



THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION

“Keeping the memory alive”

Patron; Air Vice-Marshal Mark Skidmore (Ret'd)



NEWSLETTER No 6 – October 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members,

Thanks again to Peter Radtke and your Committee for the time put into this newsletter with much to report since our last newsletter.

On ANZAC Day I announced the Lysle Roberts Memorial Luncheon series in honour of all our RAAF Spitfire pilots and Lysle in particular for his long and dedicated efforts on behalf of the Association and our Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowships. [On the 18th February 2020.](#)

We are privileged to have Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC as our inaugural speaker. These luncheons are part of growing our contribution to helping keep Australia relevant and competitive in an increasingly complicated world and the Spirit of the Spitfire Association, its pilots and this famous aircraft alive.

Future speakers, to be announced shortly, will include Ambassadors, experts in the Antarctic, Disaster Management and Leaders in aerospace and Defence.

Proof of the value our Memorial Fellowships was on display in Canberra during the week of 16th September where Ocious demonstrated their autonomous unmanned surface vessels on the lake and coincided with numerous meetings with senior leadership of Defence and Border Protection. The Spitfire Memorial Fellowship provided funding for the patented winch for deployment and retrieval of arrays. Well done to Robert Dane and all the Ocious team.

We are now close to announcing the tours for 2020 with a special information bulletin to members when this is finalised.

Warm regards,

Geoff Zuber

President

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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;

Ron Cundy

22 July 2019

Ron Cundy DFC, DFM, MID was a long-time member and supporter of the Spitfire Association and had a distinguished service career with the RAAF in England, North Africa and the Top End of Australia. His funeral was held in Sydney on Monday 5th August and attended by family, friends and members of the Spitfire Association. Ron's local RSL organised an RAAF flypast at the funeral to honour Ron and his wartime exploits.

Ron published a book in 2001 titled "A Gremlin on My Shoulder" which gives an excellent narrative of his wartime exploits, first with 260 Squadron RAF in North Africa and then with 452 Squadron RAAF in Darwin. His flying earned him the title of "Ace" after shooting down 5 enemy aircraft while serving in North Africa and he was awarded the DFC and DFM medals which are now with the War Memorial in Canberra. It is with much respect that we honour the passing of one of our great veteran members.

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW SMDF PATRON

Chief of the Airforce and long-standing supporter of our Spitfire Association, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld AO DSC has been appointed as our current Patron and we welcome him with thanks.



AM Mel Hupfeld at the transfer of leadership parade in July

We would also like to sincerely thank our past patron, ACM Mark Binskin who has and continues to be strongly engaged in our activities. The handover conversation with Chief of Defence, ACM Binskin and AM Hupfeld recognised the heavy workload our Defence leadership carry in today's complex world and the importance of having a SMDF Patron who can devote time to our endeavours.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Spitfire Association is to be held in Sydney on Wednesday 30th October starting at 2.00pm. The location of the meeting is The ANZAC Room, The York Club (formerly the Bowler's Club) 95-99 York Street, Sydney CBD. Refreshments will be held following the meeting for a little social interaction between the members. All members are urged to attend this very important meeting where our president will outline some of the important events and issues relating to the Association. It is important that we have a strong committee and you are urged to nominate for a position to assist in the successful running of our Association.

LYSLE ROBERTS MEMORIAL LUNCHEON

The revised date for the inaugural Lysle Roberts Memorial Luncheon in Sydney has been set for the 18th February 2020 and an information Bulletin, containing detailed information about the event will be sent to all members in due course.

SPITFIRE MEMORIAL DEFENCE FELLOWSHIP

The Governor-General, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) has approved the presentation of the 2020 award at Government House in Canberra and this will take place on Monday the 9th December 2019. This prestigious award was inaugurated in 1998 and continues to provide valuable research into issues relating to the defence of Australia. The Fellowship is managed by the University of New South Wales at The Australian Defence Force Academy and applications for the 2020 award will be called for in the near future and the submitted applications will be assessed towards the end of November. The criteria for selection can be viewed on the University of New South Wales web site at; www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/spitfire-apply

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF SMDF RESEARCH

Dr Elena Sitnikova was awarded the Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship for 2019 and she had reported recently on the progress of her research. The title of her research project was "A Cyber-Physical Approach to Improve Mission Assurance for Remotely-Operated Aerial Systems and Aircraft Payloads" or to put it more simply, systems to protect aerial drones from cyber attacks.

Dr Sitnikova has advised us that the project has progressed towards assigned milestones; 1) the configuration of testbed, including UAVs and network elements, is completed; and 2) normal and attack scenarios have been designed and will be completed at the end of September. The last milestone of modelling and discovering intrusion events will be completed in the coming two months. The full report will be ready for submission in December 2019.

SPITFIRE GLOBAL TOURS 2020

As mentioned in the President's Message the arrangements for 2020 European battlefield tours are close to being completed and details will be provided in a special Information Bulletin when this is finalised.

THE SILVER SPITFIRE

The Silver Spitfire has been much in the news lately as it proceeds on the first around the world flight by a Spitfire. It is presently at around the halfway point, unfortunately though, it will not be coming to Australia, but flying through Asia and Europe. The Silver Spitfire is a Mk IX, MJ271 and was built in 1944 with a WW II combat record with 118, 132 and 401 Squadrons RAF.

The flight is sponsored by IWC, a Swiss watch company who specialise in pilot's watches and the Spitfire looks magnificent in its polished bare metal finish. Full details of the Spitfire and its epic flight can be found on the web site at; www.silverspitfire.com



The magnificent Silver Spitfire Mk IX – MJ271

As a matter of interest, Group Captain Clive Caldwell, Australia's leading fighter ace in WW II, had one of his Spitfires in Darwin in 1943 stripped of all camouflage paint and the aluminium surfaces polished, which gave him a significant increase in top speed and a great advantage in combat against the nimble Japanese fighters.

The Spitfire Association

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