



## **458 Squadron Association**

### **Victoria Flight**

c/o Jeremy Orchard  
Secretary/Treasurer  
8/345 Moreland Road,  
Coburg, Vic 3058

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## **THE MINUTES OF OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE JARDIN TAN CAFÉ ON APRIL 25, 2023**

You couldn't ask for a better day, 10 of us marched to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Earlier some of us attended the 6 am Dawn Service. One of the many highlights was again having Squadron Leader Matthew Wuillemmin, grandson of 458 Veteran: Warrant Officer Mervyn Lee leading our march. It was also fitting that 460 SQN was marching behind us as they were formed out of 458 SQN. Within the hour after completing our march, Victoria Flight President, Roland Orchard opened the meeting and called for a minute's silence in remembrance of recently passed Veterans, widows & members of 458 Squadron. He then recited the ode. Lest we Forget.

The meeting was called to discuss the coming year's focus and activities and to conduct the 2023 AGM. The meeting place was the same as 2022, just across the road (Birdwood Ave) from the Shrine. In attendance were Matthew Wuillemmin, John Boydell, Gill & Joe Somers and their granddaughter Hazel, Neil Flentje, Roland Orchard, Chris Orchard, Jeremy Orchard, friends John Marino & son, Thomas. Apologies were received from Howard & Sally Bertram, Sue & Peter Jackson, Chris & Heather Wurr.

Those who marched were: Matthew Wuillemmin, Neil Flentje, John Boydell, Roland Orchard, Chris Orchard, Jeremy Orchard, our sisters Pene and Edwina, John Marino & son, Thomas. This year we had 5 Air Force Cadets displaying the picture of the Wellington and carrying our Banner; Nate CCPL and Jack CCPL of 417 SQN, Tyler LCDT of 416 SQN and Thomas LCDT and Archie CCPL of 408 SQN.

### **Office Bearers 2023/2024**

Roland advised that all positions were vacant and called for nominations:

President: Roland Orchard nominated by John B, seconded by John M. Carried. Re-elected  
Senior VP: Christopher Orchard nominated by John M, seconded by Matt. Carried. Re-elected  
Junior VP: Neil Flentje nominated by Rol, seconded John M. Carried. Re-elected  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jeremy Orchard nominated by Neil, seconded by John B. Carried. Re-elected

Historian: Peter Hedgcock accepted to continue on in the office (post meeting)



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## **458 Squadron President's Report**

### **The ode**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

### **Lest We Forget.**

Please join me in a minute silence for those who gave their lives in service to this great country of ours.

Since our last AGM in 2022, we were saddened to hear of the passing of our Veteran widows, Pat Lyndon, Horatia Mary (Roush) Hargraves and Audrey Christianson. Our sympathies go out to each of their families.

Thanks to all who were able to attend today. I received apologies from Sue & Peter Jackson, Howard & Sally Bertram and Chris & Heather Wurr. Our thoughts are with Peter and Sue as they are both no longer able to attend ANZAC Day marches due to Peter suffering from serious illnesses. Howard's knee is still not so good and will be visiting a Specialist shortly. Hopefully this will fix his knee issue and maybe see them next year. Chris and Heather will be venturing around Kangaroo Island and as Chris said, he will be attending the ANZAC Day Service on the island.

Its great to hear from our Co Presidents Charles Humbles and Bill Wake via our UK Correspondent, Keith Wilkinson. Both are well albeit the aches and pains associated with both being over 100. Charles recently had an operation changing the battery in his pacemaker. As Charles said, it was a freezing early morning start but was home in time for tea. Charles and Joyce recently celebrated their 82<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary. Joyce being 103 and slightly older than Charles refers to him as her 'toy boy'. Bill still lives by himself going out shopping and meeting friends, weather permitting. As Bill said, "Not bad for a former rear gunner!"

A special mention to our three new 458 Squadron Newsletter correspondents Adam & Cate Wagstaffe from Vancouver, Canada and Brett Taylor from Brisbane, Queensland. Both recently submitting excellent reports for all to read. Jeremy, Chris and I recently met up with Brett and his wife Denise when he was in Melbourne. Brett's dad G.E. (Bill) Taylor took over as 'A' Flight Commander from our dad, Gordon, so it was nice to meet Brett and exchange some stories about our respective fathers.

