



## JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL

Year 69 No 260 July 2018

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**WA, QLD, TAS, NT, ACT and New Zealand** – Looking for volunteers.

**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 Editor 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 postal address above. E [editor@458raafsquadron.org](mailto:editor@458raafsquadron.org)**

***Contributions and reports for the next Newsletter #261 are due to The Editor by 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2018***



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## THE SPIRIT LIVES 2014 - 2018

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### VALE -

**George Dunmore.....QLD Flight**  
**David Westgarth.....NSW Flight**  
**Donald George Anderson.....NSW Flight**  
**Ted Jewell.....WA Flight**  
**Clarice Middleton.....QLD Flight**

### FLIGHT REPORTS



#### NSW Flight Report by Beryl Dodds



ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY 2018. The weather was good to us for the march down Elizabeth Street past the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park. Our banner was carried by Kim Shearman, a pilot in the RAAF, grandson of 458 member, Bob Shearman, and David Marik, grandson of 458 member Tom Ridgway, who recently passed. The 458 contingent was led by President Keith Cousins in a wheelchair, was supported by his son, Ian. Keith was our only 458 Veteran attending today's march but the families of the passed 458 Squadron Veterans were well represented. David Wood, Rick Paine-Bell, Zoe Paine-Bell and Charlie Baker marched behind the banner but did not attend the reunion. Maybe next year. Our Squadron Association Secretary, Stephen Bruce, marched with his daughter Sam, in memory of



458 Squadron  
Association  
President Keith  
Cousins. with  
Rob Wilkinson  
and Rob's  
grandson Riley.

Stephen's father and 458 Veteran, Bob Bruce. Stephen's wife Anita and son Adam marched with 3 Squadron RAAF. Anita's father served with 3 Squadron. Anita and Adam attended the 458 function following the March. Rob and Carolin, marched in memory of their 458 father and father in law, Bill Wilkinson, and WAAF mother Mary. Bev Bitmead's, daughter Jenny and son Peter were with us in memory of Don. Eric Munkman was remembered by his son, Ron and daughter Beryl. Peter Alexander was remembered by his daughter Melanie. The Marik family, Dianne,



Rob Wilkinson, Rob's Grandson Riley, Kim Shearman and Melanie Alexander.



**Foreground** FLTLT Kim Shearman. Keith Cousins, Ian Cousins.

**Banner Bearers** L-R David Marik and Peter Bitmead.

**Left Background** – Members of the Paine-Bell and Wardle families.

Frank and David, attended after recently losing their father, father in law and grandfather, Tom Ridgway. The Wardle family, Jim, James and Simon, marched thinking of their father in law and grandfather, Len Best, a 458 member from the UK branch. Len's daughter, Rosemary, passed this year and it was a very emotional day for her husband and sons to attend and we thank them for doing so. All of the above attended our reunion at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, where each

year we have a room for our annual meeting and lunch. We talked of our respective 458 family member and shared some of the stories that they had passed down to us over the years. We also had our own stories to tell of the reunions we had attended as children, and of course Bev Bitmead had a few tales to tell of those many reunions she attended with Don. Not to be out done



Keith Cousins regaled us with his stories of "war times" and his time coming back to Australia to join Qantas. It was a special time for the descendants and a further chance to bond as our fathers did during the war - a bond that is continuing to keep 458 alive. May they rest in peace .....never forgotten.



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



2018 ANZAC Day in Melbourne.  
Another great turn out for the day.  
There were many regular attendees and some first timers. It is always a joy to meet 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or even 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> generation 458ers who haven't marched before. You are all most welcome to attend and honour your family member who served with 458 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force. Although I don't believe Victoria has any surviving Veterans, our hearts and minds were (and are



always) with our own loved ones no longer with us. Our thoughts are also with the many 458 Veteran widows who will be reading this report. Those attendees who marched were: Jane Foster and daughters Rebecca and Sarah, Howard & Sally Bertram, Rod Flentje, Neil Flentje, Brian

Paroissien, his son Nigel Paroissien & Nigel's daughters Elise and Rochelle, Joe & Gillian Somers, their son Andrew and grand-daughter, Peter & Sue Jackson, Chris Wurr, Roland Orchard and daughter Emily, Chris Orchard and Jeremy Orchard. Thanks also to the 6 Cadets (from 415 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets) who carried the picture of the



Wellington and the 458 Banner: CSGT Jason Fan, LCDT Daniel Pan, LCDT Louis Xuereb, CCPL Bob Chu, CCPL Anthony Duong, LCDT Nam Tran.



