

*RAAF Association – Victorian Division*  
Sunderland Branch



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

11 August 2019

## WINTER 2019

Sunderlanders and friends.

I must commence this Newsletter with a sincere apology for the delay in send out this Post Anzac Day and Winter Newsletter. I have been bugged by computer problems having lost the entire earlier draft of this Newsletter and been unable to recover the document.

There are a number of exciting things happening soon in the Sunderland's world. See below for details of the Coastal Command exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance and the New South Wales' Branch 50<sup>th</sup> Sunderland Branch Dinner in October.

Anzac Day has come and gone for another year. Various reports are provided below.

### **In Memoriam – Flt Dudley Marrows DSO DFC Legion of Honour**

This short article is a tribute to an illustrious airman, highly decorated, a leader in both his military and civilian career and one of the world's true Gentlemen.

Dudley Marrows was born in Bendigo on 8 December 1917. He was the youngest of 5 children. He was educated at Bendigo Elementary School and Bendigo High School achieving Intermediate Certificate. Dudley was a fine sportsman proficient in swimming, diving, tennis, golf and rowing. He initially worked at the Railways and qualified as an Accountant in 1939.

Dudley and his brother Jack served for 4 years in the Militia with the 3 Div. Engineers achieving the rank of Corporal and then joined the Air Force.



At the outbreak of WWII, Dudley enlisted in RAAF and under the Empire Air Training Scheme and with brother Keith undertook initial flight training in Rhodesia and navigation training in South Africa. Following his OTU Training in the UK he was posted to 461 Squadron RAAF (The Anzac Squadron) initially based at Mount Batten in Plymouth.

On 30 July 1943 whilst patrolling in Sunderland W6077 UT- U for Uncle over the Bay of Biscay, Dudley's crew received a radio call to RV with other aircraft who had sighted three German U-Boats (U-461,U-462 & U-507) sailing in close formation on the surface.

Soon after arrival at the scene, Dudley made a low level attack at wave-top level on one of the submarines and straddled the heavily armed U-Boat with a stick of depth charges, sinking it.



Following the successful attack, Dudley over flew the stricken vessel and in an incredible act of mercy dropped an inflatable dinghy to survivors in the water.

He then undertook an unsuccessful attack on one of the other U-Boats. On the way back to base at Pembroke Dock in Wales very low on fuel he made another unsuccessful attack on a U-Boat. By the way all three of the U-Boats in the initial engagement were sunk on that afternoon.

By an incredible coincidence, Dudley flying Sunderland U-461 had sunk U-Boat U461.

On 16 September 1943, Dudley's aircraft EK578 UT-E was shot down over the Bay of Biscay and reported missing. Dudley's leadership was again demonstrated when after the landing he swam and gathered up all his crew and got them to the life rafts. They were later rescued by the legendary Captain Johnnie Walker RN.

For his service, Dudley was highly decorated including the DSO, DFC, Atlantic Star, Pacific Star, Efficiency Medal and in 2015 he was awarded the French Legion de Honour.



There are many articles, recordings and books including David Veitch's book "FLY" about Dudley's wartime aviation feats. There is even a Ripley's Believe It or not cartoon about the U-461 action.



Post war, Dudley worked for TAA for some time and then settled in the Mildura area where he soon established himself as a leading agriculturalist and orchardist. He developed several orange varieties. He served 7 years on Wentworth council as a Councillor, was an advocate for the Victorian farmers and Graziers Association and many other agriculture related organisations in the Mildura area.

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In 1987 Dudley's wife Silvia arranged a special reunion for Dudley and his crew with the Captain Wolfe Stiebler and other survivors of U-Boat U461. They spent quite some time together sharing tales of the lives after that life changing event on 30 July 1943 in the middle of the Bay of Biscay.

On Monday 11 March at the age of 101 years and 3 months having passed away peacefully in his sleep Dudley lifted off into the wide blue yonder on his last sortie.

**Vale**



400656 Flt Lt Dudley Marrows DSO DFC Legion of Honour



**THEY SHALL NOT PASS UNSEEN**

The Committee and members of the Sunderland Branch RAAFA (VIC) extend their sympathy to Marilyn and Kel, Mark and Jo and family on the loss of our esteemed airman, friend and Sunderlander.

**REST IN PEACE**

**PLACES TO VISIT**

The Soldiers Memorial Institute Military Museum in Bendigo was opened to the public in November following a multi-million dollar refurbishing and upgrade. The Museum Website link is below.

