



## JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL

Year 68 No 257 June 2017

**Squadron President:**

**Keith Cousins - Australia**



**Squadron Vice-President:**

**Leon Armstrong - U.K**



**Squadron Treasurer** Beryl Dodds. 8 Yarraman Avenue, Frenchs Forest, 2086 NSW

**Squadron Secretary:** Stephen Bruce. Unit 5/10 Kissing Point Road, Turrumurra NSW 2074

**Newsletter Editor and Publisher:** Roland Orchard. 78 Edward Road, Chirnside Park. Vic. 3116 Mobile-0400433382 email:[editor@458raafsquadron.org](mailto:editor@458raafsquadron.org)

### **Flight Correspondents:**

**NSW** – Keith Cousins –C/O Unit 5/10 Kissing Point Road, Turrumurra NSW 2074

**WA-** Ted Jewell 61 Wyaree Rd. Mandurah, WA. 6210. Assisted by Bob Kelliher.

**SA-** Rick Michell 5 Armson Ave. Magill. SA.5072

**VIC-**Roland Orchard 78 Edward Road, Chirnside Park VIC. 3116

**UK-** Keith Wilkinson 23 Ferndale Pk, Tedmore, Stourbridge, W. Midlands. DY90RB

**CANADA-** Bryan Quinlan. 1460 Haywood Ave., W. Vancouver, B.C. V7T 1V6.

**\* Mail all communications for Squadron Secretary to Stephen Bruce (address above), and for the Squadron (and NSW Flight) Treasurer to Beryl Dodds (address above) \*\* Have you notified Roland Orchard if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email? Are there others in your family, or circle of friends, who would like to receive a copy by e-mail? Please advise the Editor – see address and e-mail details above.**

***Contributions and reports for the next Newsletter are due to The Editor by 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017***

## VALE

Joan Dickson - SA Flight  
Bill McFadden - NSW Flight  
John McKeller - NSW Flight  
Barbara O'Riley - SA Flight  
Rosemary Wardle - NSW Flight  
Frank Ward - NSW Flight

## **458 Squadron Association Flight Reports.**

### **New South Wales Flight Report**

**by Keith Cousins**



David Longhurst, Rob Wilkinson & Stephen Bruce with Keith Cousins



**L-Stephen Bruce  
with the Gov. Gen.  
Sir Peter Cosgrove.**



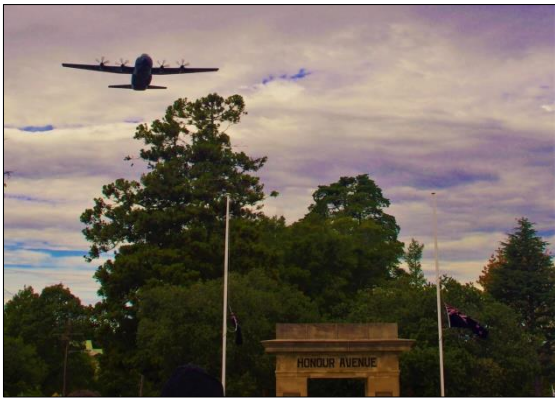
**R-  
Vale John Douglas  
McKellerDFC**

### **ANZAC Day 2017 – Sydney**

“This was the first ANZAC Day that there were no 458 Squadron Veterans marching and was quite a shock to us all. So much so that no one took any photos!!” Except for the luncheon afterwards-(*thanks Wendy WT*)



## **ANZAC Day 2017 – Lawson, NSW. (In the beautiful Blue Mountains)**



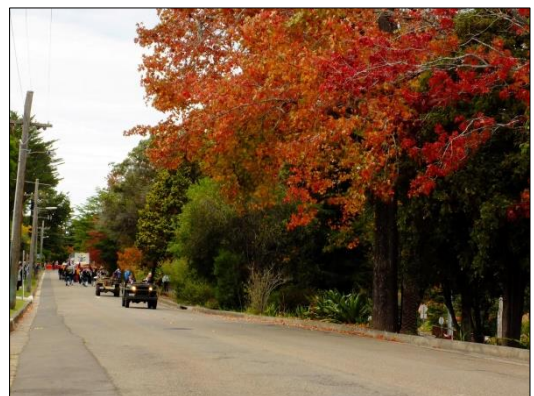
Many thanks to Julie & Bernard Beashel for sending these magnificent photos taken at the ANZAC Day March at Lawson, New South Wales. Julie states, "I do not know of any 458 Veterans who are still with us. I certainly

