

R.A.A.F Association – Victorian Division
Sunderland Branch



Sunderland Mk I - 230 Sq RAF



RB-G 10 Squadron RAAF

A.C.N. 004250 248

Incorporating 10 Squadron RAAF, the first RAAF Squadron in action in W.W.II;
461 Squadron RAAF, The Anzac Squadron; and 13 RAF Squadrons

3 November 2023

SPRING 2023

Sunderlanders and friends.

Spring has arrived although the fickle weather might suggest we are still in winter.

Some of the recipients of this Newsletter will have already received the NSW Branch Newsletter. Sorry for some duplication in this Newsletter. In August the NSW Branch recently conducted a wreath laying at Roseville.

I recently visited the RAAF museum at Point Cook, and a brief report is provided below.

A number of our members are looking forward to attending the Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy Dinner in Adelaide with our friends from 10 Squadron.

PAST EVENTS

NSW BRANCH WREATH LAYING AT ROSEVILLE, NSW.

In August, at their Sunderland lunch, at Roseville, a small group of NSW Branch Sunderlanders conducted a wreath laying at a memorial in a park adjacent to the RSL.



From L - R: Glenice Bayliss, Tim Jensen, Prue Anthony, Anne Flaherty, and her sister Elizabeth,
Denis Smith, Geoff Bayliss

Secretary/Treasurer: Rick Hattam. Please address all correspondence to Secretary: Rick Hattam,
5 Waurn Park Court, BELMONT VIC 3216, Phone 0418 994 759; rickyh461@gmail.com

RAAF MUSEUM – POINT COOK VICTORIA

In October I made a visit to the RAAF Museum at Point Cook in Victoria.

RAAF Base Point Cook is the birthplace of the Australian Flying Corps and the Royal Australian Air Force. The base covers 341 ha and is located approximately 26 km from Melbourne CBD and 8 km south of RAAF Williams. It was established in March 1913 as the location for the Central Flying School and has the oldest continually operating military airfield in the southern hemisphere.

The RAAF Museum is currently the largest Defence unit at Point Cook. It features the oldest and most extensive complex of military aviation buildings. RAAF Base Point Cook was included in the National Heritage List on 29 August 2007.

No.10 Squadron was formed on 1 July 1939 at RAAF Point Cook under the command of Wing Commander Leon Lachal. Later that month aircrew and ground staff from the squadron departed for Britain to be trained on the Short Sunderland aircraft which had been acquired to equip the squadron. While it was intended that the aircrew would fly these aircraft to Australia after completing their training, following the outbreak of war the Australian government offered to retain the squadron in Britain. As a result, No. 10 Squadron was both the first RAAF squadron and the first British Commonwealth Squadron to see active service in the Second World War, when one of its aircraft made a flight to Tunisia on 10 October 1939. It was also the only RAAF squadron to see continuous active service throughout the war.

I was pleasantly surprised to be able to visit the newly opened Coastal Command Display which features memorabilia from 10 Sqn and 461 Sqn



The Coastal Command Display

R.A.A.F Association – Victorian Division Sunderland Branch

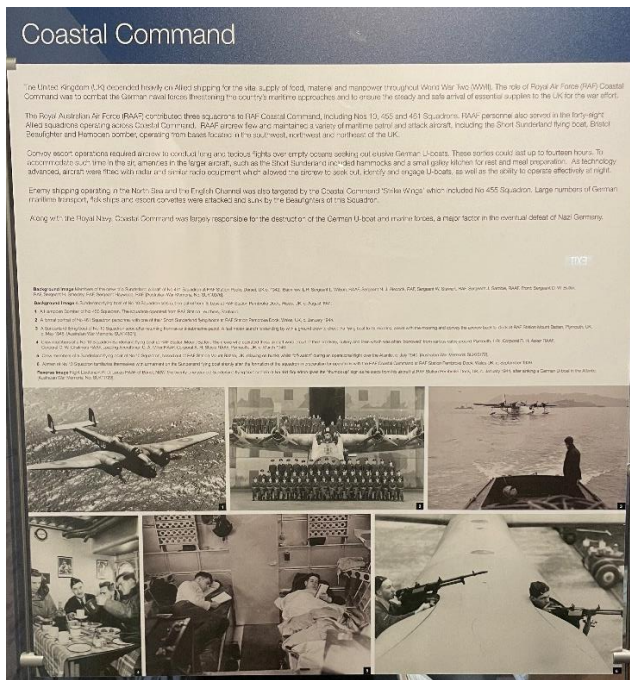


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The display includes personal memorabilia from Peter Jensen and Frank Peake 461 Sqn, Hugh Birch 10 Sqn.

Other items include, a 10 Sqn Pendant, Flying kit, a quick reference chart to assist depth charge attacks on submerging U-boats developed by W/CDR John Nicholls 461 Sqn and on Empire Air Training Scheme Plaque and numerous photos.

