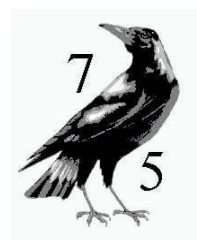




75 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



Patron: Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld, DSC

President:	Bill Evans	0410 554 367
Vice President:	Ms Patricia Jackson	0409 897 707
Secretary:	SQNLDR Peter Nelms (Retd)	0468 456 760
Treasurer:	LACW Monica Biegelke	(08) 8973 7515
Commanding Officer:	WGCDR Pete Mitchell	(08) 8973 7500
SQN Liaison Officer:	FLTTL Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502
Public Officer:	FLTTL Iain Taylor	(08) 8973 7502

NEWSLETTER No 2/14 – December 2014

President's Report

The Townsville get-together with the squadron at Townsville was a great success. For most of us, Townsville is as remote as Tindal, so we had to rely on our Tindal based committee members for most of the organisation. I'll let our Vice-President, Patricia Jackson, report on the event in detail after this.

At the end of the Newsletter are the Minutes of the committee meeting held while we were all together at Townsville – a rare event due to physical separation. Of interest in the Minutes, compiled by our Secretary, Peter Nelms, is a proposal from Richard Deane-Butcher for the Association to sponsor a community award to a deserving individual in the Tindal/Katherine area. This is a worthy idea which we'll take forward.

The next major commitment for the Association is Anzac Day 2015, the centenary of that nation defining event. We're on track to have our new Association banner ready to march behind in Sydney. As you'll notice in the Committee Minutes, I've floated the idea of a P40 Kittyhawk flying down George Street as we approach the media centre. Yes it's ambitious, but possible, and I'll be liaising with the Fighter Squadrons Branch as many other squadrons are involved.

Pete Mitchell, CO 75 Sqn, has indicated he wants to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Ross Fox's passing on the 2nd of August next year with an activity day at Tindal. Although not primarily an Association event, I'm nevertheless hoping that the Association is well represented. August is an ideal time for a holiday in the NT.

An Association membership application is enclosed at the end of the Newsletter.

Finally, the Christmas season is almost upon us. By all means relax and unwind, but also pause and reflect on the underlying meaning.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Bill Evans
President

Vice-President's Report of Event with 75 Squadron held in Townsville 24-25 October, 2014

Those who attended were: Bill Evans, Pete Mitchell, Patricia Jackson, Peter Nelms, Monica Biegalka, Iain Taylor (all members of the Committee, in photo below), as well as Robin & Richard Deane-Butcher, John Jackson, Joe McGrath, Michael Rumble, Brian Weston, Tex and Leanne Polzin, Terry and Karen Brown, Michael and Gillian Krink.



75 Squadron Association Committee 2014-15

L to R: Pete Mitchell (CO), Bill Evans (President), Peter Nelms (Secretary), Iain Taylor (Sqn Liaison Officer), Monica Biegalka (Treasurer), Patricia Jackson (Vice President)

Apart from the Squadron personnel and those people who live in Townsville, everyone else stayed at the Holiday Inn (the "sugar shaker") – a good spot as it was in the middle of the city, close to shops and restaurants. Those of us who flew in from various places down south were met at the Airport by either Jazmine or Monica, from 75 Squadron.

Our first group meeting was at 5.30 pm on Friday, 24 October in the bar of the Holiday Inn for pre-dinner drinks and a chance to introduce ourselves. The CO Pete Mitchell (Mav), Mark Kleeman (the Chaplain), Iain Taylor and Monica Biegalka also attended. Bill Evans welcomed the group.

At 6.30 pm we walked a short distance to The Capitol Chinese Restaurant for dinner. There were 19 of us around one huge table. This was an informal dinner – no speeches - just eating (the food was excellent) and drinking, together with serious talking and much laughter.

On Saturday at 10 am we were taken by car to the Garbutt Air Base. There we were joined by about one hundred 75 Squadron personnel at the Plaque that had been laid in 1998, in honour of the founding of 75 Squadron in Townsville on 4 March 1942 and those who lost their lives fighting the Japanese invaders.