Victoria Flight 2018 ANZAC Day March participants & various photos of the day.





\*If anyone is aware of surviving 458 Squadron Veterans in Victoria (or anywhere for that matter) please contact me, Roland Orchard by email [editor@458raafsquadron.org](mailto:editor@458raafsquadron.org) or post 78 Edward Road, Chirnside Park, Victoria 3116, Australia. I am in desperate need to update my records. Thank you in advance.

### **Our Visit to Vancouver, Canada. by Roland Orchard**



My wife Janet and I had the privilege to once again meet up with 458 Squadron Veteran Bryan Quinlan and his wife Joan while on a recent holiday to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in May of 2018. Bryan, who is 95 years young, is recovering from a fall in his

driveway (slipped on ice while hoping into a taxi). Bryan severely injured his shoulder and is still on the road to recovery but all things considered, both Bryan and Joan are as spritely as people many years their junior. Joan served a delicious salad for lunch followed by desert and coffee. Then we retired to the family room where we wiled the afternoon away chatting about one thing and another. Our thoughts were very much with Ian Dunmore who had just lost his dad, George. Bryan and George spent a short time together on The Squadron and indeed were together at OTU Limavady, Northern Ireland and flew together to Egypt via Gibraltar in 1942. Thanks Bryan and Joan for hosting us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in seven years.

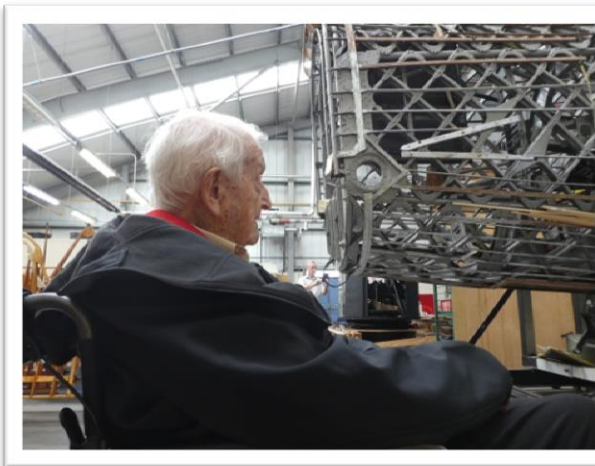


### **United Kingdom Flight Report by Keith Wilkinson**



More than 70 years after he last flew Wellington bombers for 458 Squadron, Jack Christianson (pictured left) has had the rare chance to get up close to one. Jack, who is now aged 96, visited RAF Museum Cosford to see one of only two surviving Wellingtons. The Vickers Mk 10B aircraft has been under

restoration at the Michael Beetham Conservation Centre at Cosford since 2010. The centre is normally closed to the public except for occasional open days, but I managed to pull a few strings and got special permission for Jack to get entry to the hangar where the work is taking place. Staff were really pleased to meet a veteran who'd actually flown one in the war. There can't be many left now, sadly. The Wellington is currently stripped of most of its fabric and the geodetic frame is clear to see. The wings and rear turret are also separated from the fuselage. But Jack said it brought back many memories of his days with 458 and, despite its status under overhaul, much of the aircraft was just as he remembered them back in 1943/44. One of the wings has been recovered in new Irish linen and has been repainted, and the second wing is going through the same process. Until eight years ago, the Wellington was on display at Hendon in London. But it was taken by lorry to Shropshire for this huge renovation project. Jack has in the past also been to see the only other surviving Wellington - the one that was rescued from Loch Ness and which is at the Brooklands Museum in England. When he went to see that



bomber (which was being restored with the help of 458-er, the late Norman Duke) he actually sat in the cockpit. Jack is over six feet tall and wondered how he had managed to fly so many missions in such a tight space, although he did then have the benefit of fitness



and agility. This time, Jack was really struck by the smallness of the rear turret.

Jack visited Cosford with his wife Audrey. Both were in wheelchairs. I also went along, as did Jack's daughter and her husband.

And there were a

number of visitors with them from Australia - Jack's son, Kevin, his wife Anna, from Perth, and four Aussie friends.