The much-publicised photo of RB-A of 10 Sqn features on one wall. This photo was taken by Tom Scott the 10 Sqn photographer. Post war, Tom became the photographer for the Country Roads Board (the State Road Authority for Victoria), a true gentleman with whom I shared many conversations.



Coastal Command story with photos



Squadron Leader Jensen's 461 Sqn jacket



Group Captain Hugh Birch's of 10 Sqn medal group.

Very impressive. Atlantic Star with Air Crew Europe clasp, Africa Star and Pacific Star.

Note also DFC, MID x 2, Malta George Cross 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal, European Combatants Cross, Belgium Cross of King Albert I Veterans with oak leaf and Battle of Dunkirk 1940 Commemorative Medal.

GPCAPT Birch is recognised as the first allied pilot of a Sunderland aircraft to rescue stranded seamen in the Atlantic Ocean.

Miniature Medal Set, Logbook and Badge

These items belonged to Flight Lieutenant Frank Peak, who piloted Sunderland aircraft with No 461 Squadron. His logbook details his training and operational flying achievements from July 1941 to May 1945. The cloth Squadron Badge is typical of those worn by members of No 461 Squadron and depicts a Sunderland aircraft inside the RAAF crest.

Peak's miniature medal set includes (L-R):

- 1939-1945 Star
- Atlantic Star with France & Germany clasp
- Defence Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945
- Australia Service Medal 1939-1945

SGT Frank Peak, RAAF, with an Airspeed Oxford aircraft during his training under the Empire Air Training Scheme at No 7 Service Flying Training School, Fort McLeod, Alberta, Canada.

Year	Month	Aircraft	Type	No	Pilot or Co-Pilot	Type of Mission	Hours (including taxi and take-off)	Hours		Total	Remarks
								Actual	Estimated		
1941	8	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	18	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	20	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	22	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	23	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	24	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	25	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	26	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	27	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	28	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	29	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	30	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1941	31	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
1942	1	Blenheim	PRIV	75	WANTS	Self-organised	100	100	200	100	Task Force Forward
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Flight Lieutenant Frank Peak, 461 Sqn.

Log book including entries where he flew with Jim Amiss, his miniature medal group, a photo of Frank training in an Airspeed Oxford in Canada and a badge that was part apparel for one of the Sunderland Squadrons' reunion post war in Perth.,

ED. My father flew with Jim Amiss and Jim's son Roger is the Secretary of the QLD Sunderlanders. Jim was also in the action of 2 June 1943 involving N-461 and 8 JU-88's.

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EATS Plaque. 461 Sqn Sunderlanders will associate with this item as most of 461 Sqn airmen were EATS trainees.

The museum is open on Thursdays and Sundays, 1000 to 1500. Bookings to attend are essential. You need to book via the website – <https://airforce.gov.au>.

It is well worth a visit.

COMING EVENTS

2023 DUDLEY MARROWS MEMORIAL TROPHY DINNER

The 2023 Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy Dinner will be held on Wednesday 6 December 2023 in the Air Force Room at the Navy, Military and Air Force Club, Hutt Street, Adelaide.

We have 13 Sunderland attendees at this time from NSW and Victoria. If you wish to attend and have not as yet responded, please contact Peter Dowling 0418 282 775 as a matter of urgency.

ELECTRONIC REFERENCES AND CONTACTS

Short Sunderland/Hythe, Sandringham & Seaforth/Solent. Face Book Group

Facebook group that might be of interest to some Sunderlanders – Short Sunderland/Hythe, Sandringham & Seaforth/Solent. It's a Private Group, but often has Sunderland, RAAF 10 and 461 Sqn content. Worth following.

Websites –

www.pooleflyingboats.com

www.ayemaam.com

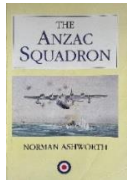
<https://aviationmuseumwa.org>

RAAF Museum – Point Cook, Victoria

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SHOPPING SECTION

“ANZAC SQUADRON”



This book contains a wealth of information about Squadron members and relates the story of 461 Squadron the “ANZAC SQUADRON” by Norman Ashworth. Copies are available from the Secretary at a cost of \$55.00 per copy, postage and handling.

“MARITIME is NUMBER 10” Book – Currently out of stock

Sunderland Lapel Badges – “Sunderland” lapel badges are available from the Secretary at \$8.00 ea. packaging and postage paid.

10 and 461 Squadron Plaques

We now have both 10 and 461 Squadron Plaques in stock. The cost is \$70.00 including GST, postage and packaging.

VALE – Mrs Lois Dunn, wife of Noel Dunn, 10 Sqn. Lois was a great supporter of our Branch and a regular attendee at Branch events.

LEST WE FORGET

