

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

20 July 2025

WINTER 2025

Sunderlanders and friends.

It's been some time since my last Newsletter and Anzac Day has come and gone. I apologise for the delay in reporting on Anzac Day.

In this newsletter I have included information on a newly published book about Sunderland EJ134 "N for Nuts" of 461 Squadron.

Thanks to Prue there is also some news regarding the new aircraft for 10 Squadron.

It has been some time since I advertised details of the Sunderlanders Memorial at Rathmines, so I have included details of how to recognise our original Sunderlanders on the memorial.

PAST EVENTS

ANZAC DAY 2025 – 25 APRIL, MELBOURNE MARCH



This year we had a good contingent of Sunderlanders for the Melbourne March.

The weather was kind to us for the morning March, but not so good for the football in the afternoon.

It was great to have a number of much younger Sunderlanders attend.

Sunderlanders L to R
Pam Gibson, David White, Pam Longe, Allan Stark, Marilyn Marrows-Voullaire, Angus Scott, Mitchell Heyward, Ricky Hattam



Held up on the Shrine Forecourt

We formed up in Flinders Street East and were accompanied by our own band for the march., The Air Force Cadets once again did a great and much appreciated job as the banner bearers.

ANZAC DAY 2025 – 25 APRIL, SYDNEY



**Left to Right
Greg Head, Jazmin Head, Pam (Mackellar) Urquart, a friend from the Catalina group,
Denis Smith, Anne Pike-Flaherty, Elizabeth Pike.**

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ANZAC DAY 2025 – 25 APRIL, RATHMINES, NSW

Anzac Day 2025 at Rathmines Memorial Park Anzac Day 2025 at Rathmines Memorial Park, showing wreath laying accompanied by a bagpiper, the Air Force cadets Catafalque party, the Lake Macquarie Band and 11 Squadron contingent visiting from Edinburgh Air Base in South Australia. Of course, every year we yearn to have some current 10 Squadron airmen and families there too!



COMING EVENTS

The 2025 Dudley Marrows Memorial Trophy Dinner will be held at a date to be fixed in late November or early December in the Air Force Room at the Navy, Military and Air Force Club, Hutt Street, Adelaide.

More details will be provided closer to the event. If you wish to attend or require any further information, contact Peter Dowling on 0418 282 775.

SQUADRON NEWS

Extract from Defence News - 25 January 2025

RAAF Gulfstream MC55A Peregrine aircraft begin Test Flights

On January 16, 2025, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) took a step forward with the commencement of a second series of test flights for its Gulfstream MC-55A Peregrine.

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

The aircraft, bearing the test registration N540GA (5540), departed from the L3Harris facility in Greenville/Majors (TX). This aircraft is part of Australia's strategic initiative to enhance its airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare (ISREW) capabilities.



Pembroke Dock (PD) Heritage Centre and Museum

Many of our Sunderlanders from down-under have had the privilege of visiting Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre. It is an independent attraction operated by Pembroke Dock Heritage Trust. Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre tells the military, maritime and social history of this unique town: Wales' only Royal Dockyard, and once the largest flying-boat station in the World. The two WWII RAAF Sunderland Squadrons, 10 and 461 Squadrons were based at Pembroke Dock at various times.

If you get the opportunity when in the United Kingdom to visit you can expect a warm welcome from our enthusiastic volunteers, and beautiful grounds where you can picnic weather permitting. The Heritage Centre includes a Coffee Shop, a Gift Shop and there is free WiFi throughout. The site is fully wheelchair accessible throughout, and assistance dogs are welcome in the building.



For Sunderlanders you can get a pilot's eye view from the cockpit of an iconic Sunderland "flying boat" plane – like the ones that triumphed in the World War II Battle of the Atlantic. RAF Pembroke Dock was the world's largest military flying boat station in wartime, with up to 100 of these extraordinary planes afloat in the Cleddau estuary.

RAF Pembroke Dock has a special place in the history of the RAAF Sunderland Squadrons and well worth a visit.

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

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NEW BOOKS

Call Sign N for Nuts “Against Overwhelming Odds”

by George Edmunds

Read about how a lone Sunderland flying boat of EJ134, “N for Nuts” of 461 Squadron RAAF, of Coastal Command, on anti-submarine patrol over the Bay of Biscay in June 1943, survived an attack by eight fighter bombers of the Luftwaffe; incredibly, 5, maybe 6 of them, never made it home.

The full and complete story. A blow-by-blow account of the battle. See how they (just) made it home, ditching on a beach in Cornwall, with over 400 bullet and cannon holes, both pilots injured, one crew killed, one engine down, most of the crew suffered injuries.



