



THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA



“Keeping the memory alive

NEWSLETTER No 2 – September 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Fellow members,
It has been a busy 6 months since our last newsletter with ANZAC Day, Scone Airshow, preparations for the Temora Airshow and RAF/RAAF joint Birthday celebrations. I'm delighted to advise my fellow President of the Canadian Spitfire Association will be down under for Temora's Airshow in October. ANZAC Day was another outstanding success and I want to personally thank AIRCDRE Guy Wilson for accepting my invitation and his thought-provoking talk. Denise, thanks to you for the usual organisation for the day. Congratulations to Peter Radtke, Mary Lou Carter and Ron Elliot who were inducted as life members of the Association at the April meeting. Members who have paid their fees a big thank you and a reminder for those who haven't paid that your fees are overdue. We will shortly settle on a day and venue for the AGM and advice will go out this month. I must particularly thank the committee in this Newsletter for their help as my wife and I face a very difficult second half of 2018. We both left Australia unexpectedly due to family illness in England and have been here since June. Circumstances mean we won't return to Australia until January 2019, with the exception of my brief return in October for the AGM, some other Board commitments and Temora.*

Finally, a big thanks to Peter Radtke for this second Newsletter and I look forward to seeing members at the Temora Airshow and the AGM.

Cheers for now!

Geoff Zuber

President

geoff.zuber@icloud.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association is scheduled for 11.30 am 31st October at Moss Vale RSL provided and all interested members are invited to attend. The President, Geoff Zuber will give a detailed report of the Association activities for the year and the Treasurer, Bob Peirce, will provide details of the financial report. Nominations for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2018 /

2019 year are invited and nominations must be received by the Secretary by the end of September 2018.

Details of the present Executive Committee and the various area convenors can be obtained from the Spitfire Association web site at ;

<https://spitfireassociation.com.au>

Following the AGM, a lunch will be held and all members are invited to attend.

WARBIRDS OVER SCONE

A group of Spitfire Association members, led by President Geoff Zuber attended the airshow at Scone on 25 March and enjoyed the hospitality of Ross Pay and his wife. Unfortunately, the Spitfire and Hurricane did not fly on the day due to the heavy cross winds, however, there were many other displays to thrill the spectators, such as the L39 Albatros, Pay's firefighting aircraft and the Russian Roolettes. The RAAF also sent over a fast jet display team from Williamtown RAAF Base. Special thanks to Mr Johnson, from New Zealand, who has been very involved with the restorations and is now based at Pay's Air Service Restoration Museum. For further information check out the web site at; www.paysairservice.com.au/aircraft/warbirds

ANZAC DAY LUNCH

Veterans and supporters marched under the Spitfire Association banner and were fortunate to have good weather this year. The lunch following the march was held at the Boulevard Hotel with a good number of members and guests attending. The guest speaker was Air Commodore Guy Wilson, Deputy Air Commander for Australia, who gave an inspiring speech on how young men should take the challenge and just do something!



Life Vice President Lysle Roberts with a group at the luncheon

AVM (Retd) Mark Skidmore and Lysle Roberts followed with some interesting details of their varied flying careers. Following the lunch, MaryLou Carter's party took to the piano and entertained the group with some well-known WW 11 songs. More photos from the day can be seen on the Spitfire Association Facebook page at; www.facebook.com/SpitfireAU/

100 YEARS OF THE RAF

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the forming of the RAF, a special ceremony was held at the RAAF Memorial in Canberra on Thursday 22 March 2018 and this was attended by Spitfire Association veteran and members. An address was given by the Chief of the Air Force Air Marshal Leo Davies AO CSC. The ceremony was highlighted by a fly past of the Spitfire and Hudson bomber from the Temora Aviation Museum. Your Association played an important role assisting the RAF and RAAF put together the flying display with Temora and arranging for not one fly-past but two, with the second one including an excellent display by the Spitfire VIII." The RAAF will celebrate it's 100th birthday on 31 March 2021 and I am sure that the air force will mark the occasion with some very fitting ceremonies and displays.



Sir Stephen and Lady Hillier, President Geoff Zuber and veterans and members at the ceremony in Canberra.

JACK ANASTAS OAM

Congratulations to Jack Anastas on his award of the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday honours list 2018 for services to the welfare of veterans and to the community. Jack is a long time member of the Spitfire Association and served with 549 Squadron RAF in Darwin in 1944. It is quite remarkable that 75 years on Jack is still serving his country! The history of 549 Sqdn. RAF in North Australia is covered in a book 'Together Up There' Written by Victor Posse.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Members are reminded that membership renewals were due on 1 July and are presently \$25 per annum and can be paid as detailed at the end of this newsletter.

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.

FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION 2019

We are pleased that the Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, has again accepted our invitation and will present the 2019 Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship at Government House in Canberra Thursday 6 December 2018 The Fellowship last 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" and we are looking forward to the final report on his study towards the end of the year. A brief summary of the report will be published on the Association web site for the information of members.

WARBIRDS DOWNUNDER 2018

The major bi-annual airshow "Warbirds Downunder" hosted by the Temora Aviation Museum will be run on Friday and Saturday 12 and 13 October and promises, as usual, to be a premier event on the Australian airshow calendar with some great flying displays featuring many of our classic military aircraft Further information on the events can be obtained from the web at; www.warbirdsdnunderairshow.com.au

SURVIVING SPITFIRES

The question is often asked of how many Spitfires survive today from over 20,000 that were built during World War 2. It is difficult to get precise figures as complete rebuilds and restorations continue to emerge, however, worldwide there are over 50 flying Spitfires, another 71 on static display and over 100 examples either stored or undergoing restoration. The Wikipedia internet site on the list of surviving Spitfires provides information on the various examples and the countries where they are located. In Australia, there are two flying examples with five on static display and over twenty, either stored or undergoing restoration, mainly to static display standard. Long live the Spitfire!

The Spitfire Association

Australia

www.spitfireassociation.com.au

President – Geoff Zuber - geoff.zuber@icloud.com

Secretary – Andy Bannister - ar.bannister@gmail.com

Newsletter – Peter Radtke - peter.radtke@bigpond.com



Annual Subscription Details:

Annual membership July 2018 to June 2019
\$25.00

Please make cheques payable to :

The Spitfire Association

Post to:

Treasurer Spitfire Association

313 Old East Kurrajong Road

East Kurrajong

NSW 2758

Or make a direct deposit to:

The Spitfire Association

Westpac Brookvale

BSB 032 293

Account 86 0894

Please note your name in the details.

The Annual General Meeting will be held:

11.30 am on Wednesday 31st October
at Moss Vale Services Club
Cnr Argyle & Yarrawa Street
Moss Vale

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Australia
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