



458 Squadron Association

Victoria Flight

c/o Jeremy Orchard
Secretary/Treasurer
70 Gateshead Drive,
Wantirna South, Vic 3152

THE MINUTES OF OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE JARDIN TAN ON APRIL 25, 2019

On a magnificent Melbourne autumn day, 19 of us marched to the Shrine of Remembrance. The Spirit of Anzac remains alive and well, displayed by the number of people lining the march acknowledging our forebears for their service and sacrifice. This is deeply heartwarming. Another of the many highlights was having Barry Laming, grandson of 458 Veteran, Ernie Laming marching with us. Within the hour after completing our march to the Shrine, 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. Lest we Forget.

The meeting was called to discuss the coming year's focus and activities and to conduct the 2019 AGM. The meeting place was the same as last year, just across the road (Birdwood Ave) from the Shrine. In attendance were Joe & Gillian Somers, Brian Paroissien, his son Nigel Paroissien & daughters Elise and Rochelle, and niece Olivia, Chris Wurr, Neil Flentje, Roland Orchard and daughter Emily Orchard, Chris Orchard, Jeremy Orchard. Apologies received from Howard & Sally Bertram and Cecilia & Adrian Temple.

Those who marched were: Jane Foster, Karen Ganley, Barry Laming, Neil Flentje, Joe & Gillian Somers and their grand-daughter, Peter & Sue Jackson, Chris Wurr, Brian Paroissien, his son Nigel Paroissien & daughters Elise and Rochelle, and niece Olivia, Roland Orchard and daughter Emily, Chris Orchard and Jeremy Orchard. Thanks also to the 5 Cadets (from 403, 404, 405, 416 and 417 squadrons) who carried the picture of the Wellington and the Banner (see the photos below): LCDTs Christopher and Vindena and CCPLs Emily, Nicholas and Nikolas.

Election of Office Bearers 2019/2020

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

President: Roland Orchard nominated by Neil, seconded by Gill, Chris W. Carried. Re-elected.

Senior VP: Christopher Orchard nominated by Chris W, seconded. Carried. Re-elected.

Junior VP: Neil Flentje nominated by Chris O, seconded by Gill. Carried. Re-elected.

Secretary/Treasurer: Jeremy Orchard nominated by Joe, seconded. Carried. Re-elected

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



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458 Squadron President's Report

Please join me in silent remembrance of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in war, those who have since passed and the passing in the last 12 months of 458 Veterans:

George Dunmore, David Westgarth, Donald Anderson, Ted Jewell, Tom Rowan, Jack Reynolds, George Unitt and Keith Cousins. 458 Squadron Veteran widows: Clarice Middleton, Vera Etherton, Moya Dunn, Enid McKay and Yvonne Hutchinson. Also, dear friend of 458 Squadron Association, Roy Pearce; he himself a RAAF Veteran who served in Northern Australia during the war.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.
Lest we Forget.*

Another 12 months has passed all too quickly since the last AGM and we continue to gather on ANZAC Day not only to remember and commemorate our fathers and mothers who served so valiantly but perpetuate their memory for future generations. As a community, we must brace ourselves to soon see the passing of all World War Two Veterans, as we did in the last 2 decades when we farewelled the last of our glorious Veterans of The Great War. I believe history shows that our gallant forefathers went to fight in the trenches of Northern France for adventure, glory and what was then the 'mother country'. However, our World War Two soldiers, men and women, even after hearing stories of the horrors of the trenches drew arms to fight a two headed tyranny that had to be defeated no matter what the cost. Unfortunately, the magnitude of this cause, in my opinion, has somewhat diminished as many peoples of today withdraw into a narcissistic world of social media and the like. This leaves our precious world into a state of unconsciousness that allows "history to repeat itself" as my father once mused to me during the Balkan wars of the 1990s. Let us continue to see through, in our own individual adventure in this world, a pathway to remind everyone with whom we come into contact, that a future was forged for us at the conclusion of 1945, thanks to what is now known as the greatest generation of all time.