***#See Editor's note page 15 about this Wellington***



## **Western Australia Flight Report by Nick Bertram**



L to R. Nick Bertram, Ted Jewell & Howard Bertram.  
June 2013



My name is Nick Bertram and my grandfather also known as Nick was a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner with the 458 Squadron. My grandfather passed away at age 43 after a glider incident in the Adelaide Hills in 1959 My father Howard, was only 10

years old at the time so stories & memories of Nicks wartime service were unable to be passed down. In March 2012 my wife and I took a trip from Perth to Mandurah, Western Australia, to meet Ted at his house. He was holding a 458 Squadron luncheon which they held on a regular basis. It was a chance to meet some of the last WW2 veterans that served with 458 Squadron. We were welcomed to the group with open arms and you never left a luncheon feeling hungry.



I remember Ted always had a wheelbarrow full of home grown pumpkins ready to offload to whoever was willing as there were far too many to eat himself! Over the 3 years before we left to go to Darwin we attended as many luncheons as we could. Ted and Bill Kelleher would talk about their experiences, show photos & share stories. For me it was the insight my grandfather didn't get the opportunity to share with his only son or grandchildren.

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**The following article was written by Rod Moran about Ted as an ANZAC day piece in The West Australian**

Exotic climes beckoned a Beverley boy who counts service with the RAAF among the best moments of his life.

When Ted Jewell, just 18 years of age, left the mixed farm he was working on in Beverley he could have had no way of knowing that momentous events could soon propel him to the worst



exotic of climes. It was 1940 and he had decided to do his bit for King and country by joining the RAAF. Mr Jewell's first stop was England. The trip by the RMS Athlone Castle, from Sydney via New Zealand and on to Panama, was perilous. There were German raiders in the Pacific. At one stage enemy ships were spotted as evening fell. The troop ship evaded them, though Lord Haw Haw – the pompous English aristocrat who broadcast Nazi propaganda from Berlin – claimed it had been sunk. Next stop was Iceland, then Scotland and on to England. Mr Jewell was then inducted into what was known as an Infiltration Scheme whereby Australian trainees were placed with Royal Air Force squadrons for up to two years. After qualifying as an aircraft fitter, he was posted to the RAAF's 458 Squadron, which was initially based in England. In March 1942 it was transferred to the Middle East. Again, it was a long and dangerous transit. The first port of call was Freetown in Sierra Leone. "There was a convoy in that that had been torpedoed," Mr Jewell recalls. "So we had to wait until we could pick up a convoy and get down to South Africa. Finally, we had aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers. Part of the way

there was a submarine strike. But on our boat we never had any trouble.”

Having arrived safely in Palestine the squadron got down to its deadly work. “The way we operated was different to, say, some of the squadrons who sent a big batch of bombers or fighters over,” Mr Ted Jewell explains. “They had radar on the planes. It was nearly all night flying. They were mainly after submarines and tankers. We had to stop the supplies getting to Rommel in the desert. That was the main task. They also sank a couple of cruisers, a lot of tankers and quite a few submarines. When they came in to drop a torpedo, they had to come in at about 50 feet. And at night time that’s pretty hairy.”

Mr Jewell recalls accompanying a mate, Alec Barrass, when he was practising his torpedo runs. “He was probably the best pilot at low flying,” Mr Jewell says. “And I tell you what, sometimes you thought you could put your hand out the window and touch the water, you were that low. He was so good.”

Mr Jewell’s role as a fitter did not preclude him from flying on many other occasions, too. When the final push against Rommel and his Afrika Corps started in the Western Desert, 458 Squadron moved their operation to Tunis. Then it went to Algiers. Soon after, he was part of a small detachment from the squadron that went to Corsica. Next stop was Sardinia. Then it was off to Malta from where a detachment undertook patrols for a number of months. After that, the squadron was sent to Gibraltar. In all these moves, Mr Jewell flew as part of the crew but not on the operations themselves. “We got around everywhere,” he says. “Often I think how lucky we were. The Germans came over and bombed the airport a number of times. When I was in Corsica, we were bombed there. We went to jump in the slit trenches and they were half full of water. So we decided it was safer to keep out. Otherwise, we’d have been drowned.”

Despite the danger and loss of friends, Mr Jewell looks back on his war years as being among the best parts of his life. “You had your mates; you were on the move, there was always something. There was always the chance that you could be bombed or killed. But I enjoyed every bit of it, actually.”



