



THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

“Keeping the memory alive



EWSLETTER No 3 – Christmas 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Fellow members,
Christmas is upon us and for Karen and I that means an English one. For the son of an RAAF Spitfire pilot who's war was spent entirely in the European theatre, it's a very personal reminder of the values and lifestyle we enjoy thanks to the efforts of so many people in WW2, including our gallant Spitfire pilots.*

As we move into 2019 our Association stands at a fork in the road; we farewelled several members during the year including Joe Barrington and Lysle Roberts. Less than two handfuls of pilots and ground crew remain with us. My priority in 2019 will be to put in place the plan Lysle and I developed with the Committee to ensure our Association is given the best chance of continuing and importantly, maintaining the memory of the Spitfire and its crews through the Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship. Members will be briefed in 2019 once the new Committee has approved the final plan.

Welcome to the new Committee which is a mix of well known members and new blood. I must particularly thank the previous and incoming Committee in this Newsletter for their superb efforts on your behalf and for filling in during my extended stint in the UK. My wife Karen and I have been in England almost continuously since June and don't return home until February 2019.

Special thanks to Temora Aviation Museum for catering for a large contingent of our members as VIP's at the TAM Airshow and for making possible the Spitfire flypast at Lysle's funeral.

Finally, a big thanks to Peter Radtke for making this Christmas Newsletter possible.

From a wintery England, a Merry Christmas to everyone!

Geoff Zuber

President

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Mittagong RSL on 31 October and

President Geoff Zuber gave an overview of the events of the Association over the previous twelve months. Bob Peirce, the Treasurer, gave a detailed report on the positive financial situation of the Association and an update on the membership which now stands at 95 paid up members. Unfortunately, he also reported on a substantial number of deceased members during the year, which included our Life Vice-President Lysle Roberts. This is a reflection of the age of our World War II veterans and the passing of that era. President Geoff Zuber thanked the Committee for their work during the 2017/18 year and elections were held to elect the incoming Committee and those elected are as follows;

President -	Geoff Zuber
Vice President -	Peter Radtke
Secretary -	Chris Veitch
Treasurer -	Bob Peirce
Events -	Denise Hobson
Web Manager -	Phil Nichols

Details of the new Committee will be available on the Spitfire Association web site at ; <https://spitfireassociation.com.au>

Following the AGM, a casual lunch was held in the Mittagong RSL dining room which enabled members to interact and join in with the Committee.



Lysle in the cockpit of his Spitfire during World War II

VALE; JOSEPH LYSLE ROBERTS

It was with great sadness that we reported the passing of our lifetime Spitfire Association Vice President and World War II veteran Joseph Lysle Roberts who died on Monday 29th October. Lysle was married to Pam (deceased) for 69 years and they had three children, Warwick, Angus and Martin (Reg.) Lysle attended Knox Grammar School and became Captain of the school, Senior Cadet Under-Officer and captain of all major sports teams.

Lysle was offered a commission in the AIF, but refused as his desire was to fly Spitfires. After leaving school Lysle enlisted in the RAAF in Sydney on 2nd January 1943. Lysle served with 457 Sqn. And 2 Aircraft Depot (2AD) in Richmond, NSW and was discharged on 5th February 1946, then joining his family's jewellery business, Fairfax and Roberts.

Like each of us, Lysle had a love of this fine aeroplane, the Spitfire. Unlike any of us on recent committees, his perspective was as a former Spitfire pilot. He relied on the Spitfire to keep him safe against a determined enemy, whilst also using it's remarkable capabilities to make his enemies feel distinctly unsafe.

Lysle often talked about how he'd survived the second world war in large part to R.J. Mitchell's marvellous machine and a big helping hand from lady luck. He did not say much about his steely determination as the third essence in being able to see the war out, he didn't need to. His long life is a fine reflection of that determination, seen in few people and a great humanity to balance it.

Lysle served tirelessly on the Spitfire Association Committee for many decades, often as President and lead members on some great reunions to Darwin. His dedication to the Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship and the objectives set out by the founders is his visibly enduring contribution to the Spitfire, it's pilots and ground crews and to our Association. Many have contributed to the SMDF, however, Lysle's determination and humanity has seen it mature into the fellowship that we know today.

Lysle will be sadly missed but his legacy will live on. Lest we forget.

TEMORA WARBIRDS DOWNUNDER 2018

Temora Aviation Museum is to be congratulated on a superb 2 day show in October and as usual was a huge success.



Geoff Zuber with Canadian Spitfire Representative Mo Platz.

A group of Spitfire Association members, led by President Geoff Zuber attended the airshow as VIP guests of the Temora Museum and were treated to

great hospitality in addition to two days of spectacular flying displays. Special guest was Mo Platz, Spitfire Society Canada Rep, who was invited to attend by our Association.

Besides the flying aircraft from Temora there was an influx of other warbirds flown in from other parts of Australia and the RAAF participated with their Roulettes aerobatic team, an F-18 fighter and larger transport aircraft. This year the airshow was moved forward from the usual November to October to miss some of the searing heat experienced during previous years. For some great photos and videos of the airshow check out the Temora website at:

<https://aviationmuseum.com.au/>



CDF Gen. Angus Campbell congratulating Dr Elena Sitnikova

FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION 2019

The Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship presentation for 2019 was held at Government House in Canberra on Thursday 6th December 2018 and the award this year was presented to Dr Elena Sitnikova from the UNSW at ADFA for her research project, "A Cyber-Physical Approach to Improve Mission Assurance for Remotely-Operated Systems and Aircraft Payloads". Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, was unexpectedly called away to attend the funeral of President George Bush and the award was presented by the Chief of the Defence Force, General Angus Campbell. An introduction and background to the award was given by the Deputy Chief of the Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Gavin Turnbull. We are looking forward to the final report on Dr Sitnikova's study towards the end of next year.

FUTURE EVENTS

The February newsletter will give details of upcoming events and functions for 2019.

To all of our members and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

The Spitfire Association

Australia

www.spitfireassociation.com.au

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