It is with great sadness that I report our President and 458 Squadron Veteran has passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of the morning of 24th April. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Keith was a stalwart President, representative of all past and present 458 Veterans, all of whom have left a legacy held in great esteem through the 70 years of The Association.



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On a personal note Janet and I have become grandparents for the first time. Our first born daughter Catherine and her partner Stuart gave us a beautiful little grandson Jack William and great grandson to my mum Beryl and late father Gordon. Gordon would have turned 100 in January of this year. Last year Janet and I, once again, visited Bryan and Joan Quinlan in Vancouver, Canada. Bryan was recovering from a fall but in high spirits. Joan was still as bright as ever and prepared a delicious lunch for us.

Recently polo shirts and baseball style caps with a high quality embroidered 458 badge have become available for purchase. Please see the Memorabilia Page on website for further details. Thanks go to our Victoria Flight Historian Peter Hedgcock for driving this project to its recent fruition.

Many thanks also go to the Victoria Flight Committee, Chris Orchard, Neil Flentje, and Peter Hedgcock and especially to Jeremy Orchard, our Secretary/Treasurer, without whom this Committee would not function as efficiently as it does. I'm sure the other Committee members don't mind me singling out Jeremy.

Thanks to all 458 Squadron Members for their continued support. I hope this last 12 months has brought everyone love and joy as will this coming year.

Senior Vice-President's Report:

"Anzac is not merely about loss. It is about courage, and endurance, and duty, and love of country, and mateship, and good humour and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds."

Sir William Deane, former Governor-General of Australia.

We all think of our loved ones at this commemorative time of year, their sacrifice and their scars (physically and psychologically). For Roland, Jeremy and me, we especially think of our father, Gordon S. Orchard, born 100 years ago - in January 1919, just 73 days after the Armistice of WWI.

In 1919, ANZAC day was also referred to as "Gallipoli day" and such things as tin badges were sold to raise funds for the returned men and women.



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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL MELB 001 00
courtesy Australian War Memorial collection

Thank you to everyone for all your contributions, small and great, including coming to Melbourne to march behind the 458 banner. Melbourne seems to be bursting at the seams these days, you might say ‘infrastructurally-challenged’. A special thank you (dare I say, “mentioned in despatches”) goes to Peter Hedgcock for his work on the Caps and Polo Shirts. Please go the 458 website to place an order.

We look forward to the next 12 months, and what 458 can achieve.

“All gave some, but some gave all”, and “Through adversity to the stars”

Junior Vice-President’s Report:

The Committee should continue brainstorming ideas for merchandise and solicit input on what website additions would like to be seen.

Secretary’s Report:

The 2018 AGM minutes were reviewed and carried with no amendments. Another eventful year in the life of 458 Squadron Association. Some highlights:

- Congratulations to our Squadron President who, as the Newsletter Editor and Publisher has once again produced **very high quality** results, Editions #259, #260 and #261
- Our website www.458raafsquadron.org just had its **seventh** birthday! (we went LIVE on 18/4/2012) We have been steadily adding content during the year



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Treasurer's Report: Current Financial Statement

458 Squadron Association Victoria Flight bank account statements (CBA) are mailed to the Treasurer every quarter, including on-line/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. We have again received very generous donations, which are covering our website hosting costs.

Balance on 25/4/18 = \$1677.81 + \$2464.48 paypal + \$3200 term deposit* = \$7342.29

Balance on 25/4/19 = \$ 786.37 + \$2954.85 paypal + \$3200 term deposit* = \$6941.22

Nett = - \$ 401.07

Consisting of:

