nelms (Retd)	0468 456 760
Commanding Officer:	WGCDR Mick Grant	(08) 8973 7500
SQN Liaison Officer:	FLGOFF Adam Primmer	(08) 8973 7502

## NEWSLETTER NO. 1/17 – JULY 2017

### President's Report

Dear Fellow Magpies,

It has been my pleasure to have been the President of the 75 Squadron Association incorporated over the last year. It has been a period of social activity, commemoration and transition. The 75th year celebrations at Tindal were very successful. The squadron did a great job of hosting our members and the Dining-in involved the entire squadron and was the best I have been to. There were excellent speeches, good banter and a very professional and loud Hornet flypast. The intention for the Tindal Dining-in was to maximise the participation of the current squadron members and this was certainly achieved and we now have several hundred young Magpies with a firm understanding of the squadrons history. There was commemoration held at the Hornet Hill for WGCDR Ross Fox and myself and the CO along with our families trekked up Mount Harrison to check on JP Conlan memorial which still looks in great condition 25 years later. Well done to the CO and Admino for organising such fitting celebrations during this period.

CO 75, Warrant officer engineering and myself were also able to attend the 50th Anniversary of the Fast Caravan deployment to Malaysia in Newcastle. This has been a long running 75 squadron reunion and it was terrific to meet them as they celebrated 50 years since deploying over 20 Mirage to Butterworth from Williamtown. It was great to hear their stories of what was quite an epic feat and subsequent long term deployment at a tense time in our regions history.

With regards commemoration the squadrons formation was celebrated by several gatherings in Brisbane, Townsville, Williamtown and Canberra on the 21st of March. Thanks to all those who attended or organised functions. A contingent including Patricia Jackson and CO 75 also attended Port Moresby for the unveiling of memorial celebrating the squadrons early days. Please read Patricia's account below. Sadly we also farewelled several of our original members - Frank Robertson, Ed McCulloch and Ron Becker. Rest in Peace.

Many of you would have read the minutes from the AGM at Tindal that we plan to disband our formal status as an association incorporated and become embedded within RAAFA Fighter Squadrons Branch. This was after a unanimous decision of members present at the AGM and also congruent with the opinions of the vast majority of 'senior Magpie' that I took counsel from prior to the AGM. From an administrative perspective this will allow us to have a well managed membership base and further time to get on with the job of social activities and maintaining the squadrons proud history without the administrative burden. Membership dues paid will be converted into credit with RAAFA FSB and our remaining funds will be quarantined for the purpose of 75 Squadron History preservation projects. Our Facebook page and website will continue to remain active for discussion and planning of future events.

Congratulations to Patricia Jackson. She was awarded Life Membership of the 75 Squadron Association at the final AGM. She has been a stalwart of the association and has contributed in multiple capacities during the formal years of the association incorporated and in the many years prior. She will become a Life member of RAAFA over the coming months as our administration functions are taken over by RAAFA.

After a busy year of events so far I envisage the next major event will be the ANZAC Day March in 2018. However, for those able to get to Melbourne on 26 August 2017 the Association was formally invited by the 39th Battalion Association to attend the 75th Anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. This will be a great event.

**Warm regards to all,  
Daryl Pudney**

## **Commanding Officer's Report**

*see attached*

### **Report on ANZAC Visit to PNG 23-26 April, 2017**

My brother, Arthur, and I travelled to Port Moresby with Arthur's wife, Christine, Arthur's two daughters, Diane Fisk and Angela Groves, and Angela's husband, Adrian, to open the Commemorative Display in honour of our father, John F. Jackson, put together by the Port Moresby Sub-Branch of the RSL of Australia and the National Airports Corporation of Papua New Guinea.

GPCAPT Tim Alsop, CO81 Wing, and WGCdr Mick Grant, CO75 Squadron, and Chaplain (FLTLT) Tom Killingbeck represented the RAAF and played a role at the Opening. They also joined us on our journey about Port Moresby and looked after us with great kindness. We were very proud to have them and the other RAAF personnel there with us.

GPCAPT Steve Fielder, Vice-President of the Port Moresby Sub Branch of the RSL of Australia, organised our itinerary and took great care to make our visit an interesting one. He and his wife, Nicky, looked after us with diligence and good humour.

We stayed at the Airways Hotel where the owners made us very welcome. They provided free accommodation for all the Jackson Family. There is a Jackson Suite in which letters and photos pertaining to John Jackson, given by us during our first visit in 2011, are displayed. We gave them more photos this time.



**Hanuabada Village**

We were picked up at 2.30 pm and travelled with Steve Fielder and the rest of the party to Hanuabada Village where John Jackson was first buried in 1942. His remains were transferred to Bomana when it was opened after the war. Hanuabada is a village beside the Harbour where the houses are built on slender stilts so the tide washes in and out underneath and takes away the rubbish. The way around the

village is by a walkway built on stilts with slats over the top. The people who live in Hanuabada are warm and friendly and very curious about us, especially the children, who followed us everywhere, giggling when we spoke to or looked at them. They seemed carefree and happy. They gave us so much joy just laughing with them. Our guide was Kopi, a Senior Resident of the village.

On the 24 April, we journeyed to Bomana Cemetery where WGCDR Mick Grant, Arthur and I met the Governor-General at John Jackson's grave.



Presentation of Medals by the Governor-General

He made a short speech and then handed over a set of replicas of John's medals on a cushion to us. It was a very emotional time for us with a feeling of sadness mixed with pride that our father was being honoured in this way.

Next stop was to the Air Traffic Control Tower at Jackson's Airport. Our guide, Phil Irvine, pointed out the mounds that were

left over from 1942, behind which our planes were hidden from the Japanese. He also showed us the new section of the Control Tower that is to be opened soon.



WGCDR Mick Grant & GPCAPT Tim Alsop at John Jackson's Grave

That evening, we went back to Jackson's International Airport lounge for the Opening of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Display. GPCAPT Steve Fielder gave a Welcome Address. This was followed by a Prayer of Remembrance by Chaplain Tom Killingbeck. GPCAPT Tim Alsop gave an Address, followed by a poem, "High Flight", read by WGCDR Mick Grant.

I thanked everyone who had participated in putting the Display together and the guests for attending. I emphasised what an honour it was for our father to be recognised in this way and how proud we were of him. I presented the medals we had received from the Governor-General to the people of PNG to be put in the Display. Arthur then spoke about John Jackson before the War, during his time in the Middle East and his time at Port Moresby, so everyone could get to know this man better. Arthur left his speech on the lectern after the Opening. When he went back to get it, it was gone – but it appeared in full in a local newspaper the next day. I thought it was good publicity and Arthur said he was flattered someone wanted to copy it.



After the Ode was recited by Mr Glenn Maitland, RSL Port Moresby Sub-Branch President and the Blessing was made by the Chaplain, I tore down a black covering and behind it found the most moving and well-designed display. We all crowded in to take a look. So many people at the Opening came up to us to talk about the display and/or Dad and have their photos taken with us. The people of Port Moresby are so open-hearted and friendly. We had drinks and tasty food while we mingled with the guests until the end. We went back to our Hotel feeling very emotional and moved by the Commemorative Display and all the wonderful people we had met.

We left early (4.15 am) the next morning for Bomana Cemetery to attend the Anzac Day Dawn Service with 5,400 other people. We sat behind the Governor-General and his party in silence as the morning light slowly filtered into the sky and lit up the graves where all those men, and one woman, lie: so young, so much to give but silenced forever fighting for their families and the country they loved.

Arthur and I, helped by Tim and Mick, laid a wreath each. The Governor-General made a very moving gesture by taking the last Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel by the hand and leading him to the Cenotaph. The breathtakingly sad parts of the service began:



Last Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel

The Ode, Last Post, Lament and Reveille. We made our way back to the bus saddened but hopeful for the future that lessons had been learned and happy in the knowledge that our Defence Forces are as brave and as ready to defend us and our country as they were in 1942.

We attended a special Anzac Lunch at the splendid Royal Papua Yacht Club. We sat on the verandah and enjoyed the view of the luxury yachts, the company and the food. Bill Shorten came over to speak to us. He told me he had read "44 Days" by Michael Veitch, about those first furious weeks of fighting, on the advice of his father-in-law, Michael Bryce.

On our way back our van's left hand back wheel went over a grate which collapsed and we came to a standstill. We all jumped out and, in a flash, our heroic RAAF and RSL companions, plus Adrian, rushed at the van, heaved it out of the hole and back on the road. After giving a tip to the nearest local, we sped away, confident that we had been saved from a savage attack by the Rascals.

During the afternoon, we visited the National and Cultural Museum which was specially opened for us. It is well laid out and contains an extremely comprehensive display of PNG artifacts. We also stopped at the PNG Parliament Haus. The building is huge and quite awe inspiring. It is set in grounds that include a lake and gardens full of flowering shrubs and trees. We were able to go inside to the large lobby, then on into the Sitting Chamber.

We were sad to leave Port Moresby but happy that Dad is in Bomana where his grave is so well looked after. It is a calm and peaceful place for him to rest.

**Patricia Jackson, 9 May 2017**

### **Visit to Tindal RAAF Base by Association Members – 27/28 April, 2017**

75 Squadron personnel, led by the CO, WGCDR Mick Grant, and organised by the Squadron's ADMINO (FLGOFF Adam Primmer), hosted a wonderful event at RAAF Tindal on Thursday 27 April 2017 and Friday 28 April 2017 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Squadron's formation in 1942. WGCDR Grant is the only pilot who went to Iraq in 2003, and Syria and Iraq in 2015-17, on all three occasions with 75 Squadron.

A diverse group of Association members attended with representatives from across Australia including Newcastle, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane. Two WW2 veterans honoured us with their presence, Ed May and Joe McGrath. The Jackson family were strongly represented. Others included Richard Deane-Butcher, son of the "Fighter Squadron Doctor", and Ian Thomson from Canberra who was with the Squadron during the Mirage era. It was also great to have the Association's President and his family there. Dr Daryl Pudney, now a GP, was a Hornet pilot with the Squadron a few years ago and was a participant in the first deployment of the Squadron to the sand pit (the Middle East) in 2003. The special guest was Michael Veitch, an actor and now military historian whose book "44 Days" was recently published. It is a well researched account of the Squadron's baptism of fire in 1942.

Guests were accommodated in comfortable quarters made available for visitors next to the Base, and were given access to the Sergeant's mess for meals – great hospitality all round.

Our programme was most interesting and varied and all visitors mingled and engaged with many of the current serving personnel throughout the stay; hopefully bringing them close to the Squadron's wonderful history and legacy. Highlights included a briefing by the CO in the Pilots' inner sanctum (or operations main briefing room) firstly by FLTLT Roswell, one of the senior FA18 pilots, and then by the CO, Mick Grant. Later that day we visited the Base's Flight Simulator and various visitors were allowed to operate it. One member managed to fly under the Harbour Bridge, but unfortunately demolished the Sydney Opera House at the same time!

Later that day a visit was arranged to pay our respects at the Ross Fox Memorial Site that is several hours away from the Base, and very moving service was held in his memory. Richard Deane-Butcher played 'Il Silenzio' on his trumpet as a tribute to Ross, and then The Rouse. This was a memorable event, and highlighted the dangers that are always present when operating such powerful and extraordinary fighter aircraft.

Later, we were shown over one of the FA18s that was undergoing some maintenance, and visitors were allowed to sit in the cockpit and discuss the aircraft with several of the pilots. It was great to have the SENG, SGNLDR Aleisha Broadbank there with her staff to answer our questions. On Friday evening a splendid dinner was held in one of the aircraft hangars, with several FA18s decorated especially for the occasion, one with John F. Jackson's details on the side. This was a really special event, with the pilots all in their brown camouflaged overalls, wearing silver spurs. All other personnel wore their blue camouflage overalls. Just before the Dinner one of the pilots (FLTLT Ross Bowman), a true "top gun", performed a flying display over the assembled crowd that was described as the best ever by some of us, as he made about 10 passes overhead at low levels and varied speeds, followed by some aerobatics that were outstanding. Fortunately we were issued with ear plugs.

A feature at the dinner was the cuisine. There were three types of meat available that had been slow cooked by several of the pilots on a BBQ since 1.30pm that day. This was very tasty as were the salads and a splendid cake made especially for the event. The dinner was conducted with Mr Vice (SGT Mark Kenyon) keeping order. He proposed The Loyal Toast and the Chaplain, FLTLT Tom Killingbeck said Grace. Visitors were scattered throughout the crowd so that everyone could mix and share experiences.

