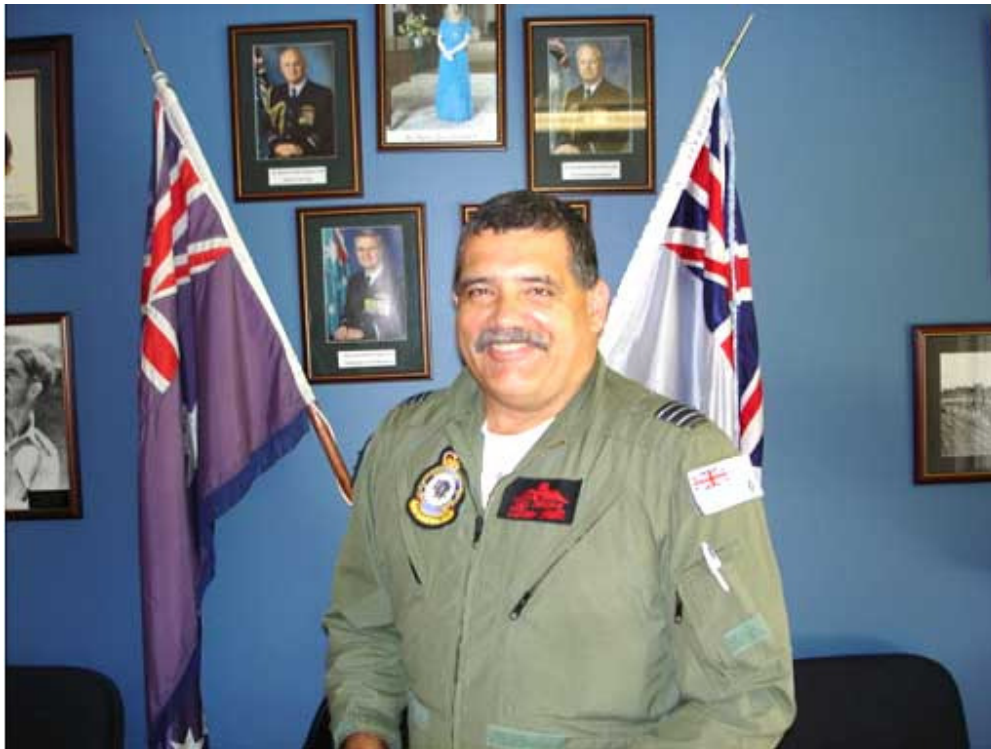


76 Squadron Association Newsletter

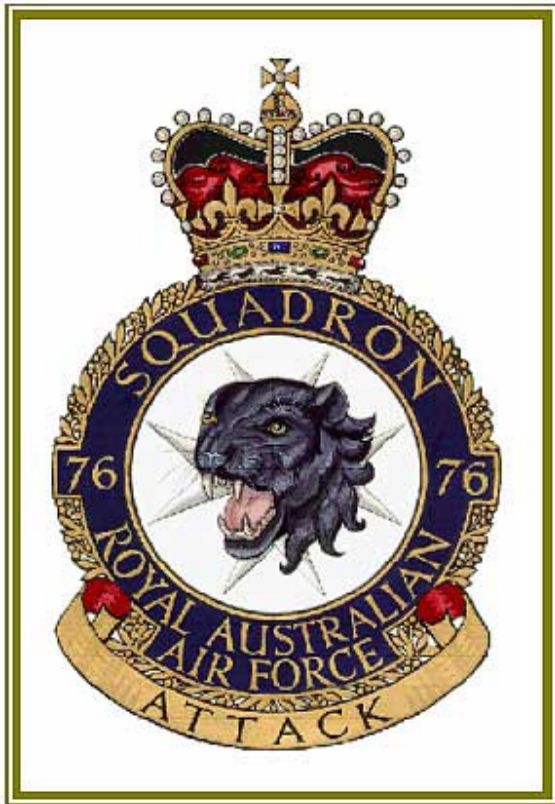
March 2008



*Wing Commander J.A. (Nick) Osborne
Commanding Officer
76 Squadron*

WGCDR Nick Osborne was posted to 76SQN as Commanding Officer in December 2007 after completing a 2½ tour at 78WG HQ as the Executive Officer. Before that, WGCDR Osborne served at 76SQN for 3½ years having joined the RAAF in Jan 2002. Previous to arriving at No 76 Squadron, WGCDR Osborne had served 20 years in the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) as a pilot. Over this period he has flown Skyhawk A4K and Macchi 339C jets and has served on exchange at RAAF Pearce flying Macchi 326H and PC-9/A aircraft. During his flying career, he has accumulated over 5000 hours with over 4000 hours in jets. Nick “Oz” Osborne has been the Commanding Officer of both of the RNZAF Skyhawk squadrons, one of them based at Nowra in NSW, and joined the RAAF following the disbandment of the Air Combat Force in New Zealand. He and his wife Sue have two daughters aged 11 and 18, both of whom were born in Australia.

