



## 458 Squadron Association Victoria Flight

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

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### THE MINUTES OF OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE JARDIN TAN CAFÉ ON APRIL 25, 2022

On a near perfect Melbourne autumn day, 18 of us marched to the Shrine of Remembrance. This year we returned to normal and even marched a block further with our starting point at Swanston St./Collins St. Earlier some of us attended the 6 am Dawn Service. One of the many highlights was again having Squadron Leader Matthew Wullemmin, grandson of 458 Veteran: Warrant Officer Mervyn Lee leading our march. 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 2022 AGM. The meeting place was the same as 2021, just across the road (Birdwood Ave) from the Shrine. In attendance were Chris & Heather Wurr, daughter Karen & Clinton and their son Hutch, John Boydell, Rod Flentje, Neil Flentje, Roland Orchard, Chris Orchard, Jeremy Orchard. Friends John Marino & son, Thomas. Apologies were received from Howard & Sally Bertram, Jane & Eric Foster, Emily Taylor.

Those who marched were: Gill & Joe Somers and their 2 granddaughters, Brian Paroissien, his son Nigel, Matthew Wullemmin and son Cooper, Neil Flentje, Rod Flentje, Chris Wurr and grandson Hutch, John Boydell, Roland Orchard, Chris Orchard, Jeremy Orchard, John Marino & son, Thomas This year we carried the the picture of the Wellington and 2 Air Force cadets carried the Banner; Vinay, Leading Air Cadet of 415 SQN and his fellow cadet.

#### Office Bearers 2022/2023

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

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

Senior VP: Christopher Orchard nominated by John M, seconded by Rod. Carried. Re-elected

Junior VP: Neil Flentje nominated by Rol, seconded John B. Carried. Re-elected

Secretary/Treasurer: Jeremy Orchard nominated by Chris W, seconded by John M. 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 country.

Thanks to all who were able to attend today. I received apologies from Jane and Eric Foster and Howard & Sally Bertram.

It was pleasing to see the barriers have been removed from around the Shrine this year!

In the 12 months since last ANZAC Day 2021, we were saddened to hear of the deaths of 458 Veterans Jim Browne from Qld, Tom Hicks from WA and widow of Veteran Don Bitmead, Bev Bitmead. Bev was a keen and active member within NSW Flight and awarded a Co Presidency a week prior to her passing. Rest in Peace Jim, Tom and Bev.

During 2021 we were all delighted to hear about the 'existence' of Bill Wake a 99-year-old 458 Veteran from England who joined the Squadron at Protville, Tunisia in 1943. Bill was a wireless operator/air gunner. Both he and Co President Charles Humbles also from England sent us a video message shown at the recent reunion. Charles turned 100 earlier in the year and Bill this year.

After two attempts at holding the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary 458 Squadron Reunion, both postponements due to Covid, we were able to go ahead with this great event on the weekend of March 26-28 2022 at Williamstown, NSW. I wrote about the reunion in the latest Newsletter and hope everyone has read it. I can't add too much more other than to say it was an excellent event enjoyed by just over fifty 458 members. We hope to organise another reunion, maybe in Victoria in the not-too-distant future.

Finally, I would like to pass on my thanks to 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.



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#### Senior Vice-President's Report:

##### Anzac Day 2022, 107 years since the landings

In an ever changing world, with conflicts, new conflicts, and the threat of new conflicts occurring around the world, there are constants that are (and will be forever) reliable and rock solid - Service, Sacrifice and Courage.

We pay our respects to the almost 103,000 service personnel who **sacrificed their lives** in Australia's name. And for 458 (RAAF, RAF, RNZAF, RCAF), go to

<https://www.458raafsquadron.org/honour-roll>

Honour Roll, our fallen...

0:00 / 2:57

458 SQUADRON ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE



A **HUGE** thankyou to the VIC President for his **ongoing service and sacrifice** in preparing the Squadron Journal/Newsletter, the most recent being *issue number 270* – a blockbuster edition featuring the recent REUNION held at Williamtown, NSW, and also the ongoing story of 458 with its men & women and their descendants.

Updates on ongoing Projects that the VP is progressing:

1. **e-version or e-book of WFAD**: Received an email from Melanie Alexander outlining possible steps to achieve this outcome. Will share that with the Executive to discuss steps forward.

2. Eric J. JEWELL Award 2022 Update:

**FSGT(AAFC) Kate Heussler** (<https://kateheussler.com/>) is doing **great service** to 458 in promoting via AAFC social media (*Facebook* and *Instagram*), and in *Cadet News*:

<https://www.airforcecadets.gov.au/cadets>

#### Stay social

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)





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**APPLICATIONS OPEN**

The Air Force Cadets has many stakeholders and supporters who share our aims and visions and one of those is the RAAF No. 458 Squadron Association. The Squadron offers the "Flying Officer (FLGOF) Eric John Jewell Award," to Air Force Cadets experiencing financial hardship, to ensure they have the best opportunity to experience all the Air Force Cadets has to offer. Applications for the award are now open until 25 April 2022. For more information and to submit your application head to our website (QR code above).