At the Dinner, the CO addressed the crowd at some length, walking around the hangar as he spoke, with great effect. Then Michael Veitch addressed the Dinner as the key note speaker, and this was a wonderful privilege for everyone present. Later, Richard Deane-Butcher made a rousing speech that was received well by the troops. He also thanked Michael Veitch for attending the Anniversary and for addressing the Squadron and Association members. After the dinner, Richard entertained some of the crowd by playing a selection of songs for them on his trumpet, including some classical music and some jazz, finishing with "We'll Meet Again". The whole event was outstanding and enjoyable in every way and it was a great pleasure to be a participant. Long may the Squadron flourish, and continue to represent Australia internationally with such distinction, and to protect its citizens.

**Richard Deane-Butcher**

**Address delivered by Michael Veitch at the Dining-In Night  
Celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of 75 Squadron, at RAAF Tindal**

It is for us today all but impossible to appreciate the terror, the chaos, indeed the despair out of which this organisation was born, 75 years ago. 75 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, emerged from a catastrophe, the magnitude of which had not been faced by our country and has not since; a catastrophe which, though thrust upon us, was also one of our own making. 1942 – the year of 75's birth - saw us at our very best, but also our very worst.

At the terrible dawn of the Pacific war at the end of 1941, a conflict which had, to the bulk of the Australian populace, seemed distant, removed, even theoretical, was suddenly and violently thrust into our orbit, shattering forever the dangerous notion that our geography would cocoon us forever.

It was the moment when, despite the years of warning, despite a heritage in aviation which, for a time, was the envy of the world; when for the first and only moment in our history, we came under direct and imminent threat from the forces of a foreign power, we looked to our own defences to find that the warnings had been ignored, the heritage squandered and the cupboard bare.

Twenty years earlier at the close of the Great War, Australia had one of the finest aviation traditions in the world. Our airman had performed outstandingly in Europe and in the desert, our young RAAF was up and running years before comparable air forces of the day (including that of the United States). It was resourced, confident and well led. In the inter-war years, Australians blazed international reputations across the world's skies: names like Kingsford-Smith, Ulm, Hinkler and a dozen other lesser-known Australians becoming forever entwined with aviation folklore.

Japan too had ambitions, and for those few who choose to look, these were found to be hiding in plain sight. But as her forces expanded, ours contracted. Inter-Service jealousies and politics by the mid-thirties had torn the heart out of the RAAF's purpose, and its leader, Williams who had fought so hard to establish its strength and independence was replaced by an English Wing Commander reluctantly dragged out of retirement, who knew little of Australia and cared about it even less.

At a time when Japan had no less than 37 different types of modern aircraft under development, all designed and built by themselves, Australia had not a single one.

When their long-hatched explosion burst suddenly across the Pacific with a speed, scale and violence which dwarfed even that of Hitler's Blitzkrieg, we as a nation stood, numb, bewildered and defenceless, as if watching the approach of a monster through an open door. This enemy was ruthless, savage, and perhaps even more terrifying, utterly unknown. The image of our new Prime Minister, John Curtin, ashen at his desk in Canberra muttering over and over 'this is the end', can be well believed.

It was only luck which intervened in the form of a shipload of American P-40 Kittyhawk fighters, unassembled and still in their crates, bound for Borneo, a place which had fallen almost before it was realised it was under threat. Diverted to Sydney, these were pounced upon as a sign of providence, and assembled hurriedly in the hangars of Bankstown airport. And so, at the stroke of a pen on the fourth day of March, 1942, three squadrons, 75, 76 and 77 were born, with 75 being ordered to form up immediately and be sent to the crucible of Port Moresby.

A schoolteacher from Queensland, a Melbourne carpet layer, an aspiring radio announcer from Sydney, a quiet accountant from Launceston. These were some of the original batch of 75's first pilots. They were not versed in military folklore. They had no traditions. They were ordinary young men with a handful of flying hours, barely out of their Service Flying Training Schools hardly given the chance to fly their big heavy P40 mounts in circuits around the airstrip, let alone grasp the fineries of aerial combat. History has often said, 'come the moment, come the man' and in 75's first and most desperate hour, they were however, very well led. John Francis Jackson, already in his mid-thirties, exhausted from a long campaign flying in the north African desert, his eyesight sun-damaged, quietly and calmly put himself into the breach as 75's first CO, and taught his young green men how to get a handle on the vastly more experienced Japanese pilots and their formidable mount, the nimble and highly manoeuvrable Zero.

The six week struggle that ensued over the skies of Port Moresby between the late March and early May of 1942 should really, be part of our folklore. It was truly a David and Goliath affair. Port Moresby had been just another name for Japan to strike off on their hitherto uninterrupted plan for the conquest of the territories to our north. It was here, for the first time, above that wretched, unspeakable, potholed ribbon of dirt called 'Seven Mile Strip' that their plans were interrupted.



Badly resourced, poorly fed, without the aid of radar or proper early warning systems, forced to live in tents – there were not even buildings - the men of 75 climbed up into the cloying tropical skies day after day to meet the cream of Japan's pilots – many of whom had been fighting for years. They flew when they were sick, they flew exhausted, stretching their nerves and their aircraft to beyond breaking point.

The 44 Days was in fact a long range duel, performed monotonously day after day in the cloying tropical skies above the jungle. There was no relief, not from the flies, not from the heat, not from the unspeakable food and especially not from the enemy. When they could, the Kittyhawks got above the Zeroes and the Bettys and tore down into them. It was all they could do. 'Try and dogfight a Zero', Jackson had told them, and you're dead.

They fought, often without the benefit of radio, without proper gunsights, their windscreens fogging up to invisibility as they tore blindly towards a Japanese formation from above. At dawn, they would take the initiative, led always by Jackson personally; they bolted over the hump of the mountains to audaciously surprise the Japanese who had arrogantly lined their aircraft up in neat lines, appearing out of the overcast to strafe and blast at treetop level. Parachutes were divested. At this height over this jungle, fighting this enemy, they asked, what was the point?

They fought at close range and from afar, from underneath and from head on. They broke formation easily but in a heartbeat lined up behind a mate who was himself under attack.

Their groundcrews performed miracles. The P40s had arrived even without the proper service manuals; engine changes were done under arc lights in the dead of night, sawed off tea tree stumps being used as hoists and winches over a dirt floor. The squadron's gallant and brilliant doctor, and a true humanitarian, Deane-Butcher gave his all, bolstering morale and confidence way beyond the parameters of his duty, taking on a commander's role, if not on paper, then certainly in spirit.

Gradually, 75's pilots and aircraft dwindled. Bombs tore more and more holes in their over-worked runways, illness and bad nutrition took their tolls. But the damage had been done. Although 75 Squadron's first and most important engagement was not a victory – that it could never be - it was at the very least a fight to a standstill, the first, the very first indication in a long and terrible war that our feared enemy was not in fact invincible.

At the end, Jackson's star was extinguished, tragically - some have said criminally - by senior commanders who did not appreciate his tactics and insisted he fight the Japanese aircraft more directly. In the style of a true hero, he complied, the first casualty of this monstrously stupid order being himself. This very day, 75 years ago, he climbed into a gloomy morning sky and tried to take the bastards on in a way he knew to be impossible. A few minutes later, his aircraft, drew a line like, some have said, like a pale cross, vertically down from the skies.

And as wheels of the 75's Kittyhawks left the dusty tarmac barely an hour after their arrival at Moresby in March 1942 in response to an enemy approach, they had no idea they were making history as their country's first effort made in the direct defence of their country. They were – it is almost hard to believe – undecorated, unacknowledged, unrecognized and spent the most of the rest of their lives relating what they had went through to no one. But although they may have been let down by history, by their own government, by politics they never let down one another.

Legacies, I'm sure are awful things. They are stubborn, they are immutable, they cannot be reasoned with, and they are often flawed. The men of 75, those first few who fought your first battle which even today, does not really have a name, had no preparation for such a momentous event. They were required to simply find and draw upon themselves what was needed to meet the terrible situation at hand. And, it has to be said, maybe one day it will be said, by all, what a magnificent job they did.

## **Speech given by Richard Deane-Butcher at the Celebration Dinner at Tindal for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of 75 Squadron on 28 April**

I am Richard Deane-Butcher, the son of your Squadron's first doctor, Bill Deane-Butcher, known as the "The Fighter Squadron Doctor", the title of the book that tells his story of the Squadron's formation and deployments to PNG in 1942, both to Port Moresby and Milne Bay.

There are some things in life that money cannot buy, and that are not for sale. Participation in a function such as this is one of them. What a privilege to be here with the "Murdering Marauding Magpies" on this historic occasion. I think I can speak for all those who have travelled here to the RAAF Base at Tindal to represent the Squadron's Association when I say how welcome we feel and how important it is for us all to embrace the great and unique legacy that this Squadron owns. This is part of the Squadron's identity and the remote community that we have been made part of for these few days is outstanding in every way.

With this privilege goes a responsibility to maintain the Squadron's traditions and standards, and to understand its legacy and what that means for the Squadron's present personnel. This legacy must be alive and relevant to the present, and to the future, and not only an historical exercise. 75 Squadron has served with distinction in many theatres post WW2, including Butterworth in Malaysia, and with three deployments in "the sand pit" in recent times. The general public is not fully aware of how fortunate they are to have you on guard at all times across Australia's northern borders.

The future will be equally demanding we know, and the professionalism we have seen in the last few days bears testament to the superb leadership that is in place, and to the high quality and dedication of the Squadron's personnel to keep safe in activities that are, intrinsically, highly dangerous. We want you to know that we support you absolutely in these activities and we thank you for your sacrifices and devotion to excellence and duty. I believe that all 24 million Australians would join me in this if they knew, and would thank each and every one of you for keeping us safe and protecting our freedom and way of life.

As we know it all started in the dark days of 1942, and with "44 Days" that have been so eloquently recorded recently by our special guest this evening, Michael Veitch in his book with that title. Michael has spoken to us tonight in what I would describe as a Churchillian address. Michael's book should be compulsory reading for everyone here, as it puts on the record the reasons that there is so much attention being given to the origins of 75 Squadron. Thank you, Michael, for being with us tonight and for your wonderful contribution to the research and publication of the Squadron's early history.

Some of the lessons from the past are articulated in other places as well, including in my father's book. The last chapter is titled "Looking Back". If I had my way, I would re-title that chapter as "Looking Forward", as this chapter contains numerous conclusions or gems of wisdom that are worth taking on board. Here are two that I will share with you now. I quote: "I came to appreciate the real worth of so many ordinary people. When pressure was applied many seemed to grow in stature. If ever I harboured any thoughts of belonging to a special group of people from a privileged mould then these thoughts were quickly dispelled. I learned that strength and quality are to be found in all areas of endeavour, and that one must look not only to those in high places but also to those around us to find the salt of the earth" and, "People shared a united purpose during the war, but a real sense of community seems to be too fragile to survive the peace. We all pray there will be no more war, but if there is, will the same outstanding qualities be found and the same fine young men and women come forward? The answer is a resounding yes. They're all around us. They are, after all, our own children and grandchildren."

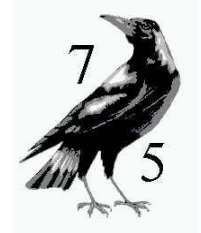
So, we will return to our homes tomorrow. We are a disparate group, but with one thing in common and that is that we support the Magpies absolutely, and are true believers in the work you are doing.

**We in the 75 Squadron Association, salute you.**





# 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC

President:	Bill Evans	0448 699 728
Vice President:	Daryl Pudney	0407 200 558
Secretary/Treasurer:	Peter Nelms	0468 456 760
Commanding Officer:	WGCDR Mick Grant	(08) 8973 7500
SQN Liaison Officer:	FLT LT Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502
Public Officer:	FLT LT Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502

## **NEWSLETTER No 1/16 – July 2016**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Greetings fellow Magpies, as mentioned in the last newsletter, Patricia Jackson retired as Vice President in July last year and was replaced by Daryl Pudney. Daryl is now replacing me as President in July this year. Daryl is an ex Hornet pilot and was posted to 75 Squadron at Tindal as a 'boggy' fighter pilot in 1996. He deployed to Iraq in 2003 with the squadron where he received a CAF commendation for leadership during combat operations. His final tour was as XO 2OCU before retiring from the Air Force in 2006 to study medicine. He currently works as a GP/Anaesthetist in the Upper Hunter Valley.

It's been a privilege to have served as president. My aim has been to keep things moving along as productively as possible. However, with medical issues now resolved, it's time for me to resume my life as a tropical expatriate. I wish Daryl all the best, I've no doubt he'll do a fine job.

The squadron is re-deploying to the Middle East (ME) in August this year for its second six month rotation. Mick Grant has more in his CO's report.

In the last newsletter I highlighted the administrative challenge of access and management of our membership database. I floated the concept of a closer relationship with the Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) of the RAAFA. We've moved partly in that direction, whilst maintaining our status as an independent association. The membership database has been prised from the Defence Restricted Network and now resides on the FSB website, with suitably controlled access. A more collaborative, cloud based arrangement will greatly facilitate administration. However, there are still problems as the database is not fully up to date. Pete Nelms, our secretary, has more in his report.