458 Squadron's casualties were high. Some 150 were killed in action, mainly air crew, out of the unit's establishment of 450 men. But they had made an important contribution to the destruction of Nazi designs in the Middle East.

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In April this year the 458 squadron published the 259th Newsletter over a 70 year period of which Ted was a valued contributor and I'm told one of the founding members of WA Flight not long after the war. Ted was the last known serving member of the Squadron in WA. Now only 3 others remain in Australia and another 6 or so in the UK & Canada. On behalf of all 458 Squadron Association members we send our deepest sympathies to the Jewell family. Another true hero has been released from the bonds of the earth to fly into the endless blue skies and once again join all those he once knew but were lost. Thank you for your friendship Ted and to his family for allowing me to speak today. Rest In Peace Ted.

*Nick attended and spoke at Ted Jewell's funeral representing 458 Squadron Association. Apart from his heroic service with the RAAF Ted's contribution to the 458 Squadron Association was invaluable. Ted was one of the foundation members of The Squadron Association in WA. Ted was a long time Western Australian Flight Correspondent and contributor to the 458 Squadron Association Journal. Rest in Peace Ted. (Editor)*



### **Canada Flight Report by Bryan Quinlan**



News from Canada - high-lights feature Tom Rowan (see photo) and his 100th in December this year, also just talked to Jack Reynolds who advised me that he will be 100 on 24 August so he has the honour of being the oldest Canadian member of our former Flight. My news is not nearly as impressive being a kid nearing my 96th in September. As you (Roland) and Janet recently saw, I am mostly recovered from the broken shoulder and Joan is as active as ever and I just take shoulder strengthening

exercises and walks using my walker. We are experiencing very hot weather. Last Saturday our daughter Peggy organized a family party at her place attended by the newly-weds Alison, our only grand-daughter and her husband, Brandon. There were sports-games, video of the wedding in Maui, two family birthdays and lots to eat. That's about it, stay tuned. **Bryan**



### **South Australia Flight Report by Rick Michell**



SA Flight is hoping all members in the Southern Hemisphere are coping with the very cold winter we are having, especially here in South Australia. Our friends in the Northern Hemisphere are having a great summer.

We had our ANZAC DAY REUNION lunch at the Kensi and was well attended by members of the Squadron. We also have just had our Mid-Year Lunch, with also a good turn out; I again thank Pat Cribb for organising the lunch venue, who always looks after us with great service.

I would like to again thank again Pat Richards' daughter for the lovely Cupcakes she gives us at our luncheons.

My thanks also go to Margaret and Peter Harden on giving us a copy of a page from 458 Squadron Journal, sorry the quality of the page has not copied well but some are readable.

My trip to Darwin was a great experience and Darwin is a very interesting place, I have since been to Singapore and in August I am going to cruise from Shanghai to Sydney.

Our next Squadron get together will be on November 11th for our Christmas get together and also Celebrate the ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY of the end of WORLD WAR ONE. This will be at the Kensi, if you would like to Celebrate this Momentous day , with us please contact **Dave Cosh on 0417867277 by the 5th of November.**

**With Best Wishes - Rick Michell**

Son of Colin Edgar Michell, Wireless Operator and Rear Gunner.

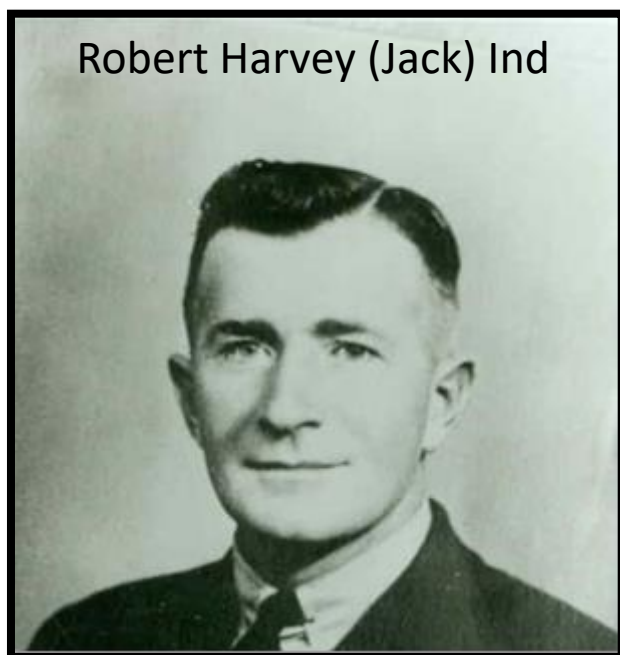
**PLEASE NOTE:-** We have found SA FLIGHT ARCHIVES, which are very safe in my Accountant's office. We are open to suggestions where we can find a permanent and safe home for them.