appreciate the regular news. The Squadron and the News were such a big part of our lives through our Dad, Peter Alexander. I was unable to march in Sydney for quite a few years. We were in a remote area of Tasmania. We returned to NSW last



year. I was not well enough to attend this year's March in Sydney however my husband Bernard and I attended the Lawson March and Memorial in The Blue Mountains. I was in my mobility Scooter with my husband at my side. I have a 458 Badge on The front of my Scooter to honour my dad and all his fellow 458ers. I was

impressed by the turn out. I have attached a couple of pictures you might be interested in. We marched with the group of descendants of Veterans. I was unable to ascertain if there were any other Air Force Attendees. I have to say, The Fly Over of a Hercules Aircraft was chilling and amazing, making the commemoration as always extremely memorable. A wonderful tribute to our Diggers, as was The



Pipe Band which always touches me. The fly over was completely a surprise to me and it was just amazing. It brought chills down my spine. It was wonderful to share these moments with our locals. So



happy the tradition is continuing and seems to be growing again??!!  
*Thanks so much, Julie and Bernard for these spectacular photos and your latest news. I certainly hope the interest in not only 458 Squadron RAAF and its Veterans but also the legacy your father helped create when forming The Association, will carry on with the same enthusiasm and fervour. Ed*

**HELLO GEORGE.** My uncle, GEORGE UNITT is still residing in Batemans Bay NSW & has only recently moved into aged care. I visited him & his wife Grace, last month & he is doing fantastic after just receiving a pacemaker implant....at a sprightly 97! 😊 I have included a photo if you wish to use it in your next issue. Congrats to you on your stellar job with the newsletter, as always. Kind Regards, John Unitt.



*Best regards to George, Grace. Thanks for sharing, John. Ed*



## South Australia Flight Report.

By Rick Michell



It is sad to report the passing of Joan Dickson last March. Our sympathies goes to Gillian and her family. We did not have anyone participate in the 2017 ANZAC Day March, although about 12 people attended the reunion lunch at the Kensi Hotel. We would like to

thank Pat Richards daughter, Erin, for the lovely cup-cakes decorated in RAAF colours. **Regards. Rick**



### **News from Canada** by Bryan Quinlan

This has been a hectic year for us so far as Jan-June are full of expanded family birthdays, anniversaries etc and we are finding it difficult to keep up with coping with a late spring and summer as well. Hope we can adjust. Very little news about our three members except that family members have finally persuaded Tom Rowan to move into a Care Centre where he can get the proper care he obviously needs. I cannot reach him directly anymore and have arranged to keep in touch via his younger brother, Ted, who lives near Saskatoon. Our 150th birthday on 1 July - still a very young country. Very best wishes to all. **Bryan**

### **ANZAC Day 2017 – Branch 171 LADYSMITH Legion, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Ladysmith Legion Media Report – ANZAC Day 2017 by Di Atherton**



The day went well, after a little bit of confusion on Brian and My part. Sorry Jeanne and Dianne (it happens I guess). Sadly, our Piper didn't arrive due to a Doctor's appointment in Nanaimo. We had representatives from several other branches thanks to Brian's canvassing.

Those there were from as far away as Sooke Branch 54 and Cowichan Branch 53, in the south, Duncan was represented and Nanaimo Branches 256 and 10, also the Canadian Veteran Motorcycle club was represented by 4 members. The Motor Cycle Vets bought their framed Australian Motor Cycle Veteran's Emblem, to have on our make shift Cenotaph. I asked one of them to be an 'Australian' for the day and represent The Australian Armed Forces, Owen (don't know his surname) won the toss to have the honour.



He joined Brian Kelly, RCL 171, on the slow march of the hats leading in to the service. Master of Ceremonies was Padre Wesley Barnaby.

The welcome was given by Vice President David Nielson, standing in for the President. We had a slight hitch with the music however with the help of Vivian from Sooke who led the singing of the Australian National Anthem and Brian Kelly's recital of the



New Zealand Anthem the day was saved so to speak. Thankfully, I got the technical hitch fixed (a gremlin) the national Anthem of Turkey went though as did the Last Post and Rouse. Thank you to David and Wesley also Roy for climbing up to make some wreaths



available for us. I'm sure next year will even be better, we are learning as we go. Next Year we will Use them for sure Roy and will need 3 at this point. Also thank you to Wendy for coming in early and Dianne for facilitating that. I will have a

meeting with Brian after he has moved to his new house and discuss what we can improve on and have a plan for next year. Remember To get your events and doings in to me the **last week of each month**, so I can do my best to have your event in the Press thank you.

