



# 75SQN ASSOCIATION



Mirage III). A photo of this historic formation is enclosed at the end of this Newsletter.

What an amazing couple of months for the 75 SQN Association! An Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the RAAF Wagga Wagga Officers Mess on the evening of the 18 Nov 11 and attended by 33 members who voted on the future construct of our organisation (more to follow later). This was then followed a thoroughly enjoyable Dining-In that evening where the SQN Colours were paraded. In all 64 association and serving members attended, and the effort was well rewarded with an evening that shall be remembered for a very long time.

The Dining In was also significant in that it was publically announced that His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce AM AE has accepted the position as Patron to the 75SQN Association. Excerpts from his letter of acceptance are included at right.

The Association AGM and Dining In night was then followed by our participation in the inaugural Warbirds Down Under Airshow hosted by the Temora Aviation Museum on Sat 19 Nov 11.

The support from the organisers of this event was outstanding with a collection of aircraft flown by the unit put on display for members to reacquaint themselves with. Highlights were definitely the many solo flying displays, and the formation flypast of a Kittyhawk, Mustang, Meteor, Sabre and Hornet (the only aircraft missing were the Vampire and

"I am, like many Australians, eternally grateful for the brave resistance that 75 Squadron Kittyhawks put up against the Japanese, and equally proud of the role that 75 Squadron plays at Tindal, safeguarding our skies.

The unique history of the Squadron makes it a symbol of the story of the RAAF, and its actions and deeds are legendary in Australia's wartime diary. Thus, its history must be preserved and explained to today's population.

This is why it is my goal to further the work already begun with the "44 Days" documentary by Geoffrey Robertson.

Perhaps in 2012 every boy and girl would have access to a poster of 70 years of 75 Squadron for their bedroom walls. In any event, I will do my best to assist in the recognition of 75 Squadron as the greatest Squadron in RAAF history (objections in writing please).

I am honoured to be made Patron of the 75 Squadron Association, and thank Air Commodore Mel Hupfeld DSG for his kind invitation."

## **Excerpts from Letter of Acceptance as Patron to the 75SQN Association by His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce AM AE**

Most significantly however was the great publicity provided by the organisers of the Airshow in announcing 75SQNs 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and our role in the Battle for Australia.



Before I go into more detail about next years activities, I'd firstly like to cover the outcomes from the AGM of 18 Nov. A question and answer session was held regarding the preferred way forward for the association. Currently the 75SQN Association is an unincorporated association which imposes limitations on what we are able to do regarding the management and raising of public monies (ie we can't legally fundraise or hold an association bank account). Being unincorporated also leaves us exposed to liability and litigation claims unless we purchase insurance to cover specific activities; this is costly! As was outlined in the last Newsletter, three options were considered:

Option 1: To become a branch of the RAAF Association NSW Division (there is no Northern Territory Division);

Option 2: To become an independently incorporated association; or

Option 3: To remain as an unincorporated (informal) organisation.

Following the discussion a vote was cast where Option 2 was identified as the preferred way forward. Furthermore it was agreed to incorporate the association within the Northern Territory due to the location of the SQN at RAAF Tindal (and the central management role the unit will play).

The meeting then went one step further in identifying the office-bearers of the Association being:

- President,
- Vice President,
- Secretary,
- Treasurer,
- Squadron Liaison Officer/Public Officer, and
- Commanding Officer 75SQN.



**75SQN Association Members taking a closer look at Allen Arthur's P-40 Kittyhawk – War Birds Down Under 2011**



To help in getting things rolling, an initial request for nominations was extended whereby Ms Patricia Jackson has been nominated for Vice President, and Mr Peter Nelms for Secretary. I (as with my successors) will automatically be assigned to the committee as CO of 75SQN.

The position of Squadron Liaison Officer/Public Officer is an appointment from within 75SQN, however the remaining positions are available to members of the association.

