

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



Sunderland Mk I - 230 Sq RAF



Sunderland P9602 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

30 October 2024

WINTER/SPRING 2024

Sunderlanders and friends.

Greetings to all Sunderlanders and friends. I have been very remiss in not getting the Winter Newsletter circulated earlier. This one will be the Winter and Spring edition.

Anzac Day has come and Sunderlanders in two states and in Pembroke Dock in Wales, UK, commemorated the occasion and remembered the original Sunderlanders who have gone before us. A report on the Victorian march and some photos from the NSW and Pembroke Dock in Wales, commemorations are included.

THE RAAF IN NHILL, WESTERN VICTORIA

On a recent trip to South Australia, we stopped for lunch in Nhill a great little town in western Victoria. In the median area of the highway at the western end of town there is a beautifully maintained wonderful war memorial. The area is especially decorated for Anzac Day commemorations.



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

To my surprise when wandering around the area I discovered that there were memorials to the RAAF service personnel who were based at Nhill during the second world war.



The Nhill airfield was the home to a number of RAAF training units. The RAAF training base was established in 1941 a No.2 Air Navigation School, following on to No. 1 Operations Training Unit and No.97 Reserve Squadron and then to AAGS (Air Armament, and Gas School) which included gunnery, bombing and chemical warfare training. The base eventually became CMU Nhill (Care and Maintenance Unit before its closure in 1946. Well over 14,000 young men and women were stationed at Nhill for training before being posted to where they were need ed to assist the war effort.

No. 2 Air Navigation School was formed at Mount Gambier, South Australia, on 1 Jul 1941. The five Anson aircraft with which the School was to be equipped arrived on the 12th. The first course of trainees commenced training on 28 July. On 15 September, the staff and students transferred by road to Nhill, Victoria. The base had been built from fresh in 8 weeks for an estimated cost of \$125,000 to house 302 staff and 42 trainees.

All the personnel and aircraft of the School had moved to Nhill by 19 Sep 1941, to enable the first course to be conducted at the new base to commence on the 22nd. This course graduated on 16 November, with each trainee averaging 31 hours 15 m111utes flying time. No. 1 Operational Training Unit was raised at Nhill on 8 Dec 1941, and shared the base with 2 Air Navigation School until it moved to Sale on 15 Feb 1942. On 8 Jun 1942, No. 97 (Reserve) Squadron was formed from unit personnel, and they were to have 15 Anson aircraft on its strength.

Commencing on 18 Sep 1943, six pilots from Australian National Airlines, Guinea Airlines and McRoberston and Miller Airlines participated in the astro-navigation course at the School. The school used Fairey Battles, Tiger Moths, Wirraways, Oxford, Beauforts and Lockheed Hudsons while it was stationed at Nhill. After graduating 2,002 trainees, No. 2 Air Navigation School was disbanded on 9 Dec 1943. On 14 February 1944, the unit's aircraft, instructors and trainees left Nhill headed for West Sale. The following day a special troop train transported all the remaining personnel, stores and equipment to West Sale.

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



Sunderland Mk I - 230 Sq RAF



Sunderland P9602 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



The Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre Inc. has been established at the airfield 5 km out of town.

COMING EVENTS

2024 DUDLEY MARROWS MEMORIAL TROPHY DINNER

The 2024 Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy Dinner will be held on Friday 29th November 2024 in the Air Force Room at the Navy, Military and Air Force Club, Hutt Street, Adelaide.

We currently have several attendees from NSW and Victoria. If you wish to attend and have not yet responded, please urgently contact Peter Dowling 0418 282 775.

PAST EVENTS

ANZAC DAY 2024 – 25 APRIL, MELBOURNE MARCH

A large group of Sunderlanders Squadrons formed up behind our banner in our usual location in Flinders Street East stepping off on time at 10:50 am. The weather was kind to us and the group provided a great representation marching behind our Sunderland Squadrons banner.

