



# THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA



*Keeping the memory alive*

**NEWSLETTER No 1 – February 2018**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Fellow members,*

*2018 is with us and we already have quite a few things brewing. Peter Radtke has kindly volunteered to coordinate this newsletter, which we will publish each February and August; thanks Peter! In this edition you will find information on airshows in Scone and Temora and others of note. Denise is busy getting Temora organised and Lysle and I are coordinating Scone.*

*Preparations are also underway for ANZAC Day and we hope to communicate to members shortly. This year we have our banner with us and expect to march under it for the first time in 2 years.*

*Minutes of the AGM will be emailed to financial members shortly. I want to thank the previous committee and welcome new members to the current committee. I also want to extend a personal thanks to the membership for re-electing me to represent you as our President.*

*Members, if you think you have a story that's worth publishing, please let either Peter or I know. If it won't fit in the 2 page format of this newsletter we will post it on the website or by direct email to members. Our email details are at the end of this newsletter:  
Cheers for now!*

**Geoff Zuber**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Kirribilli RSL Club in Sydney on Friday 27 October 2017. President, Geoff Zuber gave a report of the Association activities for the year, Treasurer, Bob Peirce provided the financial report and Lysle covered off Fellowship activity. Nominations for the election of the Executive Committee were unopposed and the following people were duly elected for 2018;

President – Geoff Zuber  
Life Vice President – Lysle Roberts  
Secretary - WCCDR Andy Bannister  
Treasurer – Bob Peirce  
Events - Denise Hobson  
Website – Phil Nickols

In addition to this, there are several members who are convenors for the various states and areas and these are listed on the Spitfire Association web site at; <https://spitfireassociation.com.au> Following the AGM, a lunch was held at the club dining room, which has a magnificent view over Sydney Harbour and was joined by several other members.

## DEPARTED COMRADES

It is with great regret that we have to report the parting of the following members of the Association, who have served admirably in the defence of their country;

Allan Spratt, 7 RSU, RAAF – 11 September 2017  
CDR David Hamilton RN - 17 December 2017  
Frank (Beau) McFee, 452 Sqdn. – 21 Dec 2017

## SPITFIRE MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

The Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship, launched in Canberra in 1998 in conjunction with the University of New South Wales at ADFA, continues to grow with 16 Fellowships having been awarded. The Fellowship, for research into any aspect relating to the defence of Australia now stands at up to \$35,000 annually.

Of particular interest is that our 2017 Fellow, Dr. Robert Dane from OCIUS Technologies, has also won several design awards, including the prestigious "Australian Marine Innovation Award - Defence" at the International Marine Exposition at Darling Harbour in Sydney in October 2017.



*Geoff Zuber, Lysle Roberts, Dr Jai Galliot and Sir Peter Cosgrove at the presentation at Government House.*

## FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION 2018

The presentation of the 2018 Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship was held at Government House, Canberra on Monday 4 December 2017 and this year was awarded to Dr. Jai Galliot from the UNSW at AFDA in Canberra. The title of Dr. Galliot's submission was "Australian Military Officer Attitudes Towards to Adoption of Autonomous Systems" Further details of his research project can be found on the Association web site. Following the presentation at Government House, a dinner at the Canberra Yacht club was attended by Dr Galliot and members of the Spitfire Association and special guests including the British Defence Attaché Brig. Andrew Harrison and Mrs Harrison.

## AIRSHOWS 2018

The following is a list of some air shows that may interest members, keeping in mind that the list of WW2 flying warbirds in Australia is on the increase, giving enthusiasts a great insight into the sights and sounds of some of the classic aircraft of WW2.

- Warbirds Over Wanaka (NZ)  
Friday 30 March – Monday 2 April
- Warbirds Over Scone  
Sunday 25 March
- Wings Over Illawarra  
Saturday 5 May – Sunday 6 May
- Warbirds Downunder (Temora)  
- Friday 12 October – Saturday 13 October

Further details of these major airshows can be obtained from their individual internet sites.

Where group visits are being organised, emails will be sent out advising of the details.

In Canberra on 22<sup>nd</sup> March there will be a joint commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup> Birthdays of the RAF and RAAF respectively. Your Association has been actively assisting and the day will include a display by a Spitfire. Further details will follow for those members wanting to travel to Canberra.

## EUROPEAN AIRSHOWS

This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the RAF and of particular note will be

- Flying Legends
- The Royal International Tattoo which is the main celebration for the RAF

President Geoff Zuber is going to both and members wanting to join him are encouraged to make contact via the email in this newsletter.

## ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day is a very significant day for our Association in Sydney, firstly with the march under

the Spitfire Association banner, followed by the lunch, which is always very well attended and features a prominent guest speaker, to be advised shortly. Members will be pleased to know Denise Hobson has secured the Boulevard again. Thank you Denise.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that membership renewals are due from 1 July each year and are presently \$25 per annum and can be paid at the online shop at; <https://spitfireassociation.com.au>

There are many benefits of membership of the Association, including regular member updates and news items, gatherings and events including the ANZAC Day Luncheon, a range of merchandise and of course, the Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship.

The Association was founded by former Spitfire pilots and ground crews and remains strong to this day. The spirit of camaraderie, service and enjoyment of life is a hallmark of the Association, bound together by a love of this iconic aeroplane.



*The formidable shark's mouth on the Temora Spitfire.*

## SPITFIRES IN AUSTRALIA

There are at present several Spitfire rebuilds taking place in Australia, however, these are mainly for static display. Of course, visitors to Canberra can view the Spitfire on display at the Australian War Memorial. There are two airworthy examples flying regularly from the Temora Aviation Museum including the Mk V111 (RG -V) painted in the colours of the late Wing Commander Bobby Gibbes, with its distinctive shark's mouth painted on the lower engine cowling

<https://spitfireassociation.com.au/gibbes-bobby-2/>. Two more are under restoration to flying condition by Ross Pay in Scone - <http://www.paysairservice.com.au/aircraft/warbirds/warbirds.asp>

*The Spitfire Association*

*Australia*

[www.spitfireassociation.com.au](http://www.spitfireassociation.com.au)

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