A recent suggestion from NSW Flight was put to us to host the next 458 Squadron Reunion in our glorious state. The proposal is to hold a 458 Squadron Reunion in Geelong Victoria, the main event being the International Airshow at Avalon in late March 2025. The



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2025 Airshow at Avalon is still some 23 months away however due to the amount of interstate and overseas visitors this event attracts this time factor is favourable to book accommodation etc. I believe this is the best time to advertise this Reunion to all members and begin planning asap. Planning is very much in its infancy so I would therefore like to call for volunteers to form a 458 Reunion Committee to help set up a 2025 Reunion. I know everyone is very busy these days and some of us are still working full time however I believe we can achieve this and show our interstate and overseas counterparts that Victoria can put on a memorable reunion as did our 458 Veterans in the past. NSW Flight hosted an excellent reunion at Williamstown last year so we have big shoes to fill. Those who can spare some time please see me after the meeting.

I would like to pass on my thanks to our generous donors over the past year. These donations are extremely helpful in funding our running costs. Our Treasurer will have a full report on this and other financial matters pertaining to the 458 Squadron Association in the last 12 months.

Last but by no means least, thanks to the support from our Victoria Flight Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Orchard, VPs Chris Orchard and Neil Flentje and 458 Historian Peter Hedgcock for their tireless devotion and ongoing works in keeping things afloat, project works and memorabilia sales which help with the financial running of things here in Victoria. Thank you on behalf of all 458 Squadron members.

### Senior Vice-President's Report:

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old"*

Another year passes by and "The Ode" rings true even more for those of us past our Spring and Summer, and into the Autumnal period of our lives:

We have been blessed with another brilliant day of sunshine. One to be savoured, as inevitably there will be a cold & rainy one that will try to dampen our spirits.

Thanks again to the Executive Committee for all the work in the past year.

Thanks to everyone for their support, both financially and the ways that you can.

As always, we honour our loved ones who served to help win the freedoms we have today – freedom from despots, dictators and ideas made into law that will eventually come to nothing. We think of all our 458's that never came back, indeed all those who never came back (and those on Australian shores who never came back to post War life).

I met Dane & Lynne Clarke from the UK, over the internet (on email). They ordered two lapel pins. They are flying to Malta on Armistice Day this year to pay their respects.



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Lynne's relative, [Flying Officer Ernest Edward TATT \(144087\)](#), was a Navigator, and was killed in action, along with all crew, off the coast of Algeria in October 1943. His memorial (and all the other crew) is at the Commonwealth War Grave in Valletta, Malta.

20:58 65%

Menu COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES Search

**FLYING OFFICER  
ERNEST EDWARD  
TATT**

**Service Number:** 144087

**Regiment & Unit/Ship**  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve  
458 Sqdn.

**Date of Death**  
Died 17 October 1943  
Age 21 years old

**Buried or commemorated at**  
[MALTA MEMORIAL](#)  
Panel 6, Column 2.  
Malta

**Country of Service**  
United Kingdom

**Additional Info**  
Son of Alfred George and Rose Amelia Tatt, of Enfield, Middlesex.





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From our Official History, 'We Find and Destroy', pg 113:

The large number of U-boats now being put along the Allied shipping lanes by Germany was illustrated by the number of separate submarine hunts carried out between 10-18 October. 1943. Searches were concentrated in the sea areas around western Sicily, the south-west of Ischia, south of Salerno, north of Bougie, Cap de Fer, Cap Bougeron and north of Djidjelli. A crew captained by W/O Doude was lost at sea at that time on a U-boat hunt north of Cap de Fer. Air-sea rescue operations by 36 Squadron, based at Blida, near Algiers, did not succeed in finding any survivors.