## **FACE OF 458 SQUADRON.**

Sergeant Robert Harvey (Jack) Ind.

Thanks to grandson Jon Ind.



Robert Harvey (Jack) Ind



Robert Harvey (Jack) Ind



Robert Harvey (Jack) Ind



L-R. ?, Robert Harvey (Jack) Ind, ?, ?

**Can anyone help Jon in identifying  
the 458ers in this Photo? Contact Editor.**

**Email Sent: Wed 18-Apr-18**



Brian Woodhead  
Adelaide 1956

**From: Margaret Hackett (Brian Woodhead's daughter)**

Dear Roland

Hi I left a message for you but not sure if it was explanatory or not.

I am Brian Woodhead's daughter from Adelaide now living in Sydney I know Eric Munkman was where Mum was when we brought her over to Sydney after Dad died and she went to live up there, but she passed away a few years ago.

**I was reading the Squadron News (April 2018 #259) and got to the page of Face of 458 Squadron I was wondering if you knew anything about Pat Hackett. That is my married name and the family comes from Adelaide as well. - They were wine makers etc. Do you have any information about Pat Hackett's family if so would you be able to share it with me and will run it past Simon my brother in law in Adelaide to see if they are part of the family Thank you.**

Can I send a photo of Dad to you? I have all the photos. I have to say that some of the people I have no idea who they are. I still have Dad's flying jacket, his hood for flying the map of where they flew - silk and hanging in a frame on my wall, and the log book which is great. I always go to the city cross of sacrifice on Anzac Day but never stay for the march as we are normally busy checking people in and checking them out - we work in the fully furnished property industry with tenants arriving and departing short and long term accommodation. Thank you and regards,  
**Margaret Hackett**

**(Brian Woodhead's daughter)**

Can anyone help Margaret re Pat Hackett? Contact Editor.





## **#Editor's Note from UK Report.**

It may interest you to know that the Wellington Mk.10B featured in this #260 UK Report of July, 2018, is the same aircraft referred to in the 458 Newsletter publication #19 dated May 1954. The Editor of the '458 Squadron News' was Peter Alexander. I quote, *"VALE! - 458 Pilots can now feel like the Arab saying farewell to his steed. The last Wellington the RAF has left in flying condition will make its farewell flight during the Battle of Britain display at RAF Station St Athan, Glamorganshire. It has not yet been decided what to do with the plane No MF628, a Mk.10 Trainer.*

*A total of 11,461 Wellingtons were built, several thousand more than any other British bomber type. The RAF has no museum for interesting and historic planes but it is possible that it will be offered to someone who can store it....."*

## **458 HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS**

### **THE ERIC J. JEWELL AWARD**

#### **Australian Air Force Cadet Funding Submission Applications**

AAFC Squadron representatives are invited to submit an application for funding for new or existing cadets and/or cadet programs on or before 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. An application form will soon be available at <https://www.458raafsquadron.org/eric-j-jewell-award>

### **458 CAPS OR POLOS ANYONE?**

Expressions of interest are being sort for anyone who would be interested in buying a 458 Squadron baseball style cap and/or a polo shirt both with the 458 Squadron Crest. Please contact the editor by email or post (see page 1 for my details)

**\*NOTE FROM EDITOR** –It is very important for me as Editor of this great Newsletter to be able to keep contact details up to date. The Association would like an up to date number of surviving 458 Veterans and Widows. Please contact me (my details on page 1.) Thanks for everyone's support. All postal/email details will be held in the strictest of confidence by the editor.

## Our Memorabilia Page [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](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) 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](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) 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

These **poster size** wartime photograph reproductions will make magnificent wall history/art. A fine [example](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) 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](http://www.458raafsquadron.org) to order. Items will be posted on receipt of payment.

### 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.



### 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CUP 1941 - 2016

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)