<http://www.bendigorsl.com.au/SMIDonations/>

The Museum has some Australian Sunderland Squadrons displays which we hope to enhance and expand in the future. I am advised that since its reopening 3,500 visitors have passed through the museum providing positive feedback about the displays.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Rick Hattam. Please address all correspondence to Secretary: Rick Hattam,  
5 Waurn Park Court, BELMONT VIC 3216, Phone 03 5241 3431, 0405 503 650; rickyh461@gmail.com

## PAST EVENTS

### ANZAC DAY MARCH – Tuesday 25 April 2019

**Please note changes to previous arrangements.**

This year there was a change of assembly point to Flinders Street West. We were all able to make the adjustment and there was a good attendance of Sunderlanders.

The 10 Sqn contingent was led by serving member FLT Harrison Page from 10 Sqn. The Sunderlanders with 10 Sqn included serving member FLT Ariel White from 32 Sqn, Ray Rogers, Allan Stark, Ian and Pam McCulloch, Julie Taylor with Jay and Maddie Taylor, David White, and Don Sherman from Goulburn, NSW.

461 Sqn was represented by Pam Gibson and myself. Michael Amiss caught up with the group prior to step off before quickly departing to catch up with his Vietnam Veteran mates.

Regular supporters Elaine Craig and Noel Clough were apologies.

Once again there was a good TV coverage of the two Squadrons marching up the forecourt to the Shrine.

Apologies for anyone I omitted or incorrectly added to the attendees list.

## COMING EVENTS

### SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE – RAF COASTAL COMMAND EXHIBITION – 16 August 2019

The Shrine Trustees have developed a wonderful exhibition pertaining to the activities of RAAF crews in RAF Coastal Command during the Second World War. Details of the exhibition launch are provided below. This great exhibition that will continue for 12 months.

I believe that many Sunderlanders have already received invitations to this event and the exhibition.



The Shrine of Remembrance Trustees  
are pleased to invite you to

**THE CINDERELLA SERVICE**  
Australians in Coastal Command  
1939–45

Official exhibition launch by  
Wing Commander Colin Smith,  
Commanding Officer, No. 10 Squadron, RAAF

**11am Friday 16 August**

Shrine Auditorium  
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

RSVP by Friday 9 August  
to [reception@shrine.org.au](mailto:reception@shrine.org.au)  
03 9661 8100

  
SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE  
MELBOURNE



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**50<sup>th</sup> SUNDERLAND NSW BRANCH AWARDS DINNER**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Sunderland Awards dinner will be held:

*Date:* Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2019  
*Time:* 6:30 for 7:00 pm  
*Venue:* Naval Military and Air Force Club, 111 Hutt St, Adelaide, SA  
*Dress:* Lounge suit or jacket, miniatures to be worn  
*Cost:* \$75 per person (beer, wine and soft drink are provided at no charge)

**Please complete, detach and return the following form by Friday 30 August.**

Payment can be made by:

- i) bank transfer to BSB **032 097**, account **100804** (include your name as reference), or
- ii) enclosing a cheque when returning this form

**Please be advised that all guests will be responsible for their own transport and accommodation arrangements.**

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Peter Dowling

2 Brawn Avenue

Lake Wendouree , VIC 3350

I/we wish to attend the forthcoming Sunderland Awards Dinner

Name:.....Name:.....  
.....

Name:.....Name:.....  
.....

Payment of \$..... @ \$75 per person (please check box):

- ☐ has been transferred directly to the bank (details above)
  - ☐ is by enclosed cheque
- 

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Rick Hattam. Please address all correspondence to Secretary: Rick Hattam,  
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## **Monthly Luncheons.**

Monthly Luncheons are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the East Malvern RSL, Stanley Grose Drive, East Malvern, off Winton Road. See Melways Map 60 A12. There is no luncheon in January and the November luncheon is held on the second Tuesday due to the Melbourne Cup clash on the first Tuesday.

## **SHOPPING SECTION**

### **All items now in stock**

**“MARITIME is NUMBER 10” Book** – Your Committee has some copies of the reprint of this History of 10 Squadron.

Books are available from the Secretary at a cost of \$70.00 including GST, packaging and postage. Order forms are available from the Secretary. The reprint is quite good and worth purchasing.

### **“ANZAC SQUADRON”**

This book relating the story of 461 Squadron the “ANZAC SQUADRON” by Norman Ashworth is also from the Secretary at a cost of \$55.00 per copy, postage and handling.

**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.



**Sunderland circling over Pembroke Dock**