This year's Anzac Day march and lunch in Sydney was a great success. Patricia Jackson's report is enclosed.

Next year sees the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the squadron's formation at Townsville on 4 Mar 1942. As the squadron returns to Tindal from the ME only a few weeks beforehand, an in-principle decision has been made to commemorate it on 4 Mar 17 at Tindal, not Townsville. Some may be disappointed, but there's plenty of precedent. 76 and 77 Sqn were formed at Archerfield in QLD, and Pearce in WA, respectively, and neither is going back to their original home locations to celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup>. In October this year, 1, 2, 3 & 4 Sqn are celebrating their centenary at

Williamstown, which of course didn't exist 100 years ago. At this stage that's really all I can say about this event. Planning will firm up later this year.

Another significant event is being run at Port Moresby next year, as close to Anzac Day as possible. A new international terminal is being built, and the PNG National Airports Corporation, in conjunction with the PNG government, is sponsoring and funding a memorial 'space' to John Jackson, after whom the airport is named. The PNG Prime Minister is giving the dedication address. The date most likely is the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017, the day before Anzac Day, but this is to be confirmed.

This event is not on the same scale as the back to Milne Bay event in 2012. Consequently, we envisage only a modest delegation from Australia, comprising our Patron, AVM Mel Hupfeld, and the CO, WGCDR Mick Grant, both probably in an official capacity, accompanied by the presidents of the 39<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn Association and the 75 Sqn Association, and naturally Patricia Jackson and other members of the Jackson clan. However, other members of the association are welcome to attend on a self-funded basis. As the local Moresby RSL sub-Branch is coordinating and assisting with logistics and administration, and is expecting several thousand at the Bomana War Cemetery on Anzac Day, please notify Pete Nelms, our secretary, if you are thinking of attending. At this stage we can't be more specific with cut-off dates. More details will follow as planning firms up.

Arrangements for Anzac Day in Sydney next year remain unchanged. A detachment from Tindal will bring the banner down as normal.

Cheers and au revoir  
Bill Evans

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

As Bill mentioned in his President's report above, we have been dedicating considerably effort to validating our membership database after its transfer out of the Defence network at the Squadron. We have experienced some irregularities in the data due to a number of unavoidable circumstances such as the Squadron's deployment to the Middle East last year, postings of Squadron personnel and the fact that some applications for membership came directly to me and some went to the Squadron. Hopefully the procedural issues have now been overcome and it is just a matter of verifying individual membership status. I would be happy to receive queries from members who wish to clarify their financial status – it would also help me purify the database.

Attached to this Newsletter is the current Application Form which is also available on our website at: <http://no75.squadronassociation.org/site/upload/ApplicationMembershipNov16.pdf>  
The form also includes our bank account details for the payment of fees.

Due to a posting from the Squadron, the Treasurer position on our committee is currently vacant. If you have an interest in this position or would like more information please get in touch with me. The role is not particularly onerous and it does provide an insight to the workings of an Incorporated Association.

Regards to all,  
Peter Nelms

## COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT

G'day Magpies, the first six months of 2016 have been action-packed and nothing short of fantastic. We've started the year extremely strongly, achieving plenty in both the domestic and international arena, and are looking forward to a few weeks of well-deserved R&R in July. I must acknowledge that a majority of our early success this year is because the Squadron was in such good shape when I inherited it from Mav. The second half of 2016 is set to be as equally challenging as the first, kicking-off with Exercise Pitch Black as soon as we return from leave. Given the current level global uncertainty, we're constantly maintaining a high degree of operational preparedness to ensure we're ready for whatever the future holds.

We returned to work on 04 January and nine days later we were packed into freight containers and airborne heading to Las Vegas for Exercise Red Flag. We took six jets, a KC-30 tanker, plus a C-17, and hopped across the Pacific via Guam and Hawaii; transiting close to some historical sights of significance. Unfortunately all of the military accommodation was booked out, so we had to rough-it in hotels en route. The transit went extremely smoothly, no issues due to well-prepared aircraft, in-fact by the time we arrived in Las Vegas many of the newly posted-in members back at Tindal had not even showed for their first day at work. The Exercise itself was a huge success. Red Flag is the premiere training exercise and environment in the world, and the Magpies represented exceptionally well. Of note, our maintainers, suppliers and armaments staff delivered a 100% serviceability rate, resulting in 100% mission achievement; the most successful Red Flag deployment for 81WG and ACG to date thanks to our dedicated Magpies on the ground. Amazing efforts and teamwork! Much to the disappointment of a handful of maintenance, logistics, administration staff and aircrew, none of jets broke-down in Hawaii or Guam on our way home, so we were unable to extend our hotel stays whilst 'waiting for spares'; it's a small price your pay for keeping the jets in such great condition throughout the exercise.



**Deployed at Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, for Exercise Red Flag – 16 Feb 16**

We arrived home from Red Flag in late February, with just enough time to unpack before acknowledging JP's 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to celebrate the Squadron's 74<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the 74<sup>th</sup>, we assembled the entire Squadron for a barbeque, complete with unit history presentations, a huge cake, and to ensure it went off with a bang we dusted off the Squadron cannon and let it rip (I always get a little nervous when the gunnies stand to the very back of the crowd when it comes time to fire it). I note the cannon history sparked much discussion amongst many association members after I emailed out a few birthday images to Patricia and Bill. I don't recall if we did determine the true origin of the Squadron cannon, perhaps something we'll explore further prior to the 75<sup>th</sup>. Nonetheless, the birthday event was a great afternoon, and our Operations Officer, FLGOFF Krystal Blanch, was chosen to cut the cake as she also celebrates her birthday on 04 March (just not 1942). We have many proud and dedicated members both young and old currently at the Squadron, who are keen to keep the history and traditions of 75 Squadron alive and well for many years to come.



**Cutting the Cake at the 74<sup>th</sup> Birthday Barbeque – 04 Mar 16**

For ANZAC Day we participated in couple of events across the top-end and in Sydney, including a small informal association catch-up on the Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. In Tindal there was a great dawn service on-Base, followed by a street march in Katherine lead by SQNLDR Tim Ireland. 75 Squadron also lead dawn services in other remote NT locations including Tenant Creek and Tomato Island (Roper River), and we serviced eight different NT locations including Darwin with timely flypasts. Public feedback from top-end communities about our pro-active organisation and participation of dawn services has been extremely positive; I was extremely proud of all voluntary contributions made by our members this year. A small Squadron contingent was also rewarded with a trip to Sydney to meet association staff, attend the dawn service, carry the banner and to march proudly with a strong contingent of past and associated Magpies. Had I known seven former COs were going to be present, I probably would have thought through the drill a little better (and yelled a little louder), nonetheless the parade was highly rewarding and our junior technicians were blown-away with the entire Sydney experience. I note the association members who were able to make it along to the Fighter Squadron Association luncheon after the parade, were in fine form as per usual, and it was great that ACAUST acknowledged the strong 75SQN presence and commitment during his guest of honour speech.





**ANZAC Day March in Katherine – 25 Apr 16**

Exercise Arnhem Thunder and exercise Classic Cannon kept the Squadron on its toes throughout May and June. These planning and weapons exercises, along with an advanced air-to-air concentration period in-between, stretched us to our training limits last month, however by doing so we generated several category B pilot upgrades; one of the highest accomplishments our young fighter pilots can achieve. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 75 Squadron opened its doors to the entire Tindal Base including families, for an open day. There were displays by the search and rescue helicopter team, police dogs, security forces, as well as simulator, aircraft, weapons, and support equipment demonstrations, plus a superb flying handling display at the end. The day was primarily focused upon our families and kids, but between you and me, I think many of the 17 Squadron staff from the other end of the Base just wanted to be a Magpie for a day!

On 03 June we crushed 17 Squadron (by two points) during the annual 17 Vs 75 Squadron Rugby League game. The match was played in great spirits, and whilst the Magpies prevailed through sheer determination, it was extremely close and certainly one of best I have seen at Tindal over the years. The event is now a charity match held in memory of former Magpie, CPL Jason Ruhan, and this year between 17 and 75 Squadron, we raised approximately \$10,000 for the Cancer Council; a fabulous effort for such a small RAAF Tindal community. I must thank CPL Conner O'Neill for his on and off field leadership and involvement over the past six years, plus all those involved behind the scenes who volunteered and made the game possible.

It was great to be back at Darwin supporting the V8 Supercars at Hidden Valley Raceway last weekend. We hosted two of the drivers (Fabio Couthard and Scott Pye) and their respective racing team members at RAAF Darwin whilst there for exercise Classic Cannon. We gave them a close look over one of our Hornets and we conducted a thrilling handling display overhead the large crowd just prior to the main race commencing on 19 June.



**75 Squadron Rugby League Team – 03 Jun 16**

During the past six months several staff changed-over and I hosting several visitors at the Squadron. First and foremost, SQNLDR Mike Sciberras (SENGO) departed in April and was replaced by SQNLDR Aleisha Broadhead. Sincere thanks to Mike for his contributions over the past few years, and a warm welcome (literally) to Aleisha who has relocated from Canberra. LtGen Chris Bogdan (USAF), head of the F-35 JSF Program, dropped-by in February to catch-up and experience Tindal. I worked for LtGen Bogdan in the US between 2012-15, and I can assure you he wants our transition to the F-35 at the end of 2021 to be successful. During his visit, LtGen Bogdan said he's been to remote places, he's been to places with dangerous animals, and he's been to places with extreme weather, but never in his life has he been to somewhere like Tindal that has all three happening simultaneously! I really like what LtGen Bogdan is doing for the Australian F-35 Program, and despite anything you may have read in the tabloids, the F-35 is a truly amazing capability. In March I was pleased to host former CO 75 now Commander Air Combat Group, AIRCDRE Zed Robertson. AIRCDRE Robertson flew BFM with us for a few days and addressed the entire Squadron. It's always great to host guests who know their way around the Squadron, and who understand the unique challenges of Tindal. Our Minister for Defence, Senator the Honourable Marise Payne, visited in May to gain an appreciation of what it's like to be living and operating at Tindal. She was visiting three Bases across the top of Australia, Amberley-Tindal-Learmonth, to compare the challenges of each location; I think (hope!) she enjoyed our hospitality.

In summary, it's been a busy but highly rewarding start to 2016. I'm immensely proud of the current Magpie team, what we've achieved in the past six months, and the current direction we're heading. Our reputation domestically and internationally is second-to-none; I only wish I could slow down the clock to enjoy each day at this magnificent Squadron a little longer. Many thanks again to all Magpies, past and present, for making my transition into command of 75 Squadron seamless; your ongoing efforts and support of 75 Squadron are well known and greatly appreciated.....Once a Magpie, Always a Magpie.

Regards,  
Mick G



## ANZAC DAY MARCH IN SYDNEY 2016

This year the route had been changed as George Street was in upheaval through “tram works”. This meant that we could not march down Martin Place and past the Cenotaph. Instead, we met up in Castlereagh Street, turned into Hunter and then down Elizabeth Street. It was a shorter route but felt longer because we had no pauses, except to make an “eyes left” and salute to the Cenotaph in Hyde Park.



The contingent from Tindal came with our newly reinforced Banner, held by two burly sergeants. We got separated from 3 Squadron by the Navy but were with 76, 77 & 78 Squadrons. 75 Squadron was lead by the CO, WGCDR Mick Grant, Bill Evans, our Association President and our lone veteran, Joe McGrath (91). Just behind the Banner, strode AVM Mel Hupfeld, our Patron, Dr Daryl Pudney, our Vice-President with Patricia Jackson, Richard Deane-Butcher and Jonathan Andrews lagging a bit behind.

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons.

The weather was perfect and the crowds friendly and appreciative. Dick Smith showed his “Thanks” card as always.

When we finished the march and broke ranks, we were glad to walk across Hyde Park to the hotel where the Fighter Squadron Branch, RAAF Association (NSW Division) had organised a luncheon. We milled about for quite a while chatting with old friends and making new ones. It was surprising to see so many ex-COs of 75 Squadron here, some still serving in other positions in the RAAF and some retired – seven in all. The best any other squadron could do was three.



**Major Goodno, his wife  
Dunia & Patricia Jackson**

It was interesting meeting Major Alexander Goodno and his wife Dunia. He is with the US Marines and deployed to 75 Squadron for 2 years ending in December.

After a few hours of camaraderie helped by a few beers and glasses of wine, we said goodbye and wove our different ways back from where each of us had come.

Regards, Patricia Jackson

### **AMBERLEY EVENT – 27/5/2016**

Although it does not involve 75 Squadron directly, it seemed to me an important story to be told.

