



Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

RAAF 458 Squadron Reunion 2025

Congratulations to everyone gathered in Malta to celebrate 458 Squadron, and the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

For eight decades, you have been remarkable stewards of the fine legacy of 458 Squadron, and all they achieved in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic, Western Europe and the Middle East.

As a group of people whose lives span different countries, continents, generations, and cultures, brought together by a singular pride and passion, you have kept alive the memories and stories of 458, and offered practical care and support to precious veterans, their widows, children, and grandchildren.

Publishing *458 Squadron News* for 76 years – in the process curating and sharing an extraordinary collection of photographs, records, articles, letters, and diaries – is a historic achievement in itself, and testament to your deep respect, care and commitment as a community.

As you mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the war, with commemorations at graves and memorials, and with generous celebrations of the heroes of 458, you share the spirit of all Australians and our allies who joyfully welcomed peace and homecoming in 1945, and who pledged to remember always those who had fallen.

In his address to the nation 80 years ago, Prime Minister Chifley reflected on those Australians who did not return from the theatres of war:

Nothing can fully repay the debt we owe them nor can history record in adequate terms their deeds from the black days that followed September 1939 and December 1941, until this moment.

Those words and sentiment remain as true today as they were 80 years ago.

That is why we honour their memory, and reflect, with thanks, on the peace, freedoms and opportunity they created for the generations that followed.

Thank you for your constant work of remembrance and honour, as the families and descendants of Squadron 458. Australia remains proud of what they achieved, and grateful for their service and sacrifice.