



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 CAFÉ ON APRIL 25, 2021

On a fine Melbourne autumn day, 9 of us marched to the Shrine of Remembrance. It was great to be marching again after last year's cancellation due to covid-19. This year numbers had been limited to 5,000 (which was later revised to 8,000 very close to the day) in an abundance of caution (some say misuse of power; there are zero cases of covid at this time) by the labor state government. This over restrictive approach kept numbers away (and possibly in protest). Two of the many highlights were having Flight Lieutenant Matthew Wullemin, grandson of 458 Veteran: Warrant Officer Mervyn Lee marching with us. And Vayle Hallam, daughter of FI Lt Roy Montrowe who served with 148 Squadron RAF - 458 aircrews were detached to 148 RAF in 1942 at Kabrit, Egypt for a number of months. 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 2021 AGM. The meeting place was the same as 2019, just across the road (Birdwood Ave) from the Shrine. In attendance were Brian Paroissien, his son Nigel, Matthew Wullemin, his wife Cathy and son Cooper, Neil Flentje, Roland Orchard, Chris Orchard, Jeremy Orchard. Apologies received from Chris Wurr, Jane Foster, Joe & Gillian Somers.

Those who marched were: Brian Paroissien, his son Nigel, Matthew Wullemin, Vayle Hallam (assisted by carer Chris), Neil Flentje, Roland Orchard, Chris Orchard, Jeremy Orchard. This year we carried the Banner and the picture of the Wellington (as Air Force cadets present at the march were already assigned to other duties).

Office Bearers 2021/2022

The Secretary moved a motion that, due to low numbers present at the meeting, new elections should otherwise wait until next year's AGM. This was agreed to but subject to expressions of interest from any Victorian member who would like to put themselves forward for a position. Use the Contact Us form on our website and send an email for our attention. Thank you. At this writing, those in office are:

President: Roland Orchard

Senior VP: Christopher Orchard

Junior VP: Neil Flentje

Secretary/Treasurer: Jeremy Orchard

Historian: Peter Hedgcock



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458 Squadron President's Report

It has been a sad and challenging last 12 months for us all, in more ways than one. The passing of our few remaining 458 Squadron Veterans including Leon Armstrong, Jack Christianson, Bob Springall, Harry Baines, just recently Jim Browne, widows Elizabeth Crowley and Joan Clues. May they all rest in peace.

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

On a happier note, from all accounts Charles Humbles our UK Veteran is still going well and it has come to light just recently, Thomas Henwood Hicks a 458er originally from the UK now resides in Perth, Western Australia. Tom's son Richard contacted us and told us that his Dad recently turned 100. Our 458 Correspondent in Perth jumped at the chance to meet Tom and was able to put together Tom's story which is now on our Servicemen's Stories page of our website. Thanks, Nick, for such a speedy response in reconnecting with Tom and his sons and daughters Richard, Keith, Jane and Clare, with 458 Squadron Association.

The Covid pandemic has certainly been centre stage around the world affecting us all in many ways. As we know it is still raging in many places and our thoughts are with those who have suffered. Our thoughts and love are also with Jane & Eric Foster who sadly lost one of their daughters to cancer.

Preparations for the 458 Squadron Reunion are well under way. Rob Wilkinson from NSW Flight has taken the reins and to date, we have about 60 members registered to attend. It promises to be an exciting weekend at Williamtown RAAF Base celebrating the 80th Anniversary since the formation of 458 Squadron. Activities include a tour of Fighter World which is adjacent to the RAAF Base. Anniversary Dinner 'under the wing's' in the hangar at Fighter World, a whale watching tour and to finish off a tour of RAAF Williamtown.



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Senior Vice-President's Report:

I want to thank the Executive Committee for all the work in the past year, especially the exemplary work done on both the 2021 Calendar and the Special Edition Newsletter – 75 years on from the VE and the VP.

I want to thank everyone for their support, no matter how small or big. What you can do and when you can offer it is fine by me.

As always, we honour our loved ones who served to help win us the freedoms we have today – freedom from despots and dictators. We think of all our 458's that never came back, indeed all those who never came back. Uncle Norman tragically never came back. This is a negative from his Personnel record, inverted using free internet software:



PO Norman Henry Orchard, Service Number - 419136 : Date of birth - 06 Jul 1924. 463 Sqn UK, Pilot Officer, Lancaster pilot, crashed in the UK & tragically lost with all crew on 11-Mar-1945. Died at age 20.

Eric J JEWELL Award Applications:

1. From my near neighbour and long-time friend, John Marino, whose son, Thomas, recently joined the AAFC. The application was for reimbursement of costs associated with uniform and other fees. Disappointingly, the application was withdrawn as Thomas could no longer continue as a cadet due to personal reasons.



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2. From 3WG AAFC (NSW & ACT) WOFF(AAFC) Chris Gibson, WOFF-Ceremonial for AAFC 80th in June this year (formed June 1941 (note 458 Sqn formed in July 1941)). Application is for \$5,000 for the production of 3000+ caps. Both the asking amount is above the range that we allocate, and it is too late for the caps to contain any embroidery with FLGOFF Eric J Jewell, as the cap design was approved prior to receipt of the application, so we should pursue other options to promote both Eric and 458. Chris Gibson is willing to discuss options. My thought is that an article/s could go on both their website and any of their 80th celebration/promotional material about 458, including Eric and 458s 80th anniversary. It's short notice, if anyone can think of what else they could do should we approve this application?