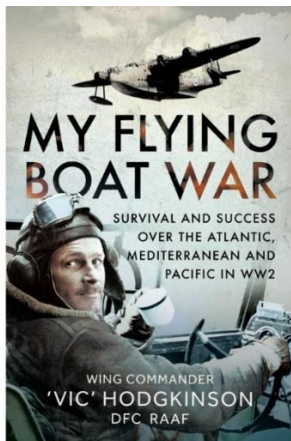
Available from the publishers; Merlinuspublishers.co.uk

Or signed copies from the author: george.edmunds01@gmail.com

Cost per book; £22.99, P&P £4.60 UK only. (1st Class).

Editor's Note –

It is interesting to note that Sunderlanders, Peter Dowling's uncle, Wilbur (Bill) Dowling, Roger and Mick Amis' father Jim Amis and Rick Hattam's father Ricky Hattam all flew in Sunderland EJ134, N for Nuts.



My Flying Boat War Survival and Success 10 Squadron RAAF

\$34.00

My Flying Boat War Survival and Success over the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific in WW2 by Wing Commander Vic Hodgkinson DFC



<https://booksonwaraustralia.com>

Wing Commander Vic Hodgkinson DFC served as a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force throughout WWII. Starting in 1939, he was a founding member of **10 Squadron RAAF**, operating Short Sunderland flying boats. Loaned to the RAF in early 1940, the squadron played a crucial role in the Battle of the Atlantic, conducting air-sea rescues and attacks on German submarines.

During this time, Vic participated in numerous air-sea rescues, including saving twenty-one survivors of a U-boat attack. He also conducted depth charge attacks on German submarines. Vic's resilience was tested when his Sunderland crashed into the Irish Sea near Bardsey Island in fog, resulting in the loss of six of his eleven crew members and a gruelling twelve-hour wait for rescue.

Later, he flew missions in the Mediterranean, enduring heavy enemy fire to support Allied troops in Crete. Returning to the Atlantic, his crew successfully engaged a Focke-Wulf FW 200 Condor.

In 1942, Vic returned to Australia, serving with **20 and 40 Squadrons RAAF**, flying various aircraft including the Catalina and Dornier Do 24. His missions ranged from supply drops and minelaying to bombing and reconnaissance. This is Vic's remarkable story, told in his own words for the first time.

RATHMINES MEMORIAL – SUNDERLANDERS' RECOGNITION.

The three walls provide a fitting memorial to the Sunderlanders most of whom have no known grave having been lost at sea. Set on the headland looking south with a backdrop of Australian native trees and overlooking the waters of Lake Macquarie the location provides a picturesque synergy of water and land which these Sunderlanders never returned to see.

Widows, descendants and family of ex 10 and 461 Squadron members who have passed away since WWII are able to purchase a plaque inscribed with the Squadron member's name to be attached to the wall to record the member's contribution to their Squadron.

Widows, descendants and/or family and friends of any deceased airman who served with the Sunderland Squadrons of 10 and 461 who wish to obtain more information or obtain a plaque should contact Peter Dowling of the AFA NSW Sunderland Branch.

Peter Dowling, telephone 0418 281 775, email peterwdowling@bigpond.com

The sheet detailing the required information for the plaque is included in this Newsletter.

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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>

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 the site.

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

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

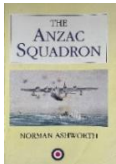
Short Sunderland “Flying Porcupine” - Facebook site.

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.

VALE

Air Gunner, 430118 WO Edward Graeme Marshall, 10 Sqn passed away on 28 December 2024.

Robert Trenberth AM, son of, 1919 Richard Trembath 10 Sqn RAAF. Robert passed away on 16 January 2025. In the past, Robert often marched with the Sunderlanders on Anzac Day.

LEST WE FORGET



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Launching at PD

Sunderland II W3983/RB-R of No 10 Squadron RAAF, about to be brought out of the water at Pembroke Dock, 3 October 1941. Neyland is the headland on the opposite side of the estuary

Sunderland Branch RAAFA



Application for plaque for the Memorial Wall at Rathmines

Please provide the following information for the installation of a plaque:

Service Number	Initials	Surname	Rank on discharge
Date of demise	Age		Decorations

Name address and relationship of representative to deceased:

Name	Address	Relationship
Signature	Email	Phone number

Charges

Casting, freight and fixing to wall.	\$ 290
A donation to the continuing maintenance of monument and wall would be appreciated.	\$
TOTAL (\$ 290 plus donation)	\$

Contact Peter Dowling to arrange for the supply and installation of the plaque.

Peter W Dowling RFD

Email: peterwdowling1946@gmail.com

Mobile: 0418 281 775