Bill Evans speaking at the tribute



The CO & Patricia Jackson laying wreaths

The 75 Squadron XO conducted the proceedings. Our President, Bill Evans, made a speech as did the CO, Pete Mitchell, and Chaplain Mark Kleeman conducted the prayers. Patricia Jackson and Pete Mitchell stepped forward to lay wreaths, and Richard Deane-Butcher played The Last Post and the Rouse on the bugle he had brought with him. It was an opportunity to reflect on those times when Australia was in danger and 75 Squadron came to its defence; and the price that was paid.



Following the service we visited the very interesting Museum on the base which is manned entirely by volunteers and had been opened specially for us. The museum covered all Air Force activities at the base since its formation, with a special exhibit on 75 Squadron.

We were then invited to a light lunch at the Officers' Mess. Patricia sat at a table with about fifteen young men, some of them pilots. Her father was a bit older (33) when he took over the Squadron in 1942. He was colour blind and a bit deaf – and definitely would not have passed the rigorous tests these days!



Lunch at the Officers' Mess

After lunch there was a screening of the ABC documentary “44 Days”, presented by Geoffrey Robertson on screen. It’s an account of those dark days in early 1942 when 75 Squadron was fighting the Japanese over the skies of Port Moresby. We were told that the pilots watching were very moved by what happened all those years ago.

Our next stop was getting up close and personal with the Hornets. We were taken in cars out onto the tarmac and close to where the Hornets were parked under shelters. We wandered around listening to various members of 75 Squadron explaining how they “worked”. We had our photos taken in front of the aircraft, we signed a bomb and some of us longed to be able to climb up into the cockpit. We were then taken to see the Hornet that had been specially inscribed with John F. Jackson’s name and details for the 70th Anniversary of the founding of 75 Squadron. It was all very interesting.



Hornet inscribed with John F. Jackson’s details for the 70th Anniversary (2012) of the founding of the Squadron

Just had time to get back to the hotel and change before meeting for drinks again at the Holiday Inn bar. We then walked to the Townsville Yacht Club for dinner. Townsville is a very attractive city. We had an even larger crowd for dinner this time with a mixture of 75 Squadron personnel and the rest of the Association members. We all knew each other quite well by this time so a great time was had by all. Bill made a welcoming speech and thanked the Tindal based personnel for their tireless efforts.



Mav with Patricia Jackson



Mav with Brian Weston

It was a wonderful few days. We were very proud to be part of this historic Squadron and to meet the fine people who currently serve in it. We were looked after so well – with efficiency, great kindness and good humour. Thank you, Mav and your people. We hope to see some of you again on Anzac Day 2015 in Sydney – with our new Banner.



75 Squadron Association members in Townsville Oct 2014

Patricia Jackson
Vice-President & Editor

CO's Report

2014 has been another big year for the Magpies. From exercising in Guam with Japanese and US Forces, to the massive multi-national Pitch Black exercise and then Townsville the unit has performed exceptionally well. The busy program is only just starting to wind back a little after completing a week of Air to Air Gunnery – another great effort by all our maintenance and support crews, especially the Armament Section with a faultless performance. It highlights how far the unit has come over the past 18 months and our performance as a cohesive squadron is recognised at the highest levels of Air Force.

The 75 SQN Association event in Townsville was also a key highlight socially in 2014 which indicates that the relationship between the squadron and association is maturing well. The efforts by FLTLT Iain Taylor, CPL Adrian Moore and LACWs Monica Biegalke and Jazmin Ohl were particularly noteworthy.

As mentioned in the Presidents' report 2015 has a number of key anniversaries of note, namely the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli and the 25th anniversary of WGCDR Ross Fox's accident. Early plans are in place to mark these two events appropriately and more information will come out in the New Year.

As we wind up 2014 I would like thank all 75SQN members for their outstanding behaviour and support this year and wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the well earned break and take the time to spend it with your family and friends. Stay safe and I look forward to the challenge of making 2015 bigger and better.