**Diane Atherton (Media Officer)**

*Once again, many thanks to Di for her excellent Canadian ANZAC Day report. ed*



**No Report from Western Australia.**

We wish Ted and everyone in WA all the very best.



**No Report from UK Flight**

We hope all is well in Jolly ol' Blighty. Our thoughts and prayers are always with you through the recent horrendous events.



## **Victoria Flight Report** by Roland Orchard



### **ANZAC Day 2017 – Melbourne**



Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. ANZAC Day 2017 Dawn Service

Another successful ANZAC Day for 458 Squadron Association, albeit the absence of Veterans for some years. Our Veteran descendant turn out is



Howard & Sally Bertram, ANZAC Day 2017



"our" Australian Air Force Cadets. ANZAC Day 2017

always amazing and it reflects our love, pride and respect we have of our fathers, Grandfathers or in some cases, Great Grandfathers.

On an atypical Melbourne autumn weather day 12 of us plus 6 Air Force cadets (from No. 414 Squadron, c/- Melbourne Girls College, Yarra Boulevard, Richmond, VIC) marched to the Shrine of Remembrance. The rain held off until we had finished marching and then it bucketed down while we were packing up the Banner. 13 of us attended the Annual General Meeting.



Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. ANZAC Day 2017- Post march Photo. L-R Aust. Air Force Cadet x 3. Howard & Sally Bertram. Rod Flentje (standing) Neil Flentje. AAFC. Jane Foster. Chris Orchard. Brian Paroissien. Nigel Paroissien with his two daughters. Absent from photo-Jeremy Orchard & photographer Roland Orchard.

## **Thanks to the following for their kind Donations to 458 Squadron Association.**

All donations are received with our gracious thanks and can be made via our website on the donations page - <http://www.458raafsquadron.org/donations>  
Or by post (cheque) to Jeremy Orchard. 70 Gateshead Drive, Wantirna South, Victoria. 3152.

Peggy Hull  
Philip O'Riley  
Jane & Eric Foster  
Mark Leslie  
Cecilia Temple  
Brian Paroissien  
Howard and Sally Bertram

**Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Tom Ridgway** - photo sent by Di Marik – Tom's daughter.



## Photo of Interest. (Thanks Wendy Whittem-Trunz)



Wendy stands next to a rear turret from a Wellington. The turret is located at the Australian War Memorial storage facility



## Emails



**From-Sent-**

**Anthony (Tony) Springall**

On 11 Apr 2017, at 7:29 pm, A C SPRINGALL

Bob Springall 2013



Roland, Dad (Bob Springall) is still with us. He celebrated his 95th birthday in January and although he was recently poorly he is on the road to recovery. I think the doctor in hospital was amazed when he asked dad, when was the last time you were in hospital and was told 1949!, he does not want to be a burden on the NHS. As always, many, many thanks for the magazine and I will read it to add as his eyes aren't what they were.

Kindest Regards, Tony



**From-Philip O'Riley**

**Sent- Thu 20-Apr-17**

Hi Roland,

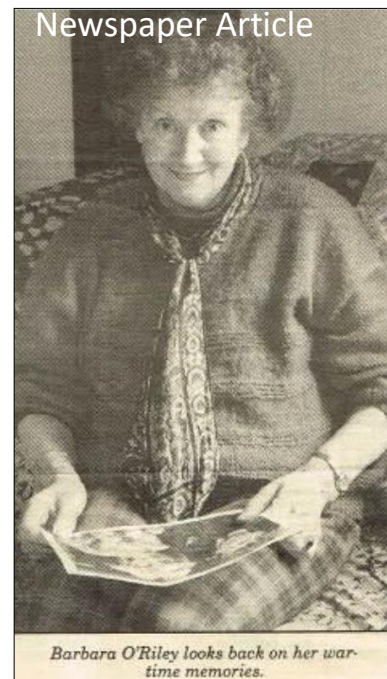
My name is Philip O'Riley, 2nd son of Flt Lt Edward John O'Riley (decd) ex 458 squadron, and I ask that the recent passing of my mother Mrs Barbara O'Riley be included in your next issue. I believe my mother used to give a small donation to the squadron news so she could be kept informed of what was happening around the country & overseas. As I am one of 4 children of the above I would like to go receiving your newsletter and am prepared to send a small donation from time to time to assist in costs etc. So saying, what address would I send the donation to.