It was in honour of Len Waters who was the only Aboriginal fighter pilot in WWII. An incredible feat as he started as a mechanic in 78 Squadron and rose up to become a pilot. However, when he was demobbed after the war, he was treated very badly – he wasn't even a citizen. In the end he descended into alcoholism. I met Gladys in 2001 at a big reunion of all Fighter Squadrons to lay plaques at the War Memorial. We have been friends ever since. She is an inspiration to everyone – a wonderful person in every respect with a great sense of humour. She spent part of the War driving for the Americans in Townsville. She also worked as a cleaner at the Australian Hotel in St George and for the Police in Brisbane. Her life would have been very different if Len had been treated properly after the war. Gladys has worked hard all her life and well respected by all who have come to know her.

The event had been organised by the RSL in Sydney. The Super Hornet was flown by AirCdre Steve Robertson (Zed) from Williamtown the day before. The aircraft had Len's name, rank and length of service on the side and an Aboriginal design on the tail. Zed was in charge of our group for the few hours we were there. It was great to catch up with Zed again. We were so well looked after by all the Amberley people. We had a good look at the aircraft – some



managed to climb up the stairs to the cockpit where Haggy explained how to fly it and answered questions. Two Aboriginal Elders flew up from Sydney as well as an RSL representative. Some of Gladys' family were able to be there. I felt very privileged to be asked to join them.

We were then taken to 1 Squadron Mess for morning tea. I was able to talk to some of the 1 Squadron pilots – Fuzzy, Woody and Haggy and two others. They only use their nicknames on their flying suits for security reasons. Chaps was off flying somewhere so I did not meet him. Haggy was a bog rat at Tindal when I visited in 2002. Zed made a short speech and presented Gladys with a replica of a Hornet. She then told a very funny story about how she got the job driving for the Americans.



Regards,  
Patricia Jackson  
Editor, Newsletter

Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC

**No 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**  
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rank/Title                                      Surname                                      First Name**

hereby apply for membership to the **No 75 Squadron Association Incorporated**,  
and agree that if admitted I shall abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

**(Membership fees are \$12.00 per financial year or \$80.00 for 10 financial years.  
Fees renewable 1 July each year. Pro-rata rate applies for first year of membership –  
confirm amount with Association Secretary).**

**Payment options** – Cheque to the below address, or direct deposit to:

Account Name: 75 Sqn Association, BSB: 803 205, Account No: 20722967

*(Don't forget to identify yourself as the depositor)*

**Tick appropriate box**

☐ I enclose/have deposited \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) membership

☐ I enclose/have deposited \$80.00 for 10 years membership

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Suburb:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Mailing Courtesy Title [i.e Mr, Mrs, WGCdr (Retd) etc]:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Service with 75 Squadron:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Countries where served:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Decorations** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Application to:**

The Secretary  
No 75 Squadron Association Inc.  
39/19 Ashby Circuit  
KAMBAH ACT 2902



# 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC



President:	Bill Evans	0448 699 728
Vice President:	Daryl Pudney	0407 200 558
Secretary:	Peter Nelms	0468 456 760
Treasurer:	LACW Monica Biegalke	(08) 8973 7515
Commanding Officer:	GPCAPT Pete Mitchell	(08) 8973 7500
SQN Liaison Officer:	FLTLT Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502
Public Officer:	FLTLT Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502

## **NEWSLETTER No 2/15 – December 2015**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Greetings fellow Magpies, it's been quite some time since the last newsletter. The big news of course is that 75 Squadron has safely returned to Australia. An official welcome home function was held at Tindal on Fri 23 Oct for all the troops. CAF came up and presented medals and awards, and promoted the CO, Pete (Mav) Mitchell, to Group Captain. Congratulations Mav, and it was nice your family could be there to see you made up.

The new CO is Mick Grant. Congratulations Mick on taking command of 75 Squadron, and we look forward to working with you. Our next major event will be the commemoration, in Townsville, of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the squadron's formation on 4 Mar 2017. Mav, we're all proud of you and relieved that everyone got home safely. Mav's report follows.

### **CO'S REPORT**

G'day Magpies, 2015 has been an extremely busy year for the squadron and a very proud one. As you now know, we deployed to Operation OKRA in the Middle East on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, conducted our first operational sortie on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March and took responsibility for Australia's strike effort on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. Over the next six months, the squadron deployed about 160 of its members over two rotations, with the support of an additional 10 or so critical intelligence staff from 87 Squadron.



**Departing Tindal for the Middle East – 03 Mar 15**

ANZAC Day in the Middle East was an extremely moving and memorable day. To be on operations for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and only a stone's throw away from the Gallipoli Peninsula was an absolute honour. Even more fitting was the fact that 75 Squadron launched a Close Air Support and Strike mission late on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, with the jets returning just after dawn on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> of April having successfully engaged Daesh. Seeing our jets arrive home as we started our Gunfire breakfast is something that we'll never forget.

Operation OKRA was the first operational deployment for almost all involved and in true Magpie spirit worked as a team to get the job done – regardless of the strains and struggles faced. In another significant first, the unit conducted the first missions into Syria in mid-September – the first fighter missions into that country since 3 Squadron in World War I. Fittingly, it was our most junior bograt who dropped the first bomb in Syria for the OKRA campaign – and he didn't miss....good bograt!!!

By the time the squadron redeployed to Tindal on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September we had flown over 400 combat sorties, amassing more than 3000 flight hours. To put that in perspective, during peacetime operations here at Tindal we only fly 2800 hours each financial year! The squadron did a magnificent job on operations and despite some extremely harsh conditions and close living quarters (60+ degrees on the flight line and up to 7 in each 'tent') managed to more than match the operational performance of the more fancied 'Super Hornets' of 1 Squadron.

In late October we were lucky enough to have the Chief of Air Force attend our Welcome Home function, an informal affair at the Airmen's Club. It was an excellent afternoon for the members and families and an honour to have the Chief present each member with their Operational Service Medal – just need to start those push-ups for ANZAC Day next year!!!

In early November the incoming CO, Mick 'Cletus' Grant, came up for a week and the official handover ceremony – although he doesn't take the reins until early January. 'Cletus' and I flew together in our first tour at 75 Squadron in 2001 and it's a really satisfying feeling handing over the squadron to a top bloke and someone who has Magpie blood running through his veins. I know he'll do an outstanding job and will take the squadron to new heights during his command. All the very best in your Command mate – it is an awesome opportunity to be able to lead the Magpies!!!



In late November the squadron deployed to Amberley to work with 1 Squadron Super Hornets in preparation for Exercise Red Flag which will be held in Nevada, US in February next year. While in Brisbane we managed to get a few old 75 Squadron Associates together at the Sherwood Services Club for an impromptu Sunday afternoon. Distinguished attendees (other the current aircrew reprobates) included Patricia and Arthur, Horse and Bill Jackson (children of WWII CO's John and Les Jackson), Brad Fox (brother of WGCDR Ross Fox – CO killed on 02 Aug 90), Jennifer McCormack and Kim Conlon (mother and sister of SQNLDR J.P Conlon, XO killed 02 Apr 97), AIRCDRE (Ret) Doug Edwards of 75SQN Fast Caravan fame as well as the current Commander of Air Combat Group and Former CO, AIRCDRE 'Zed' Robertson. It was an outstanding afternoon and great to get so many generations of Magpies together. The next big opportunity will be ANZAC Day in Sydney and I certainly encourage as many 'east coasters' to try and get there as possibly to commemorate that occasion.

As I sign off as Commanding Officer of the best squadron in the Air Force I reflect back on the last three years with pride – not at my achievements but that of the squadron. I feel a contentment and satisfaction that we have lived up to the reputation laid before us by our founding members. It has been an honour to lead the squadron on operations and lay down another chapter in the history of 75 Squadron and I look forward to the build up toward the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our formation in 2017.

Once a Magpie, Always a Magpie.

Mav

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Continued**

### **Change of Vice-President**

Although we haven't been able to run an Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year (more on that later), Patricia Jackson retired as VP mid-year and has been replaced by Daryl Pudney. Patricia, as you know, is the daughter of John Jackson, CO during the epic '44 Days' air battle at Port Moresby in early 1942. She became VP at the request of the then CO, Phil Arms, at the Nov 2011 AGM at Wagga. Pete Nelms became our Secretary at the same time. Patricia has been a wonderful VP and ambassador for the squadron. However, she's certainly not retiring. Despite not officially a committee member, she'll always be an integral part of the squadron's heritage.

Daryl Pudney is an ex Hornet pilot and was posted to 75 Squadron at Tindal as a 'boggy' fighter pilot in 1996. He can remember watching the documentary '44 Days' shortly after arrival in the Northern Territory and feeling proud to be part of such a great squadron. He completed his first tour and then returned again as A Flight Commander in late 2001. During this period he deployed to Iraq with the squadron where he received a CAF commendation for leadership during combat operations. His final tour was as XO 20CU before retiring from the Air Force in 2006 to study medicine. He currently works as GP Anaesthetist in the Hunter area of New South Wales. Welcome on board Daryl.



## Association Organisation – The Way Ahead

The delay in issuing this newsletter was solely a result of the overseas operational deployment of the squadron. As the Association is currently structured, core administrative functions are performed by squadron based serving personnel, all of whom were deployed at some stage. Our Secretary, Pete Nelms, who lives in Canberra, could do little when key squadron committee members were unreachable. Even now, he still doesn't have access to our membership database. This is also why we haven't been able to conduct this year's AGM. Quite apart from being able to provide the required notice, and get a quorum, we can't get a financial report as our Treasurer is currently unavailable and nobody outside the squadron has access to the database. We've notified the NT corporate regulator, and they accept that the situation is beyond our control. We'll therefore conduct the AGM when we can, probably next year at this late stage.

As fighter squadrons we treasure our independence. At the 2011 AGM at Wagga, a clear consensus favoured not formally belonging to the RAAF Association, and going our own way. That's fine, but such independence imposes a heavy administrative burden, particularly for 75 Squadron where the tyranny of distance is greater. Operational exigencies, whether in Australia or overseas, will always limit the ability of squadron based personnel to perform core administrative duties for the association, and it is unrealistic to expect otherwise.

We're not the only ones experiencing these issues. Pete Ring (Ringo), President of the 77 Sqn Association, has convened a meeting of FSB committee members and squadron association reps on 10 Dec 15 at his place on the central coast to consider the following (his words - *'The 3, 75, 76, 77, 450 Fighter Squadron Associations are independent, active and well-managed entities where collaboration with other Associations is welcomed by each but practiced only informally. My questions are:*

- *could the way our associations collaborate be improved to better satisfy all our individual association goals, and*
- *are additional focuses warranted for Associations either individually or as a group.*

This is a timely meeting which I'll attend. Given our administrative challenges, a possible additional focus is a closer relationship with the one organisation that already exists purely for our benefit - the Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) of the RAAFA. Personally I find it hard to see how we expect to survive in the long term by staying at arm's length from it.

In early Nov this year the FSB became a fully independent and self-administered branch of the RAAFA. FSB members would still belong to the RAAFA, with the standard blue card, but the FSB would be fully responsible for all its own financial, subscription and membership admin. This is a big change, allowing us to consider whether squadron association admin could be collectively and more efficiently performed by the FSB. The FSB also recently significantly upgraded its computer systems support to do this.

Preliminary legal advice is that incorporation in the NT would not preclude, for example, the 75 Squadron Association (and others) from becoming chapters of the FSB. A more collaborative arrangement with the FSB would also allow more flexibility for members who have served in more than one fighter squadron, the norm these days.

Lest members be alarmed, all we're doing at this stage is throwing ideas at the wall to see what sticks. After five years with our existing Association organisation, a review is to be expected. Any proposed change to our business model must of course allow freedom of manoeuvre for individual squadron associations, with separate committees to control and preserve our heritage. In any case, whatever comes out of the meeting would require extensive committee and member consideration, and individual AGM endorsement.

Given that the festive season is almost upon us, I wouldn't expect a concrete proposal until early next year. In the meantime, current membership and subscription arrangements will apply. As our membership year coincides with the financial year, annual subscriptions are not due for renewal until 1 July 2016.

### **Fighter Squadrons Reunion and other events**

The Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) sponsored all ranks function for current and ex-members, and wives/partners, originally scheduled for Saturday 12th September at Fighter World, had to be cancelled. There were too many competing events, and issues with the venue and format. FSB has no immediate plan to re-schedule this event.

Members should check the FSB website for significant upcoming events, including next year's centenary of the formation of 3 Squadron.

### **Squadron Community Award**

At our committee meeting in Townsville last October, Richard Deane-Butcher raised the idea of having an Association award to recognise a significant contribution to the greater Squadron community. The CO suggested the award could be along the lines of the Ross Fox Memorial Trophy but eligibility could be broadened to include, for example, the dependents of Squadron members.