Final selected all weather baseball cap



Notes from the Secretary: our discussions considered funding of \$3000 and including 458 and Eric on the 'Our Supporters' page of the AAFC website and their Facebook and Instagram pages. Final sign-off from the Committee to occur next month with the outcome reported on our website. FL LT Matt Wuillemain provided very helpful suggestions and guidance on pathways for Eric J. Jewell Award funding for next year and into the future (unable to pursue this year as our application deadline was today). Matt preferred a targeted approach to Award funding e.g. categories for individual Cadets such as Merit scholarships, financial assistance, 'someone who shows promise'. Matt can provide contacts including the Air Commodore in charge of Air Force Cadets.

Junior Vice-President's Report:

Worked with Peter Hedgcock on the Des Knock (from the UK) artwork of Wellingtons. These will be added to our Memorabilia page in the near future. And gave copies to the Committee of the photos taken at our Conference in Canberra with NSW Flight in 2019.

Note from the Secretary: Thanks Neil for being today's official photographer.



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2021 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 25/4/20 = \$2798.52* + \$2256.75 paypal + \$2649.60 term deposit* = \$7704.87

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

Nett = \$514.45

Consisting of:

- Income:
 - \$250 membership dues
 - \$1038.40 from nine kind Donations
 - \$331.28 Very kind Bequest from the late VP Bob Springall in the UK
 - \$189.74 for copies of the DVD Official Albums sold.
 - \$238.79 for Iconic Memorabilia photos sold
 - \$21.23 for 250th Newsletter sold
 - \$197.61 for Caps sold
 - \$322.34 for Polos sold
 - \$5565 Two grants received
 - \$79.89 Interest earned from term deposit
 - \$651.77 Calendars (2021) sold
 - \$218.74 Cups sold
 - Total = \$9104.79
- Expenses:
 - \$581.90 for postage & paper/cartridges costs for Newsletters
 - \$964.51 Calendar postage (including o'seas: UK, NZ, Canada, Sth Africa)
 - \$211.84 for Polos and Caps ordered
 - \$25 for re-stock of cap(s)
 - \$200 postage allowance for Memorabilia sales and op costs of shop
 - \$500 for Website Hosting for the year
 - \$3015 Special VE/VP Newsletter #266 using grant funds from Vic govt.
 - \$2990 for 2021 Calendar published using grant funds from DVA
 - \$55 Mail-out for 2021 Reunion in July
 - \$39.90 NAA research
 - \$7.19 currency exchange rate variation/loss (in paypal account)
 - Total = \$8590.34
- Income – Expenses = \$9104.79 – \$8590.34 = \$514.45



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Summary: With a nett increase of just over \$500 this has been a steady result for the year.

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

Income: \$8000 generous donation from the family of Eric Jewell (in 2018)

Income: \$5000 another generous donation from the family of Eric (in 2020)

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

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

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

Current 2021 Balance: \$10350.40. This balance plus \$2649.60 of Vic Flight: funds have been combined into a Term Deposit* of \$8000 to earn interest (0.35% p.a. with CBA) and a second Term Deposit of a proportion of \$5000* about to be opened – and based on this transaction: within the next month the applicants for the 2021 Eric J. Jewell Award will be reviewed and the winner selected.

Highlights:

+ Our grant was approved by the Victorian State Govt. to publish the special Collector's Edition Newsletter #266 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the role the Squadron played in it.

+ A second grant was approved by the Dept of Veterans Affairs to publish the special Commemorative 2021 calendar. It commemorates the end of WWII, the Centenary of the RAAF and the 80th anniversary of 458's formation. We are very pleased with the results of both publications; we received a lot of complimentary feedback about them.

+ Even in this past unusual year of covid-19 I am still amazed and grateful for the generosity of the 458 family: generous donations and a Bequest from the late VP Bob Springall (featured in the 2021 Calendar along with his Squadron colleagues). Your generosity makes possible the smooth running of the Association

+ \$700 of Memorabilia sales nett income (DVDs, Iconic photos, Badges, Caps, Polos, Cups, etc). Thanks to "Hedgy" Peter Hedgcock, our Historian who runs the Memorabilia Shop. This is our seventh full year for the Shop. See the webpage: <http://458raafsquadron.org/memorabilia-shop.html>

Thank you for reading. Association membership is now due for the coming year, \$50 per family; Veterans & wives no charge. Kind regards, J. Orchard 25th April, 2021



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Thanks to those who have already paid their dues for the coming year. And thank you to those for their generous donations received!

Secretary's Report:

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 #262 through #267
- Our website www.458raafsquadron.org just had its **ninth** birthday! (we went LIVE on 18/4/2012) We have been steadily adding content during the year
- Our website is undergoing a platform upgrade. A training session is to be scheduled very soon for the Committee.

Focus and Plans for 2021/2022:

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
- The 80th Anniversary of Formation Reunion at Williamstown, NSW July 10th to 12th
- Seek feedback from all Veterans, descendants and members regarding the website and continue to build the website, particularly the individual Serviceman' stories that will be shown via the Honour Roll page, the Serviceman's stories page and the Nominal Roll page.
- The Committee to finalize reviewing the application from 3WG AAFC (NSW & ACT) for the 2021 Eric J. Jewell Award. To be completed in May.

Closure of the Meeting

The President closed the meeting at 11.45 am, wishing all Veterans, spouses, descendants and members to stay safe and well for the coming year. And hoping to see you at the Reunion in Williamstown, NSW July 10th.



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Photos of the March