Mav
CO 75SQN

Minutes of Committee Meeting
held on Saturday, 25 October 2014
at the Officers Mess, RAAF Base Townsville

Present : Bill Evans (President), Ms Patricia Jackson (Vice-President), Peter Nelms (Secretary), Monica Beigalke (Treasurer), WGCDR Peter Mitchell (CO, 75 Squadron), FLTLT Iain Taylor (Public Officer), Richard Deane-Butcher (Observer)

Opening:

The President opened the meeting at 1540 hrs and expressed delight that this was the first face-to-face meeting with all the committee present.

AGM Minutes:

The status of the Minutes of the AGM held in Sydney on 18 July was discussed. The Secretary advised that he had added to the draft minutes initiated by the Vice President and then passed them on to the Treasurer and Public Officer.

The Public Officer is to finalise the Minutes, from the tape recording of the meeting that he has, and submit the annual return to the NT Govt. Refer:

<http://www.dob.nt.gov.au/gambling-licensing/business/incorporated-associations/Pages/default.aspx>

Administrative arrangements between Assn and Sqn:

The President highlighted the fact that the Association is willing to take a lot of the administrative burden away from the Squadron and that, in these days of cloud computing and database sharing, there should be a solution to the issue of committee members being geographically dispersed.

The Secretary said that one of the main issues is that the Squadron needs to gather the data into a format that can be handed over. The Public Officer said that the Squadron is still finding Association material and is soon hoping to be able to hand it over. As an example, at present there is no complete list of financial members and the Treasurer has been working with the Secretary to establish such a listing.

Another issue is that of an email listing. Previously emails have been sent out from the Squadron and if the Association is to take over this role then a listing of email addresses will need to be provided. The Treasurer added that there are a lot of mistakes with the present list and she has been monitoring 'bounce-backs'.

Newsletters:

The President stated that he would like to introduce regular Newsletters; say in March and October each year. There was general agreement to this proposal. The Vice President will be the Newsletter editor and will coordinate input.

Association Banner:

As discussed at the AGM in July, the Squadron is designing and manufacturing a new banner to better depict the Squadron's history (eg expand on the aircraft types that the squadron has operated). The CO stated that this issue was on track for the new banner to be used next Anzac Day.

Anzac Day 2015:

As next Anzac Day will be the centenary of Gallipoli extra effort will be required to make the occasion memorable. The President advised that he would like to propose a P40 flypast over the parade (in Sydney) but envisaged there would be other flypasts. The President will speak with the Secretary of the Fighter Squadrons Branch and determine the way ahead.

Merchandise:

Further to the discussion at the AGM, the possibility of obtaining and selling Association merchandise (eg ties, name tags, cuff links, etc) was discussed; including whether the joining fee could cover the cost of, say, a tie or a name tag. This issue is to be explored further.

Future functions/activities:

The difficulties of arranging functions where the Squadron and the Association can get together, with the Squadron being based at Tindal, were discussed. The best opportunities, to gain maximum attendance from Association members, is to arrange a function when the Squadron is deployed to the East coast (eg Williamtown).

The CO said that he intends arranging a function at Tindal on 2nd August next year to recognise the 25th anniversary of Ross Fox's accident and the Association is welcome to be part of the occasion.

The President asked that the Squadron keep in mind if they are tasked with an East coast deployment the possibility of a joint function.

Bank Accounts:

The Treasurer suggested that the Association account with Defence Bank could be easier managed if there were separate sub-accounts were established for such things as membership fees and functions. The Public Officer also stated that an Association cheque book was recently found at the Squadron. The Treasurer further suggested that, in these days of electronic transfers and telephone banking, a debit card would be more useful than a cheque book.

The Committee agreed that the Treasurer visit Defence Bank and organise the account to include sub-accounts and a debit card.

Other Business:

Richard Deane-Butcher raised the idea of having an Association award to recognise a significant contribution to the greater Squadron community. The CO suggested the award could be along the lines of the Ross Fox Memorial Trophy but eligibility could be broadened to include, for example, the dependents of Squadron members. Richard undertook to develop a proposal for future committee deliberation.

Closure: The meeting closed at 1625 hrs.