Although recent operational priorities have obviously constrained progress in this regard, Richard has developed a proposal for committee deliberation. Our new VP, Daryl Pudney, will manage the project.

### **39<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association reciprocity**

Our informal reciprocal arrangement with the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Bn) Association is bearing fruit. See following reports from Patricia Jackson and Peter Tucker who represented us at events sponsored by the 39<sup>th</sup> Bn.

### **Anzac Day Sydney 2016**

Planning is well underway for next year's Anzac Day. The excellent Radisson Hotel in Sydney will again be the venue for lunch. Further updates will be available on the FSB website.

Cheers

Bill Evans

## REPORT ON RECIPROCAL EVENTS WITH THE 39TH INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

### Kokoda Day Memorial Service, Brisbane, Sunday 9 August 2015

*(Report by Patricia Jackson)*



I was invited to attend this 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Kokoda Day Memorial Service, as Vice-President of the 75 Squadron Association, by the Sherwood Indooroopilly RSL Sub-Branch on behalf of the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (Bn) Queensland, and their comrades-in-arms, the 49<sup>th</sup> Bn, and the 2/24 and 2/16 AIF Bns. The Service was held at the Kokoda Stone and Kokoda Plaque, in the Croll Memorial Precinct, Corinda, Brisbane. From left to right in the photo are George Palmer (Qld contact for 39<sup>th</sup> Bn), me (Patricia Jackson), and George Turner.

I had contacted George Palmer earlier to introduce myself. George is one of a few survivors of the 39<sup>th</sup> Bn's Battle for Kokoda. He is 94, as fit as a fiddle, memory intact and with a wonderful sense of humour. He joined up in East Gippsland when he was 21. This was before Japan entered the war. The volunteer militia were to be sent to New Guinea. George was elated as he imagined himself swinging on vines surrounded by dusky maidens. The reality was starkly different as we know. George features in one of Damien Parer's iconic photos of the Kokoda Track of five men plodding through mud up a hill.

George remembers the day 75 Squadron flew in to land on Seven Mile Strip. The 39<sup>th</sup> Bn had been waiting for what seemed ages for the Kittyhawks to put a stop to their endless bombardment by the Japanese. However, they had not been advised that 75 Squadron was finally arriving and thought it was another Japanese raid. They fired at the planes and destroyed two of them – the pilots survived. At the Memorial Service, I met George Turner (also 94) who had also been there that day. He went on to join 2/14 Bn as he was an expert with radios. He remembered it well too.

At 11 a.m. the Catafalque Party (218 Sqn AAF Cadets) and Flag Orderlies took their post and the Service began. The guest speaker was Brigadier Ross Grant. Wreaths were laid by various groups. I laid a sprig of lantana, as did many others. The Last Post was followed by George Palmer reading the Ode, then silence, and the Rouse and Benediction. George made a short speech about remembering the day 75 Squadron came through the clouds to save them.

We then adjourned to the RSL rooms for a light lunch. It was a proper RSL, no poker machines, lots of Honour Boards and memorabilia and a lovely old fashioned feel to it. I sat with Josie Palmer, George's wife. She is 90, also as sharp as a tack and great fun. I feel very privileged to have met them and hope they will always be my friends.

### 75 Sqn Radio Reunion

In conjunction with the RAAF School of Radio reunion (refer <http://www.radschool.org.au/2016reunion/>), there will be a 75 Sqn Radio reunion in Brisbane for Anzac Day 2016. All current and ex-members (and their partners) are invited to attend. For more information contact the Association secretary, Peter Nelms.

## **Dedication of the Kokoda Hall, Camberwell RSL, Melbourne, 2 September 2015**

*(Report by Peter Tucker)*

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> my sister Margot and I represented the 75 Squadron Association at the dedication of a space at the Camberwell RSL Sub-branch, to be known as the Kokoda Hall. The hall will be used for educational and commemorative purposes.

Dad (Arthur Tucker) was a WWII Kittyhawk pilot and a founding member of 75 Squadron when it deployed to Port Moresby in Mar '42. He would naturally have rubbed shoulders with the 39th Battalion at Port Moresby during the '44 Days', which was part of the lead-up to the Kokoda Campaign. He also flew the last barely serviceable Kittyhawk on an operational mission at the end of that air campaign.

Camberwell is an inner Melbourne suburb, SE of the city. The RSL Sub-branch is a charming club, complete with a fabulous spit-roast lunch offering a choice of: beef, lamb and pork. I can certainly understand Patricia Jackson's feelings about the uplifting nature of sharing a common link of such significant WWII history, which I feel has been waiting to be discovered by both our Associations.

We very much enjoyed wonderful hospitality from the President, Vice President and Secretary of the Sub-Branch, as well as from the 39<sup>th</sup> Bn Association President Daryl Clarke and a British Army mate of his (Garth) who were especially good company at our table. It was also great to meet other distinguished veterans, committee members, and other various Association members with their interesting and diverse backgrounds.

Colonel Marcus Fielding, the RSL Sub-Branch Vice-President, mentioned that they also network with quite a large range of other organisations, including the Air Power Development Centre and the Point Cook Aviation Museum, with excellent facilities for functions, seminars and film screenings. The Kokoda Hall will largely be used by the 39<sup>th</sup> Bn as an educational space, with March-May each year (fittingly enough) dedicated to presentations on the New Guinea Air Campaign. All very impressive, I must say!



**L to R: Myself, COL Marcus Fielding, Daryl Clarke**

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC

### **No 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED** **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rank/Title**                      **Surname**                      **First Name**

hereby apply for membership to the **No 75 Squadron Association Incorporated**,  
and agree that if admitted I shall abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

(Membership fees are \$12.00 per financial year or \$80.00 for 10 financial years. Fees renewable 1 July each year. Pro-rata rate applies for first year of membership – confirm amount with Association Secretary).

**Payment options** – Cheque to the below address, or direct deposit to:

Account Name: 75 Sqn Association, BSB: 803 205, Account No: 20722967  
(Don't forget to identify yourself as the depositor)

**Tick appropriate box**

- I enclose/have deposited \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) membership
- I enclose/have deposited \$80.00 for 10 years membership

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Suburb:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Mailing Courtesy Title [i.e Mr,Mrs,Ms,WGCDR (Retd) etc]:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Service with 75 Squadron:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Countries where served:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Decorations** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

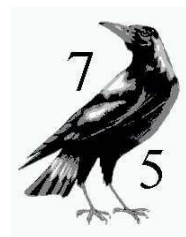
**Return Application to:**

The Secretary  
No 75 Squadron Association Inc.  
39/19 Ashby Circuit  
KAMBAH ACT 2902



# 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC



President:	Bill Evans	0448 699 728
Vice President:	Ms Patricia Jackson	0409 897 707
Secretary:	SQNLDR Peter Nelms (Retd)	0468 456 760
Treasurer:	LACW Monica Biegalko	(08) 8973 7515
Commanding Officer:	WGCDR Pete Mitchell	(08) 8973 7500
SQN Liaison Officer:	FLT LT Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502
Public Officer:	FLT LT Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502

## **NEWSLETTER No 1/15 – April 2015**

### **President's Report**

Greetings fellow Magpies, it's been busy since last December's newsletter. Once again our squadron is on operations, with a detachment of six classic Hornets in the Middle East as part of the multinational coalition against Islamic state terrorism. Our thoughts are with squadron personnel and their families at this challenging time.

Last month I attended the funeral in Canberra of AVM Jim Flemming, a 75 Squadron legend. The funeral was a full official Air Force send-off, attended by CDF and CAF in a packed Duntroon chapel. A photo montage and career summary are included below. Although Jim flew with many units, he twice commanded 75 Squadron. On the second occasion, in 1966, he led the squadron with its brand new Mirages to Butterworth on Operation 'Fast Caravan'. It was also Jim Flemming who designed the current magpie unit crest. He was indeed the first magpie.

Jim Flemming was also the founding President of the 75 Squadron Association in 1993, serving for three years. Although the Association was not then incorporated, its constitution was remarkably similar to today's. I was the inaugural secretary, and I well remember our first meeting in Sydney, starting with a totally clean slate. Allan Taylor succeeded me as secretary after a year, and both he and Jim lived in Canberra and worked hard in those early days to establish the Association.

Most of you would have received the Anzac Day flyer from the Fighter Squadrons Branch. For any who didn't, go to the FSB website – [www.fsb.raafansw.org.au](http://www.fsb.raafansw.org.au) – and click on the first sidebar topic for all information. Please note the new luncheon venue, and the 15 April cut-off for bookings. Attendance at the lunch is strictly limited to 180.

This year we will finally have a new 75 Squadron Association banner. The old banner has served us well for many decades but was showing its age. The new banner is being produced at Tindal using squadron resources, from a design developed jointly by squadron personnel and Association committee members. A contingent from Tindal will bring it to Sydney and take it back home.

From time to time, military Service Associations develop bonds based on shared wartime experience. These bonds can be cross-Service, and may be formal or informal. During 75 Squadron's historic defence of Port Moresby in Mar - April 1942, Moresby's ground defence was conducted by the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion. During this momentous battle, the fortunes of both units were inextricably linked. 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion losses were as proportionately heavy as those of 75 Squadron. Our respective Association committees are therefore



exploring the possibility of establishing an informal reciprocal arrangement. After Port Moresby, the 39th Battalion fought on the Kokoda Track, and is one of the most famous fighting units in the Australian Army. A detailed proposal is attached.

While we're talking about Port Moresby, our Air Force representative in the Australian High Commission there is FSGT Aaron Reynolds. Aaron recently contacted us about aircraft wreckage detected in a swamp near the present international airport. Initial indications are that it may be the Kittyhawk flown by Barry Cox, shot down on the 28th April 1942 in the same action in which John Jackson, 75's CO, was lost. Barry Cox's aircraft was seen to hit the ground vertically with no parachute. At that stage of a crucial air battle recovery action wasn't possible, and further evidence is necessary before Air Force HQ can formally commit valuable resources to the project. Aaron advises that local efforts are continuing. Ideally we'd like to solve an old wartime mystery and formally lay Barry Cox to rest.

At our committee meeting in Townsville last October, Richard Deane-Butcher raised the idea of having an Association award to recognise a significant contribution to the greater Squadron community. The CO suggested the award could be along the lines of the Ross Fox Memorial Trophy but eligibility could be broadened to include, for example, the dependents of Squadron members. Although recent operational priorities have obviously constrained progress in this regard, Richard has developed a proposal for committee deliberation.

On Tuesday 28 April, John Jackson's diaries and letters will be officially handed over to the Australian War Memorial by Arthur Jackson, John's son. The date is significant as John Jackson died in aerial combat on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1942. The ceremony will be attended by our Patron, AVM Mel Hupfeld, and our Secretary, Peter Nelms.

**Fighter Squadrons Reunion.** This is long range notification of a Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) plan for an all ranks function for current and ex-members, and wives/partners, on Saturday 12th September in the Nelson Bay area, or at Williamstown. An attempt to hold a similar function last year had to be cancelled due to other events and lack of support. Although it's still five months away, the FSB is asking for expressions of interest, including numbers of guests, to be sent to <[HonSec@fsb.raafansw.org.au](mailto:HonSec@fsb.raafansw.org.au)> Refer to the FSB website. All costs and other activities will be notified later if the event is to proceed.

Finally, our 2015 AGM will be held in July, either in Sydney or Canberra. Details of the date, time & place will be advised nearer the time.

That's it. Looking forward to a good roll-up in Sydney behind our new banner.

Bill Evans

## CO's Report

Greetings from the desert. Thanks to Bill for the kind words and for representing the Association at AVM Flemming's funeral - once a Magpie, always a Magpie. The deployment to date has been going well and we have taken over RAAF Strike operations in supporting the Iraqi people and the Coalition to fight the Daesh. They are a particularly cunning and barbaric enemy which cannot be allowed to exist anywhere. We are well supported both here and by our loved ones at home, which allows us to concentrate on the job at hand.

While it is with some regret that we cannot be united as a unit and Association on ANZAC Day, there is no doubt that this ANZAC Day will be an particularly significant – the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, commemorated by 75SQN and the Association in Sydney, Katherine and the Middle East on operations. I trust that the commemorations in Australia are well attended and provide an opportunity to reflect on all who have served this country and our fine unit.

### **VALE AVM JAMES HILARY FLEMMING AO AM (Retd)**

4 Dec 1926 – 11 Feb 2015

Aged 88 years

It is with great sadness that 75 Squadron Association marks the death of Air Vice-Marshal Jim Flemming. We mourn the passing of such an inspiring man whose professional life spanned over 40 years. He leaves behind his wife Pat and three children, Peter, Geoffrey and Terese.