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From the 458 Unit History, pages 295, 306

Airborne at 1718 hours on the 17th a message to base was sent by this aircraft at 1828 hours reading "W.J.R. 37-10.N. - 06-00.E." and nothing further was heard from it. "Control" continued to call the aircraft for a considerable time without response. Air sea rescue operations were commenced by Wellington "P" of No. 36 Squadron, Sicily, being diverted from its patrol area to the last known position of the missing aircraft and continuous A.S.R. searches were made thereafter. At 2057 hours a significant message was received from aircraft "W" of No. 36 Squadron reading "over burning wreckage unidentified; 37-10.N. 06-00.E." The missing crew consisted of - warrant officer J.W. Doude, (pilot - captain), flight sergeant Milne (2nd pilot), flight sergeant C.C. Racey and flying officer Tett (navigators), sergeant Ralph (S.E. Optr), sergeant Gebbie (W/Optr) and sergeant Musgrave (rear gunner).					
Oct.	Wellington.	W/O. Doude. J.W.	Captain.	17/13	U. BOAT hunt North of CAP DE FER.
17th.	"C".	Sgt. Milne. W.	2nd. pilot.		This aircraft failed to return from this
		F/Sgt. Racey. C.C.	Navigator.		operation. A message was received that he was
		Sgt. Gebbie. H.	W/Optr.		returning with engine but nothing further was
		Sgt. Ralph. W.	S.E. Optr.		heard from it. burning wreckage was seen in
		Sgt. Musgrave. R.	Rear gunner.		approx the last known position of the aircraft.



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### Eric J JEWELL Award Applications:

1. An application from 232 AAFC Squadron, located on the Gold Coast, QLD, with approximately 70 Cadets and 8 Adult Staff.



It's the Squadrons twentieth Anniversary this year. They would like to purchase Ceremonial Drill equipment - *blue sashes, white ceremonial belts, white gloves, the RAAF Ensign, and a proper Banner holder for their Squadron Banner*. Their aim is to increase their involvement and visibility in their local communities, and to motivate cadets to get promoted to ranks that are designated to wear the ceremonial uniform.

*Note from Secretary: we received a second application today, 25/4/23 from 315 SQN AAFC Canberra*

### Junior Vice-President's Report:

Glad to participate and do research during the year. And thanks to all in the Committee for their work during the year.

*Note from Secretary: I commend Neil for his excellent research work on 458 Commanding Officer C/O Wing Commander Norman Mulholland DFC. Thank you Junior VP! We are in contact with a person in the UK, see the write up in the latest Newsletter #273, March 2023*





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## 2023 Treasurer's Report: Current Financial Statement

458 Squadron Association Victoria Flight bank account statements (CBA) are mailed to the Treasurer quarterly, including internet banking. On our website we also have a paypal account to receive donations (also by electronic funds transfer) and to receive payments for our memorabilia items.

Balance on 25/4/22 = \$2570.73\* + \$3960.60 paypal + \$ 649.60 term deposit\* = \$7180.93  
Balance on 25/4/23 = \$4654.51 + \$4159.57 paypal - \$1030.40 EJ Jewell fund\* = \$7783.68  
Nett = \$602.75

Consisting of:

- Income:
  - \$350 membership dues
  - \$1026.92 from seven kind Donations
  - \$49.39 for Iconic Memorabilia photos sold
  - \$15 for 458 Badges sold
  - \$43.53 for Bomber Command (Des Knock) print sold
  - \$111.10 for Pins sold
  - \$28.15 Interest earned from term deposit
  - - \$18.97 accounting adjustment/currency exchange rate variation (in paypal acct)
  - Total = \$1605.12
- Expenses:
  - \$176.22 for postage & paper/cartridges costs for Newsletters
  - \$53.76 Pic printing at Officeworks (Iconic & DK prints)
  - \$68 for external hard-drive for Peter/Historian
  - \$599.40 for Website Hosting for the year
  - \$104.99 anti-virus software for laptop
  - Total = \$1002.37
- Income – Expenses = \$1605.12 – \$1002.37 = \$602.75

Summary: This is a steady result for the year with just over \$600 increase in the account.





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**\*Extraordinary Item:** Supporting future generations of youth in the Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC)

Income: \$8k & \$5k generous donations from the family of Eric Jewell (in 2018 & 2020)

Expense: \$1200 for the inaugural 2018 Eric J. Jewell Award

Expense: \$1449.60 for the 2019 Eric J. Jewell Award

Expense: note that due to covid, no Eric J. Jewell Award was given in 2020

Expense: \$3000 for the 2021 Eric J. Jewell Award

Expense: \$1320 for the 2022 Eric J. Jewell Award – see webpage

Current 2023 Balance: \$6030.40. \$5k of this has been put into a Term Deposit to earn interest (TD = \$5k, 2.25% p.a. at CBA; matures 19/11/23). The balance of the EJ Jewell Award fund (\$1030.40) is in the Squadron CBA account. It will be available for use for the 2023 Award

### Summary:

+ **Well done** to VP Chris for overseeing the 2022 EJ Jewell Award program once again.