This newsletter is our formal request for further nominations for all committee positions by any persons interested (other than CO 75SQN!). The future of our association is dependent on the input of its members. If you have some spare time, I'd strongly encourage you to consider nominating for a committee position (even those already nominated against). If you wish to nominate it is requested that you do so via e-mail to the Secretary (elect) Mr Peter Nelms at [peter.nelms@defence.gov.au](mailto:peter.nelms@defence.gov.au). The window for nominations will close with effect 31 Jan 12. Nominations will be distributed for election in Feb 12 via e-mail.

Secondly, in order to achieve Option 2, a Constitution must be ratified within the NT outlining the association rules. Once ratified the association is officially 'incorporated' and our constitutional guidance will take effect (more on what that means in the next newsletter). Importantly however is the need for your input into the constitution as once ratified it is very difficult to change. The draft constitution has been attached to this e-mail and it is requested that you review it and pass any suggested amendments or concerns to the Secretary (elect) Mr Peter Nelms at [PeterNelms@hotmail.com](mailto:PeterNelms@hotmail.com). The cut-off for review of the constitution is the 31 Dec 11.

What does all this mean? Once our association is incorporated, we will have an enduring organisational framework that will be governed by an elected committee. Importantly, by being incorporated we will have a means to legally manage funds and the necessary liability cover to

organise next year's commemorative events. In doing this we are assuring our future.

Minutes from the AGM are being finalised and will be available on request.

Regarding next year's activities, here is a quick update on plans for commemorating our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since formation, and the Battle for Australia.

The first is a combined 70 Series SQNs commemoration at RAAF Williamtown planned for 16 Mar 2012. Unfortunately 75SQN will be deployed to Exercise Red Flag in the USA when this is on preventing current serving members from attending. That said, the invitation is definitely open to members of the Association and a contingent will be organised by the Vice President (elect) Ms Patricia Jackson. In the absence of 75SQN, 76SQN have offered to host members of the 75SQN Association wishing to attend. The day is likely to include a combined SQNs parade (involving 75, 76, 77, and 79 SQNs) with separate dinners that evening. If you wish to attend it is requested that you register your interest with Patricia via e-mail at [patricia.jackson36@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.jackson36@gmail.com).

The second event is yet to be approved however plans are underway to host a visit to sites of significance within PNG in early Sep 2012 to align with the Battle for Australia commemorations and involvement of 75, 76 and 6SQN in the Japanese defeat at Milne Bay. If all goes to plan, this event will be incorporated into broader Department of Veteran's Affairs plans for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Australia. As a quick overview, the visit is likely to last five days and start with a 75SQN commemoration at Port Moresby, then a combined 75, 76 and 6SQN commemorative service at Milne Bay. More information will be provided early next year on how this event will take place once the necessary approvals have been gained. In preparation however, I'd recommend anyone wishing to attend has an in-date passport, and that you save the dates around the end of Aug, start of Sep 2012.



Finally, to assist with raising some funds for a piece of artwork to commemorate next year's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries, Mr John Rayner of Aviation Art has generously offered to contribute a significant portion of each sale of the limited edition Robert Taylor print, 'Milne Bay – The Turning Point'. Attached is an electronic brochure of this print outlining the subject of the art work and its historical significance, each signed by pilots involved in the conflict (FLTLT Arthur Tucker having since passed away). There are a number of versions available for sale, each with differing numbers of signatures. If anyone is looking for a unique Christmas present for your family or friends, I'd encourage to you consider this

print as a potential present. Money raised from these sales will directly contribute to fund the Association.

An order form is attached to the electronic brochure, or alternatively please contact SGT Tony Warren directly by either ringing 08 8973 7516, or e-mailing [tony.warren@defence.gov.au](mailto:tony.warren@defence.gov.au).

If you have any items that you wish to appear in future Newsletters, again please forward articles to FLTLT Gary Smith at [gary.smith8@defence.gov.au](mailto:gary.smith8@defence.gov.au).

Until next time

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CO 75SQN – 75SQN Association President (elect)



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### Historic Formation Flypast of 75SQN Aircraft – War Birds Down Under 2011

#### Save the Date:

16 March 12: 70 Series SQN Commemorations at RAAF Williamtown

Aug/Sep 12: Proposed 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative visit to PNG (combined 75, 76 and 6SQNs)