### **Career**

Joined RAAF 1943, trained under EATS in Aust. & Canada, graduated as Sgt Pilot 1944 and based in New Guinea and Darwin;

Converted to Mustangs 1946, then served with 78 Sqn;

Flew Mustangs in Japan 1948;

First RAAF mission in Korean War 1950;

Commissioned 1950 (MID, US DFC & Air Medal);

Served with 3 Sqn 1951;

Flying Instructor Course 1955;

**CO 75 Sqn 1956,**

Formed Meteorites (first official RAAF aerobatics team);

CFS 1957;

Exchange posting with USAF 1958, flying F-100 and F-104;

Chief Flying Instructor 2 OCU;

CO 76 Sqn;

RAAF Staff College 1962;

Director Operational Research;

Led Operation Fast Caravan 1967 (Deployment of Mirages to Butterworth)

**CO 75 Sqn (Mirages) Butterworth, Malaysia, 1966-68;**

OC RAAF Contingent Ubon, Thailand, 1968;

Principal Staff Officer & Senior Admin Staff Officer, HQ Support Command 1969;

OC RAAF Williamtown, NSW, 1973-75;

Royal College of Defence Studies 1975;

RAAF Director General Tactical Fighter Project, 1976-77;

Commander IADS 1977;

Chief of Air Force Ops. 1981-82, Retired RAAF 1982;

Director Australian War Memorial 1982-1987



# **PROPOSAL FOR INFORMAL RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION AND THE 39<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION**

## **Background**

The 39th Battalion was an infantry unit of the Australian Army. Originally raised in 1916 for service in World War I, it was disbanded after the war and re-formed as a single unit in October 1941. Two days after the Japanese attack on the US fleet at Pearl Harbour and the British in Malaya, the battalion was ordered to New Guinea. Along with 75 Squadron, its task was to defend the strip at 7 Mile outside Port Moresby.

Ironically, it was 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion troops manning anti-aircraft guns who mistakenly fired on the first group of Kittyhawks landing at Moresby on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1942. The troops were understandably nervous, having been bombed and strafed since the 3<sup>rd</sup> February by Japanese aircraft with red circles. Despite a pre-arranged arrival procedure, and never having seen Kittyhawks before, they were confused by their white and blue roundels with a solid red centre. All five aircraft in the leading section were damaged, two terminally. A bullet missed the head of the section leader, SQNLDR Peter Jeffery, by inches. The red circles were promptly removed, and from that time roundels on all Allied aircraft in the SW Pacific theatre were blue and white.

Both 75 Squadron and the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion fought alongside each other for the epic '44 days' defence of Moresby from March until May 1942, and both suffered high casualties.

Later that year, the 39<sup>th</sup>, along with other militia units, played a key part in the battles of Kokoda and Gona-Buna to the north of Moresby. At the same time, 75 and 76 squadron played a crucial role in the battle of Milne Bay to the east of Moresby. Both these battles were part of a coordinated campaign by the Japanese to capture Port Moresby.

Although the 39th Battalion was disbanded after WW2, its involvement in the fighting around Kokoda became a key part of the narrative surrounding the Anzac legend and Australia's emergence as a modern nation. However, the Battalion name lives on. In 2006 it was re-formed as the 39<sup>th</sup> (Personnel Support) Battalion, a small unit of about 50 personnel based at Randwick, NSW. It provides personnel support to deploying forces from all three Services, including providing cultural and language training for soldiers deploying to Africa as part of UN peacekeeping operations.

75 Squadron, of course, continues as an operational front line squadron in the defence of Australia.

## **Proposal**

In order to recognise and solidify the wartime bond between 75 Squadron and the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion, it is proposed that the two unit Associations develop an informal reciprocal relationship. This type of informal reciprocity is not unusual between units with shared wartime experience, irrespective of Service.

## **Implementation**

Committee members and families of originals from both Associations have already had informal, preliminary discussions on implementing such an arrangement. The most practicable way would be by routine exchange of newsletters via the web, with members of respective associations attending each other's selected functions and activities.

## **Recommendation**

A shared wartime bond in Australia's darkest hour is worth preserving. Indeed, the 75 Sqn Association would have much to gain and little to lose from an informal reciprocal relationship with the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association. There would be no financial obligation. The main advantage is a broadening of the base of both associations through shared common history, which in turn strengthens the future survival of both associations. Reciprocity would also provide a wider geographical base, with the 75 SQN Association in NSW, SEQLD and the NT, and the 39<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association based primarily in VIC.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC

### **No 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED** **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rank/Title**                      **Surname**                      **First Name**

hereby apply for membership to the **No 75 Squadron Association Incorporated**,  
and agree that if admitted I shall abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.

**(Membership fees are \$12.00 per financial year or \$80.00 for 10 financial years.  
Fees renewable 1 July each year. Pro-rata rate applies for first year of membership –  
confirm amount with Association Secretary).**

**Payment options** – Cheque to the below address, or direct deposit to:

Account Name: 75 Sqn Association, BSB: 803 205, Account No: 20722967

*(Don't forget to identify yourself as the depositor)*

**Tick appropriate box**

☐ I enclose/have deposited \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) membership

☐ I enclose/have deposited \$80.00 for 10 years membership

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Suburb:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Mailing Courtesy Title [i.e Mr, Mrs, Ms, WGCdr (Retd) etc]:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Service with 75 Squadron:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Countries where served:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Decorations** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

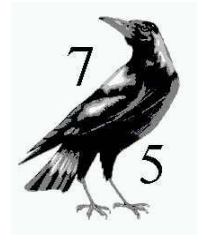
**Return Application to:**      The Secretary  
   No 75 Squadron Association Inc.  
   39/19 Ashby Circuit  
   KAMBAH ACT 2902





# 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC



President:	Bill Evans	0410 554 367
Vice President:	Ms Patricia Jackson	0409 897 707
Secretary:	SQNLDR Peter Nelms (Retd)	0468 456 760
Treasurer:	LACW Monica Biegalke	(08) 8973 7515
Commanding Officer:	WGCDR Pete Mitchell	(08) 8973 7500
SQN Liaison Officer:	FLTLT Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502
Public Officer:	FLTLT Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502

## **NEWSLETTER No 2/14 – December 2014**

### **President's Report**

The Townsville get-together with the squadron at Townsville was a great success. For most of us, Townsville is as remote as Tindal, so we had to rely on our Tindal based committee members for most of the organisation. I'll let our Vice-President, Patricia Jackson, report on the event in detail after this.

At the end of the Newsletter are the Minutes of the committee meeting held while we were all together at Townsville – a rare event due to physical separation. Of interest in the Minutes, compiled by our Secretary, Peter Nelms, is a proposal from Richard Deane-Butcher for the Association to sponsor a community award to a deserving individual in the Tindal/Katherine area. This is a worthy idea which we'll take forward.

The next major commitment for the Association is Anzac Day 2015, the centenary of that nation defining event. We're on track to have our new Association banner ready to march behind in Sydney. As you'll notice in the Committee Minutes, I've floated the idea of a P40 Kittyhawk flying down George Street as we approach the media centre. Yes it's ambitious, but possible, and I'll be liaising with the Fighter Squadrons Branch as many other squadrons are involved.

Pete Mitchell, CO 75 Sqn, has indicated he wants to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ross Fox's passing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August next year with an activity day at Tindal. Although not primarily an Association event, I'm nevertheless hoping that the Association is well represented. August is an ideal time for a holiday in the NT.

An Association membership application is enclosed at the end of the Newsletter.

Finally, the Christmas season is almost upon us. By all means relax and unwind, but also pause and reflect on the underlying meaning.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Bill Evans  
President

## **Vice-President's Report of Event with 75 Squadron held in Townsville 24-25 October, 2014**

Those who attended were: Bill Evans, Pete Mitchell, Patricia Jackson, Peter Nelms, Monica Biegalke, Iain Taylor (all members of the Committee, in photo below)), as well as Robin & Richard Deane-Butcher, John Jackson, Joe McGrath, Michael Rumble, Brian Weston, Tex and Leanne Polzin, Terry and Karen Brown, Michael and Gillian Krink.



**75 Squadron Association Committee 2014-15**

**L to R: Pete Mitchell (CO), Bill Evans (President), Peter Nelms (Secretary), Iain Taylor (Sqn Liaison Officer), Monica Biegalke (Treasurer), Patricia Jackson (Vice President)**

Apart from the Squadron personnel and those people who live in Townsville, everyone else stayed at the Holiday Inn (the “sugar shaker”) – a good spot as it was in the middle of the city, close to shops and restaurants. Those of us who flew in from various places down south were met at the Airport by either Jazmine or Monica, from 75 Squadron.

Our first group meeting was at 5.30 pm on Friday, 24 October in the bar of the Holiday Inn for pre-dinner drinks and a chance to introduce ourselves. The CO Pete Mitchell (Mav), Mark Kleeman (the Chaplain), Iain Taylor and Monica Biegalke also attended. Bill Evans welcomed the group.

At 6.30 pm we walked a short distance to The Capitol Chinese Restaurant for dinner. There were 19 of us around one huge table. This was an informal dinner – no speeches - just eating (the food was excellent) and drinking, together with serious talking and much laughter.

On Saturday at 10 am we were taken by car to the Garbutt Air Base. There we were joined by about one hundred 75 Squadron personnel at the Plaque that had been laid in 1998, in honour of the founding of 75 Squadron in Townsville on 4 March 1942 and those who lost their lives fighting the Japanese invaders.



**Bill Evans speaking at the tribute**



**The CO & Patricia Jackson laying wreaths**

The 75 Squadron XO conducted the proceedings. Our President, Bill Evans, made a speech as did the CO, Pete Mitchell, and Chaplain Mark Kleeman conducted the prayers. Patricia Jackson and Pete Mitchell stepped forward to lay wreaths, and Richard Deane-Butcher played The Last Post and the Rouse on the bugle he had brought with him. It was an opportunity to reflect on those times when Australia was in danger and 75 Squadron came to its defence; and the price that was paid.



Following the service we visited the very interesting Museum on the base which is manned entirely by volunteers and had been opened specially for us. The museum covered all Air Force activities at the base since its formation, with a special exhibit on 75 Squadron.

We were then invited to a light lunch at the Officers' Mess. Patricia sat at a table with about fifteen young men, some of them pilots. Her father was a bit older (33) when he took over the Squadron in 1942. He was colour blind and a bit deaf – and definitely would not have passed the rigorous tests these days!





**Lunch at the Officers' Mess**

After lunch there was a screening of the ABC documentary “44 Days”, presented by Geoffrey Robertson on screen. It’s an account of those dark days in early 1942 when 75 Squadron was fighting the Japanese over the skies of Port Moresby. We were told that the pilots watching were very moved by what happened all those years ago.

Our next stop was getting up close and personal with the Hornets. We were taken in cars out onto the tarmac and close to where the Hornets were parked under shelters. We wandered around listening to various members of 75 Squadron explaining how they “worked”. We had our photos taken in front of the aircraft, we signed a bomb and some of us longed to be able to climb up into the cockpit. We were then taken to see the Hornet that had been specially inscribed with John F. Jackson’s name and details for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of 75 Squadron. It was all very interesting.



**Hornet inscribed with John F. Jackson’s details for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2012) of the founding of the Squadron**

Just had time to get back to the hotel and change before meeting for drinks again at the Holiday Inn bar. We then walked to the Townsville Yacht Club for dinner. Townsville is a very attractive city. We had an even larger crowd for dinner this time with a mixture of 75 Squadron personnel and the rest of the Association members. We all knew each other quite well by this time so a great time was had by all. Bill made a welcoming speech and thanked the Tindal based personnel for their tireless efforts.



**Mav with Patricia Jackson**



**Mav with Brian Weston**

It was a wonderful few days. We were very proud to be part of this historic Squadron and to meet the fine people who currently serve in it. We were looked after so well – with efficiency, great kindness and good humour. Thank you, Mav and your people. We hope to see some of you again on Anzac Day 2015 in Sydney – with our new Banner.



**75 Squadron Association members in Townsville Oct 2014**

Patricia Jackson  
Vice-President & Editor



## **CO's Report**

2014 has been another big year for the Magpies. From exercising in Guam with Japanese and US Forces, to the massive multi-national Pitch Black exercise and then Townsville the unit has performed exceptionally well. The busy program is only just starting to wind back a little after completing a week of Air to Air Gunnery – another great effort by all our maintenance and support crews, especially the Armament Section with a faultless performance. It highlights how far the unit has come over the past 18 months and our performance as a cohesive squadron is recognised at the highest levels of Air Force.

The 75 SQN Association event in Townsville was also a key highlight socially in 2014 which indicates that the relationship between the squadron and association is maturing well. The efforts by FLTLT Iain Taylor, CPL Adrian Moore and LACWs Monica Biegalke and Jazmin Ohl were particularly noteworthy.

As mentioned in the Presidents' report 2015 has a number of key anniversaries of note, namely the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WGCDR Ross Fox's accident. Early plans are in place to mark these two events appropriately and more information will come out in the New Year.

