



THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

“Keeping the memory alive”



NEWSLETTER No 4 – February 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow members,

As we begin a New Year our Association has lost another Spitfire pilot with the passing of Cmdr.(Ret'd) Arthur (Nat) Gould. Nat was one of Australia's most distinguished pilots with a long career in both the RAAF and Fleet Air Arm; "Lest we Forget"

With ANZAC Day coming up quickly Members will be given an overview of the forward planning for the Spitfire Association and the complex task of sustaining our future with a new purpose, which always remembers the contribution the men and women who built, flew and maintained this aircraft made.

It is my pleasure and privilege to announce our guest speaker at the ANZAC Day luncheon this year will be the Air Commander Australia (ACAUST) AVM Steve "Zed" Robertson DSC, AM.

Planning is also underway for tour to Europe to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Whilst in England I met with and confirmed several venues and speakers that will result in a very special tour. The details are being finalised, including Itinerary, formal functions and speakers, but you can expect to attend several airshows including Duxford and RIAT, plus venues such as Brooklands, Filton and the RAF Museum in Hendon. Further details shortly in a separate communication, but this will be an excellent tour with some guest speakers rarely available otherwise.

Karen and I are delighted to be home in Australia after nearly ten unexpected and unplanned months in England attending to family matters. Thanks must go to my committee members all and one for holding the fort, sometimes against the odds. Their faith in our Association and devotion to the task of maintaining its future is remarkable.

Warm regards,

Geoff Zuber

President

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VALE – CMDR (RET'D) ARTHUR "NAT" GOULD

It was with great sadness that we reported the passing of Commander "Nat" Gould on 18 January 2019 and members were notified by a special information bulletin from our President.

Nat's funeral was held in Sydney on 30th January and was attended by members of our Association along with senior representatives of the RAAF and RAN who spoke at the service.



Commander Nat Gould, fighter pilot.

Nat had an illustrious career with the RAAF and the RAN and after the war with Naval Intelligence and later as a Consultant with Hawker de Havilland. He also had a great rapport with the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY

One of our major events of the year, our ANZAC Day lunch will again be held at the Boulevard Hotel in Sydney following the ANZAC Day march. As mentioned by President Geoff Zuber, the guest speaker at the lunch will be the RAAF Air Commander Australia AVM Steve "Zed" Robertson DSC,AM

<https://www.airforce.gov.au/our-people/our-leaders/air-commander-australia>

Full details of the march and lunch times and cost will be sent to members closer to the date.

98th BIRTHDAY OF THE RAAF

This year marks the 98th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Air Force on 31 March 1921 and following the British Royal Air Force, it is the second oldest air force in the world.

To commemorate this milestone, The Air Force Association (NSW Division) will be holding a wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney on Friday 29 March at 11.00am. The guest speaker for this event will be the Air Commander Australia, AVM Steve "Zed" Robertson DSC, AM.

Our members are invited to attend and if so, reply to the event co-ordinator (Rev) Geoffrey Usher by Friday 1 March 2019 at admin@raafansw.org.au

COMING AIRSHOWS FOR 2019

Following the very successful "Warbirds Down Under" airshow at Temora last October, we are pleased to provide a list and contacts for the major airshows in our part of the world for 2019.

Australian International Airshow 2019

The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition is one of Asia-Pacific's most prestigious aviation and aerospace events and the most comprehensive aviation, aerospace and defence exposition in the southern hemisphere. It is being held at Avalon Airport, Geelong, between 26 February and 3 March 2019. Full details are available on the web site at:

<https://www.airshow.com.au/>



Based at Scone, the only Hawker Hurricane flying in Australia

Warbirds Over Scone March 2020

After a great airshow at Scone in 2018, the next "Warbirds Over Scone" will be held in March 2020 and details will be available closer to the time on their website at:

<https://www.warbirdsoverscone.com.au/>

It is interesting to note that, at the moment, there are two Spitfires being rebuilt by Vintage Fighter Restorations at Scone and we will provide updates on these restorations at a later date.

Hunter Valley Airshow April 2019

The Hunter Valley Airshow is billed as a great carnival event for the whole family with many varied events besides the flying displays. The two day event will be held at Cessnock Airport, Pokolbin, NSW, on Saturday and Sunday 6 and 7 April and further details can be obtained at:

<https://www.huntervalleyairshow.com.au/>

Omaka New Zealand April 2019

The "Classic Fighters Airshow" at Omaka in New Zealand is being held on Easter weekend 19 to 21

April 2019. This bi-annual airshow at Omaka NZ is held on alternate years between the "warbirds Over Wanaka" airshows in NZ and always provides a great display of World War 2 fighters in action. More details are provided at the following web site: www.classicfighters.co.nz/

Temora Flying Days

The Temora Aviation Museum is a great institution for maintaining our warbird heritage and besides the sensational bi-annual "Warbirds Downunder" airshow, it also showcases its aircraft with flying displays throughout the year. Titled "Aircraft Showcase" days, the following dates are applicable for 2019:

Saturday and Sunday 13 and 14 April

Saturday 8 June

Saturday 31 August

Saturday 28 September

Saturday and Sunday 13 and 13 October

Saturday 30 November.

The aircraft flying on those days are affected by operational and maintenance issues and detailed information can be obtained from the web site closer to the dates of the airshows at:

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

There are quite a few other minor aircraft show cases at various locations throughout the year and these are supported by individual associations.

THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION SHIELDS

For some years the Spitfire Association presented shields annually to the top flying Cadets of various RAAF Cadet Units.



W/C Jim Younger and Peter Radtke present the shield to Cadet F/S Essie Broadbent in Darwin some years ago.

The Association is interested in promoting these annual awards to foster the interest of young people in flying, particularly through the Royal Australian Air Force and dedicated to the memory of Spitfire pilots and ground crews of the Spitfire Association.

The Spitfire Association

Australia

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