Mums details are Born 16-2-25 and Passed on 21-2-17. Regards, Philip O'Riley .

***Thank you and Condolences to you and your family, Philip. Please see our donations article for further details. Your mum was a prolific writer and by all accounts a much loved person by many. ed***

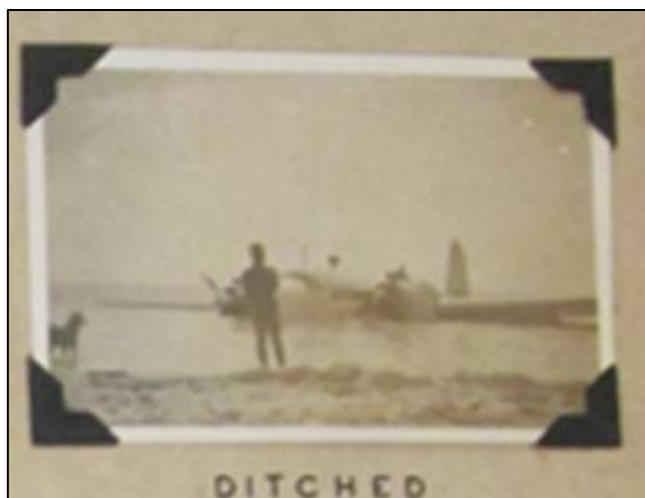
Barbara O'Riley.

Newspaper Article



From - Valter Battistoni (email - [battvtr@tiscali.it](mailto:battvtr@tiscali.it))

Subject – Wellington ditching at **Alghero** - 14 August 1944.



Sirs, I am referring to the ditching of the two Wellingtons HF401 and HF342 on 14 Aug 1944 just in front of one beach of Alghero due to fog on the airfield and lack of fuel. We discussed this topic years ago and I said that I could not find any person that could remember that event. Now I

was told there is somebody that remembers how one aircraft was

recovered and towed on the ground. This must have happened in the fifties. Soon I will be contacted by a relative of this person and I hope to achieve some more information about the end of that aircraft. Of course it will be a pleasure for me to inform you about the interview results. **Kind regards Valter Battistoni** (Alghero)

*Thanks once again, Valter, for keeping us all informed. We will all be waiting with baited breath on the outcome of the interview. ed.*



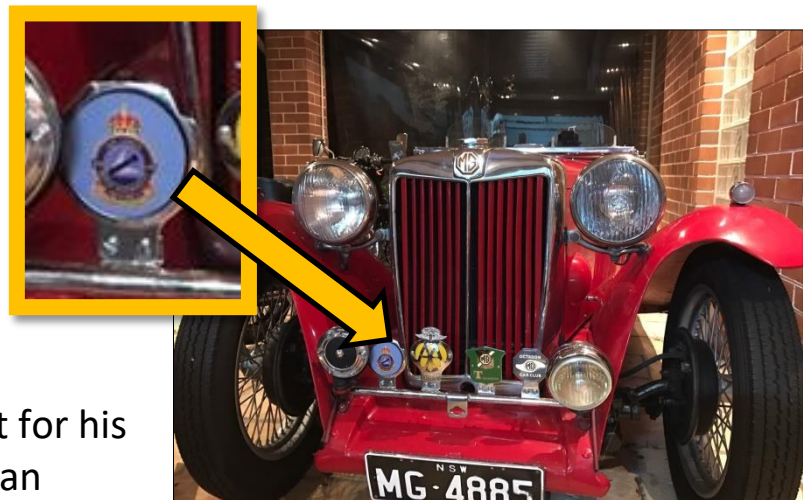
From- Tony Jones

Sent- Sat 17-Jun-17

Hi David (Longhurst),  
my grandfather Sgt.  
Alan (Pontooney)

Piggott was a squadron member. Out of respect for his service I have attached an (unofficial) squadron car badge to my 1948 MGTC. See attached photo and photo the extreme left car badge at the bottom of the grill. Regards, Tony. *Nice Car too, Tony.*

*Thanks for Sharing. Ed*



From- Mr Paul Hirst

Sent - Thu 08-Jun-17 2:27 AM

Dear Sir. At present I work in Saudi Arabia. My home is in East Yorkshire very close to Holme- on-Spalding- Moor. The English home of 458 RAAF Squadron. This is to say thank you.