As we wind up 2014 I would like thank all 75SQN members for their outstanding behaviour and support this year and wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the well earned break and take the time to spend it with your family and friends. Stay safe and I look forward to the challenge of making 2015 bigger and better.

Mav  
CO 75SQN

**Minutes of Committee Meeting**  
held on Saturday, 25 October 2014  
at the Officers Mess, RAAF Base Townsville

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**Present :** Bill Evans (President), Ms Patricia Jackson (Vice-President), Peter Nelms (Secretary), Monica Beigalke (Treasurer), WGCDR Peter Mitchell (CO, 75 Squadron), FLTLT Iain Taylor (Public Officer), Richard Deane-Butcher (Observer)

**Opening:**

The President opened the meeting at 1540 hrs and expressed delight that this was the first face-to-face meeting with all the committee present.

**AGM Minutes:**

The status of the Minutes of the AGM held in Sydney on 18 July was discussed. The Secretary advised that he had added to the draft minutes initiated by the Vice President and then passed them on to the Treasurer and Public Officer.

The Public Officer is to finalise the Minutes, from the tape recording of the meeting that he has, and submit the annual return to the NT Govt. Refer:

<http://www.dob.nt.gov.au/gambling-licensing/business/incorporated-associations/Pages/default.aspx>

**Administrative arrangements between Assn and Sqn:**

The President highlighted the fact that the Association is willing to take a lot of the administrative burden away from the Squadron and that, in these days of cloud computing and database sharing, there should be a solution to the issue of committee members being geographically dispersed.

The Secretary said that one of the main issues is that the Squadron needs to gather the data into a format that can be handed over. The Public Officer said that the Squadron is still finding Association material and is soon hoping to be able to hand it over. As an example, at present there is no complete list of financial members and the Treasurer has been working with the Secretary to establish such a listing.

Another issue is that of an email listing. Previously emails have been sent out from the Squadron and if the Association is to take over this role then a listing of email addresses will need to be provided. The Treasurer added that there are a lot of mistakes with the present list and she has been monitoring 'bounce-backs'.

### **Newsletters:**

The President stated that he would like to introduce regular Newsletters; say in March and October each year. There was general agreement to this proposal. The Vice President will be the Newsletter editor and will coordinate input.

### **Association Banner:**

As discussed at the AGM in July, the Squadron is designing and manufacturing a new banner to better depict the Squadron's history (eg expand on the aircraft types that the squadron has operated). The CO stated that this issue was on track for the new banner to be used next Anzac Day.

### **Anzac Day 2015:**

As next Anzac Day will be the centenary of Gallipoli extra effort will be required to make the occasion memorable. The President advised that he would like to propose a P40 flypast over the parade (in Sydney) but envisaged there would be other flypasts. The President will speak with the Secretary of the Fighter Squadrons Branch and determine the way ahead.

### **Merchandise:**

Further to the discussion at the AGM, the possibility of obtaining and selling Association merchandise (eg ties, name tags, cuff links, etc) was discussed; including whether the joining fee could cover the cost of, say, a tie or a name tag. This issue is to be explored further.

### **Future functions/activities:**

The difficulties of arranging functions where the Squadron and the Association can get together, with the Squadron being based at Tindal, were discussed. The best opportunities, to gain maximum attendance from Association members, is to arrange a function when the Squadron is deployed to the East coast (eg Williamtown).

The CO said that he intends arranging a function at Tindal on 2<sup>nd</sup> August next year to recognise the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ross Fox's accident and the Association is welcome to be part of the occasion.

The President asked that the Squadron keep in mind if they are tasked with an East coast deployment the possibility of a joint function.

### **Bank Accounts:**

The Treasurer suggested that the Association account with Defence Bank could be easier managed if there were separate sub-accounts were established for such things as membership fees and functions. The Public Officer also stated that an Association cheque book was recently found at the Squadron. The Treasurer further suggested that, in these days of electronic transfers and telephone banking, a debit card would be more useful than a cheque book.

The Committee agreed that the Treasurer visit Defence Bank and organise the account to include sub-accounts and a debit card.

### **Other Business:**

Richard Deane-Butcher raised the idea of having an Association award to recognise a significant contribution to the greater Squadron community. The CO suggested the award could be along the lines of the Ross Fox Memorial Trophy but eligibility could be broadened to include, for example, the dependents of Squadron members. Richard undertook to develop a proposal for future committee deliberation.

**Closure:** The meeting closed at 1625 hrs.

Appendix 1(a) - Application For Membership of the 75 Squadron Association Incorporated

Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC  
**No 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**  
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rank/Title                                      Surname                                      First Name**

hereby apply for membership to the **No 75 Squadron Association Incorporated**,  
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*(Don't forget to identify yourself as the depositor)*

**Tick appropriate box**

☐ I enclose/have deposited \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) membership

☐ I enclose/have deposited \$80.00 for 10 years membership

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Suburb:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Mailing Courtesy Title [i.e Mr,Mrs,Ms,WGCDR (Retd) etc]:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone No:** (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Service with 75 Squadron:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Countries where served:** \_\_\_\_\_

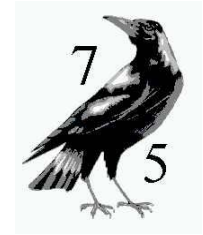
**Decorations** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Application to:**      The Secretary  
   No 75 Squadron Association Inc.  
   39/19 Ashby Circuit  
   KAMBAH ACT 2902



## 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



President:	WGCDR Phil Arms	(08) 8973 7500
Vice President:	Ms Patricia Jackson	
Secretary:	Mr Peter Nelms	(02) 6127 2527
Treasurer:	LACW Rebekka Whiting	(08) 8973 7519
Public Officer:	FLTLT Gary Smith	(08) 8973 7502
SQN Liaison Officer:	FLTLT Gary Smith	(08) 8973 7502

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay

This Newsletter is to confirm that Defence and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will be supporting ceremonies in Papua New Guinea in August 2012 to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay. The primary activities are planned to be centred around Alotau from **22 – 27 August**. There is also the possibility of an associated commemorative activity for 75 Squadron in Port Moresby.

Air Force has agreed to support the Milne Bay commemorations with attendance by a small contingent of serving members from 75, 76 and 6 Squadrons. DVA are also supporting this activity and are currently seeking nominations from veterans who fought in the conflict to attend the ceremonies in an official capacity (*nominations for this are separate to this request and are required to be sent to DVA as per the attached documentation*). Unfortunately DVA are only able to support six (6) paid veteran positions. It is anticipated that there is likely to be significantly greater interest by members of the 75, 76 and 6 Squadron's Associations to attend this event and in response, the 75 Squadron Association is proposing to host a group travel booking for any Association or family member wishing to attend.

While the details of the actual commemorative events are yet to be finalised, **this Newsletter is a request for expressions of interest from members of the 75, 76 and 6 Squadron's Association's who may wish to attend this event**. Responses should be sent to the 75 Squadron Association Secretary (details below) and should include:

- Name and contact details (postal address, phone number, email),
- Period of service with your respective Squadron in Papua New Guinea, and
- Indication of level of health (for example, is a carer required).

Please note that at this stage details are still vague with dates and itinerary details yet to be finalised. This notice is merely seeking an indication from those who would be interested in attending (at own expense) and advising the dates that you may wish to "pencil in". Those who register an expression of interest will be forwarded details of the group travel itinerary and costs for attendance when known.

If you intend to travel to Papua New Guinea you should note the passport and visa requirements detailed at <http://www.pngcanberra.org/visas/index.htm>.



Responses to this call for expressions of interest should be received by The Secretary, 75 Squadron Association at:

The Secretary  
75 Squadron Association  
BP35-3-061  
PO Box 7927  
Canberra BC, ACT, 2610

e-mail      peter.nelms@defence.gov.au

Phone      (02) 6127 2527

Expressions of interest must be received no later than **Monday 16 July 2012**.

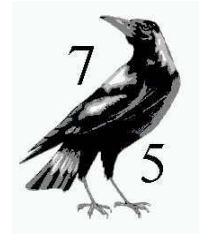
Seek and Strike.

Phil Arms  
President  
75 Squadron Association

23 June 2012



# 75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



President:	WGCDR Phil Arms (elect)	(08) 8973 7500
Vice President:	Ms Patricia Jackson (elect)	
Secretary:	Mr Peter Nelms (elect)	(02) 6127 2527
Treasurer:	LACW Rebekka Whiting (elect)	(08) 8973 7519
Public Officer:	FLTLT Gary Smith (elect)	(08) 8973 7502
SQN Liaison Officer:	FLTLT Gary Smith (elect)	(08) 8973 7502

Dear 75SQN Association Member,

I'd like to start this newsletter by welcoming all past and present members to the newly incorporated 75 Squadron Association. Over the past couple of months much has happened concerning the progression of the Association's Constitution. Through the great work of Peter Nelms and Gary Smith we have progressed the attached Constitution through the NT Government and are now a formally incorporated, self funding, non-profit organisation. This milestone is significant in that the 75 Squadron Association now has a recognised hierarchy (elected annually) to govern events and ensure the continued growth of our Association. It is an exciting time for us all, and another achievement to celebrate during our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

To enact the 75 Squadron Constitution, the first order of business is to elect the committee appointments. The committee positions were identified last year at the AGM held in Nov 11 at Wagga Wagga and are now listed in the constitution. Nominations for these posts were identified at the AGM and are as follows:

President:	WGCDR Phil Arms (currently CO 75SQN)
Vice President:	Ms Patricia Jackson
Secretary:	Mr Peter Nelms
Treasurer:	LACW Rebekka Whiting (currently 75SQN Orderly Room Clerk)
Public Officer:	FLTLT Gary Smith (currently ADMINO 75SQN)
Squadron Liaison Officer:	FLTLT Gary Smith

This newsletter is a call for further nominations for anyone else interested in being a member of the Committee. Currently the committee is largely propped up by serving members from 75SQN. This is not ideal however necessary for implementation. If anyone would like to nominate someone for a committee position within the 75SQN Association, please forward details of the nominee to FLTLT Gary Smith no later than 31 May 12 (e-mail to [gary.smith8@defence.gov.au](mailto:gary.smith8@defence.gov.au)). If no further nominations are received then the nominees listed above will be ratified until the next AGM in late 2012. All Committee positions will then be re-opened for election later this year.

Another important change is that now we are all required to formally enrol to be registered as a member of the 75SQN Association. You will note in the constitution that you need firstly to be eligible in order to enrol. Eligibility is achieved through either;

- a. having served in No 75 Squadron RAAF,
- b. being a dependent, over the age of 18 years, of a person who has served in No 75 Squadron RAAF,
- c. being a spouse or partner of a financial member of the Association at the time of his/her death,
- d. being a current serving member of No 75 Squadron RAAF, or
- e. at the discretion of the Committee, you have been identified as a person who has been associated with, and/or identifies with No 75 Squadron RAAF.

To ensure we are self funding a small fee of \$12 is charged annually for membership (or \$80 for 10 years). Current serving members of 75SQN are exempt from this charge (and will be enrolled automatically) however continued membership will require individuals to enrol once posted out of the unit. These funds ensure the Association is able to convene annually and continue to correspond to the many members of our Association across the globe.

If you are receiving this newsletter it is requested that you consider enrolling as a member (enrolment forms are attached at the end of this Newsletter). Your support to the 75SQN Association to date has been very much appreciated and is highly sought for the future. Importantly, all memberships received will be recorded in a data-base that will be used to pass information regarding our upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations planned to occur in Milne Bay later this year. Completed enrolment forms should be sent to:

Mr Peter Nelms  
Secretary  
BP35-3-061  
PO Box 7927  
Canberra BC, ACT, 2610

Tel: (02) 6127 2527

Or the relevant details e-mailed to [peter.nelms@defence.gov.au](mailto:peter.nelms@defence.gov.au).

In conclusion, this is a very exciting time for 75SQN and our Association. The incorporation of our constitution will ensure our Association is viable well into the future, ensuring that the legacy of 75SQN continues to grow.

Seek and Strike.

Phil Arms  
President (Elect)  
75 Squadron Association

10 May 2012



# 75SQN ASSOCIATION



Mirage III). A photo of this historic formation is enclosed at the end of this Newsletter.

What an amazing couple of months for the 75 SQN Association! An Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the RAAF Wagga Wagga Officers Mess on the evening of the 18 Nov 11 and attended by 33 members who voted on the future construct of our organisation (more to follow later). This was then followed a thoroughly enjoyable Dining-In that evening where the SQN Colours were paraded. In all 64 association and serving members attended, and the effort was well rewarded with an evening that shall be remembered for a very long time.

The Dining In was also significant in that it was publically announced that His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce AM AE has accepted the position as Patron to the 75SQN Association. Excerpts from his letter of acceptance are included at right.

