



# THE SPITFIRE ASSOCIATION

*“Keeping the memory alive”*

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



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## NEWSLETTER No 7 – CHRISTMAS 2019

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Fellow Members,*

*After the AGM it remains my privilege and pleasure to continue as President and welcome the new committee. Peter Radtke (VP), Bob Peirce (Treasurer), Chris Veitch (Secretary) are returned to their positions as are Phil Nickols and Denise Hobson. We decided to expand the Committee to reflect increased workloads this year. Adam Lunney was elected as Association Historian and also elected are Imogen Wareing, Leon Waxman and Dr Harvey Marchant who will take on responsibility for activity around the SMDF. Welcome to the new Committee and a big thanks to last years hard working Committee members.*

*Many of you will not know Harvey Marchant and wonder why I've asked him to look after the SMDF activity. Harvey is one of our country's most experienced academics rising to be Professor Harvey Marchant, Head of Australia's Antarctic Biology Program, a recipient of many ARC grants and several international granting agencies. Most importantly he was on evaluation panels for many grants so knows how the system works and brings an experience we've not had on the Spitfire Association Committee.*

*The Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowships continue to have a positive impact with this year seeing Dr Nour Moustafa continue the theme of Cyber Warfare started by colleague Dr Elena Sitnikova last year. We also see Ocius CEO and SMDF Dr Robert Dane continuing to make strong progress in Defence capability considerations. This leads me to an important consideration and a call to members; we cannot continue to grow the funds and therefore contributions we make in support of our Defence Force without additional donations. Every dollar you donate helps. Please do think about making a contribution, coming to a luncheon or going on one of our tours as all profits go towards our ability to assist.*

*All my best wishes to members and your loved ones. I look forward to catching up in 2020.*

**Geoff Zuber**

*President*

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### GOVERNMENT HOUSE PRESENTATION

The Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship for 2020 was held at Government House in Canberra on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December and the award was presented to Dr Nour Moustafa from the UNSW at ADFA by His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AO DSC. Dr Moustafa in his first

fellowship followed on from last years SMDF awardee, Dr Elena Sitnikova with a continuation of the topic theme being “Cyber detection and countermeasures” with this year adding self-repairing and inclusion of the Internet-of-Things (IoT).

Dr Harvey Marchant managed the process this year for the first time and applied his knowledge and expertise as one of our nation's leading academics. It was also the first year for the new Deputy Rector Professor Harvinder Sidhu and his first selection panel for the SMDF.



*His Excellency and President Geoff Zuber presenting the award to Dr Nour Moustafa*

The presentation was attended by our newly appointed SMDF Patron AM Mel Hupfeld AO DSC and also the patron of the Spitfire Association AVM Mark Skidmore AM (Ret'd). Other guests included previous award winners, Robert Dane and Dr Elena Sitnikova.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Spitfire Association was held in Sydney on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October with the attendance of 12 members. The election of office bearers resulted in Geoff Zuber being re-elected as President and he gave a detailed report on the initiatives being taken by the Association. An Information Bulletin (No. 5) was issued to all members on 7<sup>th</sup> November, giving the full list of elected Committee members and these details are also available on the Spitfire Association web site at: [www.spitfireassociation.com](http://www.spitfireassociation.com)

**BATTLEFIELD TOURS – MAY 2020** Our Historian, Adam Lunney has completed the arrangements for the 2020 Battlefield Tours and a flyer was issued with Information Bulletin No. 9 in

November. Copies can be obtained from the Spitfire Association web site under Programs, Global Travel and this gives the full itinerary and details, including costings for the tours.

The “Dambuster’s Tour” and the “Normandy Tour” are to be run consecutively and are not just for members but also for friends and relatives, including the general public. They will provide a great insight into some of the most important events of World War II and will be personally escorted by the President of the Spitfire Association, Geoff Zuber and the Association’s Historian, Adam Lunney.



Govt House 2019 – Representatives from the UNSW, the Spitfire Association, our Patrons and the SMDF awardees.

### LYSLE ROBERTS MEMORIAL LUNCHEON

The revised date for the inaugural Lysle Roberts Memorial Luncheon in Sydney has been set for the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and details of the luncheon will be provided to all members in the New Year. The guest speaker at the luncheon will be the recently retired Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin (Ret’d) and former Patron of the Spitfire Memorial Defence Fellowship.

### THE NEW WEB SITE

Our Website Manager, Phil Nickols continues to develop this new modern site which continues to have new and updated information added, however, the old website is also still on line for the near future. The website is easy to navigate, however, if you have any ideas or extra material that you think should be included please get in touch with Phil at; [emailwedgy@gmail.com](mailto:emailwedgy@gmail.com) I am sure that he would be happy to hear from you

### 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 completion 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.

The increasing prevalence of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in the military and civilian sectors has been accompanied by an increase in sophisticated malicious activities.

This project has helped to design and validate the principle of discovering zero-day attacks against UAV networks allowing the safety of UAVs against cyber threats.

### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The adventurous flight around the world by the Silver Spitfire G-IRTY was completed on 6<sup>th</sup> December when it landed at its home base at Goodwood in England after its epic flight around the world covering some 43,000 kilometres in 4 months and was accompanied by a PC-12 support aircraft.

The flight was wholly within the Northern Hemisphere and consisted of 74 stops on the way through some exotic locations such as Russia etc.

The flight was sponsored by IWC, a Swiss watch company who specialise in pilot’s watches and the Spitfire performed faultlessly during its marathon flight. Full details of the Spitfire and its epic flight can be found on the web site at; [www.silverspitfire.com](http://www.silverspitfire.com)



The magnificent Silver Spitfire Mk IX – MJ271

While talking of aviation milestones it should be mentioned that the 10<sup>th</sup> December marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vickers Vimy, piloted by Sir Ross and Keith Smith landing in Darwin to complete the flight from the UK to win the “Great Air Race”. It has been compared to being as adventurous as the moon landing in later years. A major ceremony was held in Darwin to mark this historic event.

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

***The Spitfire Association***

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

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