*Hi Paul. We truly appreciate your sentiment. Thank **you**. ed*

# RAAF BOMBERS

## over Germany 1941-1942

### Anthony Cooper PhD

Book launch. Brisbane, Queensland. 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Jeremy and I were privileged to be able to attend Anthony Cooper's launch of one of his latest books *RAAF Bombers over Germany 1941-1942*. Anthony's book tells the Stories of 455, 458 and 460

Squadron's beginnings and their contribution to Bomber Command during the early stages of the bombing campaign over German held territory and Germany itself. Please do yourselves a favour and read Anthony's fascinating insight into these 3 noted Squadrons.

Thanks so much Anthony, his wife Jane and Jane's sister Kelly for making us feel warmly welcome. It was a great night and we felt extremely humbled by representing all 458 Squadron Veterans and Association Members.



L-Anthony in full  
'swing' at his  
book launch



L-Anthony & Roland

R- Kelly, Roland, Jeremy,  
Jane and Anthony at the  
after party.



# Our Memorabilia Page at

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

## 458 SQUADRON BADGE (VELCRO BACKING)



In stock

Badge + Postage within Australia:-	15.00AUD
Badge + Postage and Transaction costs to New Zealand:-	17.00NZD
Badge + Postage and Transaction costs to UK:-	10.00GBP
Badge + Postage and Transaction costs to Canada:-	17.00CAD

## 2 PHOTO-DVD SET OF OFFICIAL SQUADRON ALBUMS



This two DVD set presented in an artistically 458 motif DVD case contains all 273 whole page images of Album 1 and 866 individual images from these pages. And all 251 whole page images of Album 2 and 626 individual images from these pages. All images are in high resolution format.

Our [Official Squadron Albums](#) web page explains the remarkable story of the Squadron and its Albums and the project to digitize them.

**\$20.00 AUD** when ordering **one** 2 DVD set (price includes postage anywhere in Australia). [Contact Us](#) to order, including notification of total cost if ordering multiple sets (postage will vary) or postage to international destinations. This item will be posted on receipt of payment. Thank you.

## ICONIC GROUP PHOTOS OF THE SQUADRON

### NEW ARRIVALS

These **poster size** wartime photograph reproductions will make magnificent wall history/art. A fine [example](#) elegantly framed. Sizes shown below:

Squadron at Protville, Tunisia, 1943: **size 973 mm x 220 mm - \$30.00AUD**

'A' Flight at Bone, Algeria, 1944: **size 973 mm x 296 mm - \$30.00AUD**

'B' Flight at Gibraltar, 1945: **size 785 mm x 300 mm - \$30.00AUD**

All prices include postage **within Australia Only**.

All prints will be posted in a mailing tube.

Prices for Outside of Australia - On Application. [Contact Us](#) to order. Items will be posted on receipt of payment. Thank you.

## COLLECTORS EDITIONS:- 458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION 250TH & 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITIONS NEWSLETTER.



**\$20AUD. per copy PLUS Postage\***

\*Postage within Australia \$2.10 per copy.

\*Postage to UK, Canada, New Zealand - price on application.

Please note- All monies are used for on-going costs involved in web-site, printing, postage of these and all Memorabilia items.

These Publications were made possible with the grateful assistance of grants received from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Commemorative Grants Section and the Victorian Government and Public Records Office Victoria.

## Vickers Wellington Key Tags

**ONLY 6 LEFT FOR SALE -**



**\$10 per key ring Plus Postage\***

All proceeds go to website and 458 Squadron Association Journal Publishing costs. Please email Roland Orchard for your order- [editor@458raafsquadron.org](mailto:editor@458raafsquadron.org) One key ring per member please. I will order more if needed in future.

Thank you for your support. \*Postage within Australia \$1.

per key ring \*Postage to UK, Canada, New Zealand - price on application.

## Anniversary Cup 1941 - 2016

**75TH ANNIVERSARY CUP**



In 2016, 458 Squadron celebrated 75 years since its formation in 1941. 458 is only 20 years younger than the RAAF itself! Therefore what a more fitting way could there be to reflect on these occasions than to enjoy your favourite beverage from your very own 75th anniversary cup. Special price until Anzac Day 2017 is AUD\$22.95 (anywhere in Australia). Buy now before the price goes up. Please note that it is price-on-application for orders overseas from Australia.



Please contact the editor for all orders or order online via our website [www.458raafsquadron.org](http://www.458raafsquadron.org)