The Association AGM and Dining In night was then followed by our participation in the inaugural Warbirds Down Under Airshow hosted by the Temora Aviation Museum on Sat 19 Nov 11.

The support from the organisers of this event was outstanding with a collection of aircraft flown by the unit put on display for members to reacquaint themselves with. Highlights were definitely the many solo flying displays, and the formation flypast of a Kittyhawk, Mustang, Meteor, Sabre and Hornet (the only aircraft missing were the Vampire and

"I am, like many Australians, eternally grateful for the brave resistance that 75 Squadron Kittyhawks put up against the Japanese, and equally proud of the role that 75 Squadron plays at Tindal, safeguarding our skies.

The unique history of the Squadron makes it a symbol of the story of the RAAF, and its actions and deeds are legendary in Australia's wartime diary. Thus, its history must be preserved and explained to today's population.

This is why it is my goal to further the work already begun with the "44 Days" documentary by Geoffrey Robertson.

Perhaps in 2012 every boy and girl would have access to a poster of 70 years of 75 Squadron for their bedroom walls. In any event, I will do my best to assist in the recognition of 75 Squadron as the greatest Squadron in RAAF history (objections in writing please).

I am honoured to be made Patron of the 75 Squadron Association, and thank Air Commodore Mel Hupfeld DSG for his kind invitation."

## **Excerpts from Letter of Acceptance as Patron to the 75SQN Association by His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce AM AE**

Most significantly however was the great publicity provided by the organisers of the Airshow in announcing 75SQNs 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and our role in the Battle for Australia.





Before I go into more detail about next years activities, I'd firstly like to cover the outcomes from the AGM of 18 Nov. A question and answer session was held regarding the preferred way forward for the association. Currently the 75SQN Association is an unincorporated association which imposes limitations on what we are able to do regarding the management and raising of public monies (ie we can't legally fundraise or hold an association bank account). Being unincorporated also leaves us exposed to liability and litigation claims unless we purchase insurance to cover specific activities; this is costly! As was outlined in the last Newsletter, three options were considered:

Option 1: To become a branch of the RAAF Association NSW Division (there is no Northern Territory Division);

Option 2: To become an independently incorporated association; or

Option 3: To remain as an unincorporated (informal) organisation.

Following the discussion a vote was cast where Option 2 was identified as the preferred way forward. Furthermore it was agreed to incorporate the association within the Northern Territory due to the location of the SQN at RAAF Tindal (and the central management role the unit will play).

The meeting then went one step further in identifying the office-bearers of the Association being:

President,  
Vice President,  
Secretary,  
Treasurer,  
Squadron Liaison Officer/Public Officer, and  
Commanding Officer 75SQN.



**75SQN Association Members taking a closer look at Allen Arthur's P-40 Kittyhawk – War Birds Down Under 2011**



To help in getting things rolling, an initial request for nominations was extended whereby Ms Patricia Jackson has been nominated for Vice President, and Mr Peter Nelms for Secretary. I (as with my successors) will automatically be assigned to the committee as CO of 75SQN.

The position of Squadron Liaison Officer/Public Officer is an appointment from within 75SQN, however the remaining positions are available to members of the association.

This newsletter is our formal request for further nominations for all committee positions by any persons interested (other than CO 75SQN!). The future of our association is dependent on the input of its members. If you have some spare time, I'd strongly encourage you to consider nominating for a committee position (even those already nominated against). If you wish to nominate it is requested that you do so via e-mail to the Secretary (elect) Mr Peter Nelms at [peter.nelms@defence.gov.au](mailto:peter.nelms@defence.gov.au). The window for nominations will close with effect 31 Jan 12. Nominations will be distributed for election in Feb 12 via e-mail.

Secondly, in order to achieve Option 2, a Constitution must be ratified within the NT outlining the association rules. Once ratified the association is officially 'incorporated' and our constitutional guidance will take effect (more on what that means in the next newsletter). Importantly however is the need for your input into the constitution as once ratified it is very difficult to change. The draft constitution has been attached to this e-mail and it is requested that you review it and pass any suggested amendments or concerns to the Secretary (elect) Mr Peter Nelms at [PeterNelms@hotmail.com](mailto:PeterNelms@hotmail.com). The cut-off for review of the constitution is the 31 Dec 11.

What does all this mean? Once our association is incorporated, we will have an enduring organisational framework that will be governed by an elected committee. Importantly, by being incorporated we will have a means to legally manage funds and the necessary liability cover to

organise next year's commemorative events. In doing this we are assuring our future.

Minutes from the AGM are being finalised and will be available on request.

Regarding next year's activities, here is a quick update on plans for commemorating our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since formation, and the Battle for Australia.

The first is a combined 70 Series SQNs commemoration at RAAF Williamtown planned for 16 Mar 2012. Unfortunately 75SQN will be deployed to Exercise Red Flag in the USA when this is on preventing current serving members from attending. That said, the invitation is definitely open to members of the Association and a contingent will be organised by the Vice President (elect) Ms Patricia Jackson. In the absence of 75SQN, 76SQN have offered to host members of the 75SQN Association wishing to attend. The day is likely to include a combined SQNs parade (involving 75, 76, 77, and 79 SQNs) with separate dinners that evening. If you wish to attend it is requested that you register your interest with Patricia via e-mail at [patricia.jackson36@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.jackson36@gmail.com).

The second event is yet to be approved however plans are underway to host a visit to sites of significance within PNG in early Sep 2012 to align with the Battle for Australia commemorations and involvement of 75, 76 and 6SQN in the Japanese defeat at Milne Bay. If all goes to plan, this event will be incorporated into broader Department of Veteran's Affairs plans for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Australia. As a quick overview, the visit is likely to last five days and start with a 75SQN commemoration at Port Moresby, then a combined 75, 76 and 6SQN commemorative service at Milne Bay. More information will be provided early next year on how this event will take place once the necessary approvals have been gained. In preparation however, I'd recommend anyone wishing to attend has an in-date passport, and that you save the dates around the end of Aug, start of Sep 2012.





Finally, to assist with raising some funds for a piece of artwork to commemorate next year's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries, Mr John Rayner of Aviation Art has generously offered to contribute a significant portion of each sale of the limited edition Robert Taylor print, 'Milne Bay – The Turning Point'. Attached is an electronic brochure of this print outlining the subject of the art work and its historical significance, each signed by pilots involved in the conflict (FLTTLT Arthur Tucker having since passed away). There are a number of versions available for sale, each with differing numbers of signatures. If anyone is looking for a unique Christmas present for your family or friends, I'd encourage you to consider this

print as a potential present. Money raised from these sales will directly contribute to fund the Association.

An order form is attached to the electronic brochure, or alternatively please contact SGT Tony Warren directly by either ringing 08 8973 7516, or e-mailing [tony.warren@defence.gov.au](mailto:tony.warren@defence.gov.au).

If you have any items that you wish to appear in future Newsletters, again please forward articles to FLTTLT Gary Smith at [gary.smith8@defence.gov.au](mailto:gary.smith8@defence.gov.au).

Until next time

Hog

CO 75SQN – 75SQN Association President (elect)



File Name - 20111221raaf8526970\_1112.JPG  
Available at - <http://images.airforce.gov.au>  
Copyright - © Commonwealth of Australia

### Historic Formation Flypast of 75SQN Aircraft – War Birds Down Under 2011

#### Save the Date:

16 March 12: 70 Series SQN Commemorations at RAAF Williamtown

Aug/Sep 12: Proposed 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative visit to PNG (combined 75, 76 and 6SQNs)





# 75SQN ASSOCIATION



Firstly, my apologies for not publishing a newsletter sooner; the pace of work this year has been frantic! That said I sincerely hope that everyone has enjoyed a safe and productive year. I trust that all New Year's resolutions were fulfilled!

Since the last Newsletter the Squadron has deployed to RAAF Pearce for Exercise Triton Storm, participated in Exercises Arnhem Thunder, Aces North and Talisman Sabre, and more recently deployed to RAAF Townsville in support of No 42 JTAC Course. It has been a busy first half of the year during which time the Squadron has performed to an outstanding level as we continue to hone our aircrew and maintainer skills.

Significantly, during this period we also commemorated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of FLGOFF Cameron Conroy on 5 June 1991. Cam was a well liked and valued member of 75SQN at the time of his passing. The Squadron held an intimate commemoration service in memory of Cam which was attended by his surviving widow Christine and her son 'little' Cam. The Service was a moving and wonderful event and very much appreciated by the family. In addition to the service, commemorative plaques were also presented to Cam's family to be placed alongside his fathers' headstone; sadly Mr Peter Conroy (Cam's father) passed away in 2010. It was wonderful to hear

Chrissy speak of Cam and her recollections of their time at the Squadron, and reaffirmed that the bond with 75 Squadron never dies.

As many of you may be aware, next year will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of 75 Squadron and the South West Pacific battles the Unit fought in during World War II. To raise awareness of these historical milestones, the Unit is planning our major Association event for this year over the period 18 – 19 Nov 11. These dates have been selected to coincide with the Temora Aviation Museum's major airshow for 2011 (scheduled to occur on 19 Nov).



**Chrissy and Cam Conroy planting a boab tree at the 75Squadron Memorial Garden in Memory of FLGOFF Camron Conroy**







# 75SQN ASSOCIATION



The weekend is planned to commence at historical RAAF Base Wagga Wagga (accessible via train or via QANTAS Link flights direct from Sydney) with an Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) during the afternoon of the 18 Nov followed by a Dining In dinner that evening. On Saturday 19 Nov transport will be arranged to Temora for the day to participate in a series of historical presentations and the airshow (attendance being free for Association members). Due to the outstanding support of Temora's Aviation Museum we will have access to a number of aircraft previously flown by 75SQN including a Kittyhawk, two Mustangs, a Vampire, a Meteor, a Sabre and of course a Hornet (plus a number of other vintage aircraft maintained as part of the Museum's collection). Planning is currently underway for the airshow to conclude with a historic formation flight involving all of these aircraft. This is looking to be an outstanding two day event that should not be missed.

To ensure maximum attendance, every attempt is being made to keep costs to a minimum. Members wishing to attend will need to make their own arrangements for travel to RAAF Base Wagga Wagga, however from that point service facilities will be utilised to the greatest extent possible. If desired, accommodation can be provided on base at a reduced rate for all participating association members. Similarly, return transport will also be provided from RAAF Wagga to Temora airfield on Sat 19 Nov. It is requested that anyone wishing to attend this historic occasion complete the enclosed Attendance Form and return this to the 75SQN ADMINO, FLTLT Gary Smith, via the enclosed envelope no later than 30 Oct 11, or via e-mail at [gary.smith8@defence.gov.au](mailto:gary.smith8@defence.gov.au). Alternatively you can register your attendance by ringing Gary on 08 8973 7502.

An important part of this event will be a referendum to be held as part of the Association AGM to decide the way forward for the 75SQN Association. Currently our association is not an incorporated network and as such does not benefit from funding assistance provided to such organisations, in addition to liability and indemnity cover also available. To rectify this, three options are being proposed for consideration in the attachment to this newsletter. It is requested that all Association members consider these options and indicate your preference by casting a vote on the afternoon of 18 Nov. A question and answer session will be available to assist in determining the desired course of action (facilitated with the appropriate beverages).

For those unable to attend, your vote is also important. It is requested that all association members unable to attend complete the attached ballot form identifying your preference and post your response using the enclosed letter. Similarly you can vote via e-mail to the 75SQN ADMINO, FLTLT Gary Smith, or by ringing Gary on 08 8973 7502. As with attendance at the Association activities, it is requested that all absentee votes be received no later than 31 Oct 11.

Also of note was the award of the WGCDR Ross Fox Award to Excellence to this years winner FSGT Douglas 'Cooky' Cook. This trophy was presented for the first time last year by Ross' surviving widow Mrs Viki Fox and recognises the most outstanding member of the unit, irrespective of rank. Cooky has excelled at the Squadron and is a very worthy recipient.

In closing, a little snippet on what is in store for the Squadron for the remainder of 2011 and early 2012. We will be departing the Top End in early October on deployment to Butterworth for Exercise Bersama Lima 2011. We will return





# 75SQN ASSOCIATION



early November to be followed by deployment to Williamtown for ECADEX preceded of course by the activities in Temora. In the New Year comes a great opportunity with deployment to the US for Exercise Red Flag 12 (this is one of the most prestigious and sought after deployments in the Military community). We cannot wait.

If you have any items that you wish to appear in future Newsletters, again please forward articles to

FLTLT

Gary

Smith

at

[gary.smith8@defence.gov.au](mailto:gary.smith8@defence.gov.au).

Until next time – Jumpa Nanti

Hog

CO 75SQN



**Members of 75 Squadron in front of A21-038 painted to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 75 Squadron**