Our group included interstaters Marilyn Marrows-Voullaire from NSW, Allan Stark and Chris King who made the journey from Queensland. It was meet an old friend; Wing Commander Kevin Murray Ex 10 Sqn CO joined us for the commemoration.

As we stepped off it was wonderful to realise that we had our own band immediately in front of the group.



Most of the Melbourne contingent at the Form Up Place

Left to Right

Rear Rank

Mitchell Heyward (partly hidden), Kevin Murray (ex CO 10 Sqn), Hamish Murray, Matthew King (hidden), Chris King, Allan Stark

Front Rank

Ricky Hattam, Davd White, Marilyn Marrows-Voullaire, Angus Scott, Angus King, Pam Longe, Pam Gibson.

Once again, the Sunderlanders were well supported by the Air Force Cadets who were well presented and carried our banner with pride.

As is done every year, each cadet was presented with a Sunderland lapel badge as a token of our gratitude for their support.



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



Sunderland Mk I - 230 Sq RAF



Sunderland P9602 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

ANZAC DAY 2024 – 25 APRIL, NSW BRANCH COMMEMORATIONS



NSW Branch Contingency at the Sydney march.

Left to Right

Robert Hampshire, Greg Head, Jasmine Head, Anne Pike-Flaherty, Elizabeth Pike.

Sunderlanders also attended the Commemoration Service in Blackheath.

ANZAC COMMEMORATION – MILFORD HAVEN, WALES, UK

Thanks to Anne Pike-Flaherty who passed on the photo of the Sunderlanders Anzac Day commemoration at Milford Haven in Wales. The service was held at a memorial to the crew of a Wellington bomber that crashed in the town in 1942 with the loss of five Australian airmen.



It is greatly appreciated that there are Anzac Day commemorations in Milford Haven near-by to Pembroke Dock, a base that has special significance to both 10 and 461 Squadrons RAAF aviators. The Australian Chief Guest was Lt Col Warren Croker.

Thank You to the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre.

ELECTRONIC REFERENCES AND CONTACTS

RAAF Museum – Point Cook, Victoria

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>

Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre – Pembroke Dock, Wales, UK

Pembroke Dock has an internationally significant heritage and is celebrated in the Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre, housed in the former Royal Dockyard Chapel. in the heart of Pembrokeshire.

Displays tell the story of the town from its origins as Wales' only Royal Dockyard where over 260 vessels were built, including five Royal Yachts. Later in the town's history, the Royal Air Force and Royal Australian Air Force, 10 and 461 Squadrons of flying-boats were based in the natural harbour of the Cleddau Estuary and the town became the world's largest military flying boat station, playing a vital role in the Second World War Battle of the Atlantic.

Website - <http://www.pdht.org>

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



Sunderland Mk I - 230 Sq RAF



Sunderland P9602 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

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 is a Private Group, but often has Sunderland, RAAF 10 and 461 Sqn content. Worth following.

Websites –

www.pooleflyingboats.com

www.ayemaam.com

Aviation Heritage Museum - Bull Creek, Western Australia

This is great Museum. In the past it had some Sunderland Squadrons displays. There is also a Facebook page for the Museum.

<https://aviationmuseumwa.org.au>

RAF Coastal Command 1936-1969 Facebook site

This Facebook group is dedicated to RAF Coastal Command. As 10 and 461 Sqn's served in Coastal Command there are often articles about our Sunderland Squadrons. Worth having a look at.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MHTCommunity/>

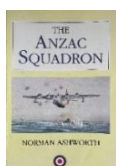
Short Sunderland “Flying Porcupine” - Facebook site.

This Facebook group is dedicated to the Short Sunderland. This site has recently posted a number of 10 Sqn photos from the album, of Bill Sykes, 10 Sqn RAAF. Also worth following.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1416154278706348/>

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 \$10.00 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.



Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre located in the Chapel of the RAF Base