+ Overall it was a steady year. And I am very **grateful** for the kind donations of the 458 family, including from Jane & Eric Foster and those mentioned in the latest Newsletter #273. Your generosity makes possible the smooth running of the Association

+ **Well done** to “Hedgy” Peter Hedgcock, our Historian who runs the Memorabilia Shop. This is our ninth full year for the Shop. See the webpage:

<http://458raafsquadron.org/memorabilia-shop.html>

*Thanks to those who have already paid their dues for the coming year. Association membership is now due for the coming year, \$50 per family; Veterans & wives no charge.*

### Secretary's Report:

Another eventful year in the life of 458 Squadron Association. Some highlights:

- **Welcome** to our new QLD Flight Rep Brett Taylor. It was wonderful to meet him and his wife Denise, in December last year.
- **Congratulations** to our Flight President Roland who, as the Newsletter Editor and Publisher has once again produced very high quality results, Editions #271, #272 and #273!
- During the year I added the Hallowed Ground details to our webpage, remembering the ultimate sacrifice made by those who served with 458 giving their lives:

[www.458raafsquadron.org/honour-roll](http://www.458raafsquadron.org/honour-roll)



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- Our website [www.458raafsquadron.org](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) just had its **eleventh** birthday!
  - Flying the 458 colours, Chris and I and friend John and his son Thomas, visited RAAF Base Amberley (Ipswich, QLD) in October last year (except the Air Show was canceled! the parking areas for 20,000 attendees were deemed unusable due to recent heavy rains) and then the International Air Show at Avalon in March, when all the Committee attended.

### Focus and Plans for 2023/2024:

As concluded from previous meetings, the emphasis continues on the following:

- Focus on continued support of our Veterans & Spouses and descendants here and around the country and overseas through our Flight correspondents
- Seek feedback from all Veterans, descendants and members regarding the website and continue to build the website, particularly the individual Serviceman's stories that will be shown via the Honour Roll page, the Serviceman's stories page and the Nominal Roll page.
- For the 2025 Reunion at the International AirShow at Avalon, commence review of accommodation and other requirements for our inter-state / international Members to attend. Preliminary discussions commenced at the AGM; separate minutes to be published. Thanks to Gill, Matt, John B, Neil for their ideas. I will investigate if any grants are available for the Reunion.
- Continue to look at ways to involve youth/next generations at a greater level, and building upon our current program described next:
- The Committee to finalize reviewing the two AAFC applications: 232 SQN and 315 SQN received for the 2023 Eric J. Jewell Award. To be completed in May/June.

### Closure of the Meeting

The President closed the meeting at 12.20 pm, wishing all Veterans, spouses, descendants and members to stay safe and well for the coming year. Also, if you would like to join the Reunion 2025 committee please contact the President, Roland.



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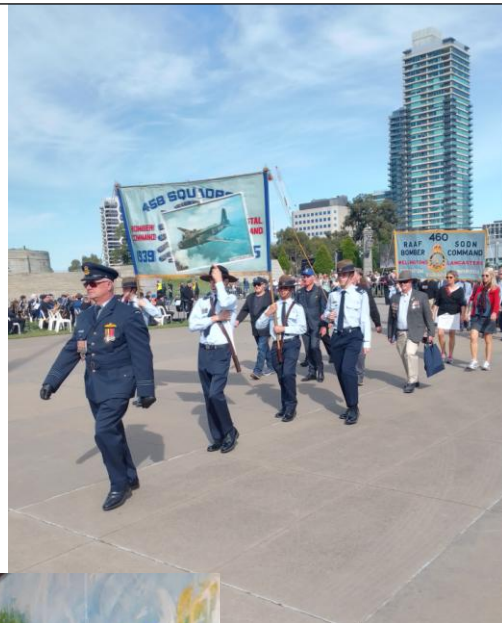
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### Photos of the March







*At the AGM*