To date, we have received an application from WOFF (AAFC) David Stevens, c/o 721 (City of Wanneroo) SQN AAFC, 20km north of Perth, WA. . They currently parade 45 cadets, supported by 7 Uniformed Instructors and 2 Defence Approved Helpers. Their submission is for a Virtual Reality (VR) flying experience (VR goggles, CPU, cabling, screens and software).

*Note from Secretary: we received a second application on 25/4 from 314 SQN AAFC (city of Wollongong)*

3. And a few other additions to 458 Memorabilia ... TBA ... and will appear on 'Memorabilia Shop' page.

### Junior Vice-President's Report:

Working with Wendy Whittem-Trunz on some provided docs, album she has. And secondly, gave USB copies to the Committee of 266 photos & videos of RAAF Base Williamtown live war-gaming exercise we viewed on 28/3/22 during our Reunion. Truly Spectacular! *Note from Secretary: Fantastic compilation/record of this amazing day. Thank you Junior VP!*

*Additional note from the Secretary: Thanks Neil for also being today's official photographer.*



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#### 2022 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 25/4/21 = \$1963.71\* + \$3606.01 paypal + \$2649.60 term deposit\* = \$8219.32

Balance on 25/4/22 = \$2570.73\* + \$3921.94 paypal + \$ 649.60 term deposit\* = \$7142.27

Nett = - \$1077.05

Consisting of:

- Income:
  - o \$250 membership dues
  - o \$326.02 from five kind Donations
  - o \$200 for copies of books 'We Find & Destroy' sold.
  - o \$77.62 for Iconic Memorabilia photos sold
  - o \$45 for 458 Badges sold
  - o \$40.61 for Caps sold
  - o \$93.27 for Polos sold
  - o \$80 Cups sold
  - o \$13.96 Interest earned from term deposit
  - o \$18.90 currency exchange rate variation/loss (in paypal account)
  - o Total = \$1145.38
- Expenses:
  - o \$353.09 for postage & paper/cartridges costs for Newsletters
  - o \$143.05 Polo shirt to UK President Bill Wake (includes postage etc)
  - o \$50 for flowers for President Tom Hicks' funeral
  - o \$61.95 for Polos (including embroidery) ordered
  - o \$201.55 for re-stock of Badges
  - o \$592.80 for Website Hosting for the year
  - o \$625 Reunion in Williamstown: Donation from VIC Fight
  - o \$194.99 anti-virus software for laptop
  - o Total = \$2222.43
- Income – Expenses = \$1145.38 – \$2222.43 = - \$1077.05

Summary: Given the donation to our fantastic Reunion and restocking of badges (accounting for nearly 80% of the final figure) this result for the year isn't unexpected.



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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 – see webpage

Current 2022 Balance: \$7350.40. This balance plus \$649.60 of Vic Flight: funds have been combined into a Term Deposit\* of \$8k to earn interest (0.35% p.a. at CBA).

### Summary:

+ Our UK President Bill Wake kindly sent us some funds so that we could send him a 458 Polo Shirt as well as our special Newsletters #250, #255, #266 and 2021/ 2022 Calendar and fridge magnet.

+ Flowers for Vale President Tom Hicks (in Perth, WA).

+ Even with another bumpy year (covid-19) I am very grateful for the kind donations of the 458 family. Your generosity makes possible the smooth running of the Association

+ Close to \$500 of Memorabilia sales nett income (Books, Iconic photos, Badges, Caps, Polos, Cups, etc). Thanks to “Hedgy” Peter Hedgcock, our Historian who runs the Memorabilia Shop. Note that we have a new item featuring artwork from Des Knock. This is our eighth 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:

- **Congratulations** to the Reunion Committee for an incredible job well done making it a thoroughly memorable and pinnacle event on March 26-28!! On the committee also, **congrats** to our Flight President Roland who, as the Newsletter Editor and Publisher has once again produced very high quality results, Editions #268 through #270!





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- Well done to VP Chris for getting us on the AAFC Air Force Cadets supporters page: [www.airforcecadets.gov.au/our-supporters](http://www.airforcecadets.gov.au/our-supporters)
  - Our website [www.458raafsquadron.org](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) just had its **tenth** birthday!
  - Our website has undergone a platform upgrade. A training session for the Committee was held on 3/6/21. Please bear with us as we learn the “ropes” to add web content

### Focus and Plans for 2022/2023:

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 that will be shown via the Honour Roll page, the Serviceman's stories page and the Nominal Roll page.
- For next year's International AirShow at Avalon, there was unanimous support for Vic Flight Members attending. Commence review of accommodation and other requirements for our inter-state / international Members to attend.
- 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 2 AAFC applications received for the 2022 Eric J. Jewell Award. To be completed in May.

### Closure of the Meeting

The President closed the meeting at 1.17 pm, wishing all Veterans, spouses, descendants and members to stay safe and well for the coming year.



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### Photos of the March







*At the AGM*