- Income:
 - \$348.40 membership dues
 - \$617.10 from Nine Donations. All are listed on our website at the Financial and In-kind Supporters Page
 - \$20 for 75th Anniversary Cup(s) sold
 - \$188.03 for copies of the DVD Official Albums sold.
 - \$28.92 for Iconic Memorabilia photos sold
 - \$42.82 for Badges sold
 - \$32 for Caps sold
 - \$287.27 Interest earned from term deposit
 - Total = \$1564.54
- Expenses:
 - \$75 to re-stock better designed magnets (500; 250 sent to NSW Flight)
 - \$304.92 for postage & paper/cartridges costs for Newsletters
 - \$200.80 to re-stock 75th Anniversary cups
 - \$81.99 Anti-virus software for 458 Vic Flight laptop
 - \$82.90 for new 458 Cap prototype project
 - \$570 for new stock of 20 Caps
 - \$100 postage allowance for Memorabilia sales and op costs of shop
 - \$50 Committee member honorarium (Vic; from 2018 Federal grant)
 - \$500 for Website Hosting for the year
 - Total = \$1965.61
- Income – Expenses = \$1564.54 – \$1965.61 = - \$401.07



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Summary: With over \$700 worth of currently stocked items (Caps, cups, badges etc), this has been a steady result for the year (Nett \$300+ for the year when stock levels are taken into account).

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

Income: \$8000 generous donation from the family of Eric Jewell

Expense: \$1200 for the inaugural 2018 Eric J. Jewell Award- see new webpage

Current 2019 Balance: \$6800. This balance plus \$3200 of Vic Flight Funds have been combined into a Term Deposit* to earn interest (2.3%). The 2019 AGM is scheduled to review the applicants for the 2019 Eric J. Jewell Award and select the winner.

+ We re-stocked with 500 better designed fridge magnets and sent half to NSW Flight (who paid for half).

+ A new project for the year was our 458 Caps, we have initially stocked 20. Well done to our Historian Peter for spearheading this. The high quality finished cap incorporates a quality level of 22,000 stitches.

+ Our term deposit strategy yielded \$287.27 of interest which almost covered the Newsletter production and postage costs for the year!

+ Additional highlights were: Nine very generous donations (\$617) more than covering the cost of our website. And nearly \$300 of Memorabilia sales (DVDs, Iconic photos, Badges, 75th Anniversary Cups). Thanks to "Hedgy" Peter Hedgcock, our Historian who runs the Memorabilia Shop and Chris Orchard (VP) for posting out Cups. This is our fifth full year for the Shop. See the webpage: <http://458raafsquadron.org/memorabilia-shop.html>

Annual membership fees are to continue as per previous years, at \$50 per family (with no annual or other fees required from veterans or widows). These dues will allow us to meet the costs of website hosting and Newsletter publication/ postage costs.



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Thanks to those who have already paid their dues for the coming year: from Neil Flentje, from Jane & Eric Foster, from Chris Wurr, from Joe & Gillian Somers, Chris Orchard, from the Secretary. And thank you to those for their generous donations received!

Focus and Plans for 2019/2020:

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

- Focus on continued support of our Veterans & Spouses 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 (*Chris Wurr thanked Roland for recently adding his Dad's story*) that will be shown via the Honour Roll page, the Serviceman's stories page and the Nominal Roll page.
- The Committee to review the 3 Cadets Squadron applications for the 2019 Eric J. Jewell Award. They are from NSW and two from Victoria. We touched base with one of the VIC applicants at the International Air Show at Avalon last month. A suggestion was received that the Award could be split between successful applications if deemed appropriate. Finalize in April/May.
- President to review and make any needed updates to the Contact Us page on the website. All worldwide email enquires currently get directed to the email account of the Vic Flight President.
- Gill raised the topic of the Malta medal and that Veterans that served there (as shown in their official service record) are entitled to receive it.
- *Post meeting: perhaps we could lay a wreath at the 458 plaque at the Shrine?*
- *Post meeting: resolve the 458 laptop external drive operating issue*

Closure of the Meeting

The senior VP Chris, reported another amazing highlight that RAAF Squadron Leader Chris Baker (grandson of 458er Jack Baker) is currently based in the USA training pilots on the RAAF's top of the line Joint Strike Fighter/F35. A remarkable accomplishment! The President closed the meeting at 12 noon, wishing all Veterans, spouses, descendants and members the best of health for the coming year.



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Photos of the March