76 Squadron Association Newsletter



HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. Hope you all enjoyed the festive season and spent time with your families reflecting on the year that was and what the future will bring.

The end of 2007 saw 76SQN up in sunny Townsville flying in support of 2OCU on Exercise High Sierra and completing OPCON 2/07.

Of the nine students on OPCON 2/07 seven graduated in early December 2007, with two students transferring to another airframe. Five students were posted to 2OCU to commence F/A 18 course at RAAF Williamtown. Two students were posted to 6SQN at RAAF Amberley to commence the F111 course. To celebrate another successful course, a graduation dinner was held at Customs House in Newcastle. As usual, the course Bograts provided the entertainment for the evening.

Welcome to our new Commanding Officer, WGCdr James (Nick) Osborne. We hope your time here at 76SQN is both a successful and enjoyable one.

We also welcome our five new pilots who have arrived to begin their Operational Conversion Course. We wish them the best of luck and hope to see them all graduate later in the year!

2008 commenced on 14th January with the posting in of three new QFIs who were required to complete Flying Instructor Training prior to IFCC 1/08 starting on 14th January. Our OPCON (Operational Conversion) Course is now known as the IFC (Introduction to Fighter Conversion) Course.

This first six months is a busy period with the Squadron supporting 01/08 OPCON course conducted at 2OCU, the army Tactical Air Combat course conducted at FACDU, CAS support to the Army, Fleet support for the Navy, numerous air shows and displays, and of course our own IFC 1/08 course.

What's coming up in the next couple of months – Two jets have gone to Melbourne for the RAAF Museum Air Pageant at Point Cook and the Squadron is busy ramping up Exercise Bersama Shield in Malaysia in April. Following Bersama Shield we are off to sunny Townsville in support of 1/08 2OCU OPCON Course in late June (a chance to escape the Newcastle winter). Anzac Day will again see us sending Squadron members all around the country. We will have representation at Glen Innes, Western and good old Sydney (see you at the Mandarin Club) for Anzac day.

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76SQN Association President's Report

76SQN Association AGM 10th April 2008

The Association AGM will be held at the Barrack St Combined Services RSL. Prior to the meeting a wreath laying service will be held at the Cenotaph, Martin Place at 12 noon.

As you will be aware at the time of last year's AGM, I was on my way to England. Although I had urgent family matters to assist with, the outcome has been most favourable, and I even had time to fulfil a lifetime wish and score an escorted tour of RAF Scampton. The base was made famous by the Dambusters' raid. Once again it was great to have so many members of the current Squadron to come down to march with us on Anzac Day, and enjoy the after-march get together at the Mandarin Club. Unfortunately our participation in the family day at 76SQN and 20CU had to be shelved due to numbers (too many, not lack of). I am only too aware of the Squadron's busy schedule and I hope I am not out of place by suggesting that perhaps we can re-schedule a visit this year. The Battle for Australia Day was overtaken by the APEC, and the Christmas party was a great success. Unfortunately having it in Newcastle may have been the reason for none of our fonder members making it up, but it is encouraging to see we are slowly picking up post war members. I will not pre-empt what is being proposed on membership, and the future direction of the Association but Graeme Holm has some very positive ideas which we must resolve at our AGM on Thursday 10 Apr 08. As in past years the AGM will be preceded by the wreath laying service at Martin Place Cenotaph at 12 noon. In signing off, may I extend a warm welcome to our new CO, WGCDCR Nick Osborne. Most of us know the new boss as he has had a long association with the Squadron since transferring from the RNZAF. I am sure he will continue to foster the strong link between present and past members. Please make an effort to attend the AGM on Thursday 10 Apr 08. Until then Slan.

Tom

IFC 1/08



PLTOFF Adam Grinyer, FLTLT Victor Hare, PLTOFF Jason Cross, PLTOFF Anthony Yelland, LT Matthew Stubbs.

IFC 1/08 is currently underway with strength of five pilots. Successful members of the course will graduate later this year. We wish them the best of luck for the challenging months ahead.

UNIT HISTORY



Greetings to all members of the association, allow me to introduce myself, I am Squadron Leader Phil Frawley my nickname is “Frawls” and I have been appointed as the 76 Squadron Unit History Officer. A little of my background, I am an ex-apprentice [23 Intake] and Instrument Fitter, I did pilots’ course in 1975, I have flown Hercules followed by Mirages, Macchis, Hornets and now the Hawk as an active reserve instructor. I have more than 7000 hours of which 4000 is on fast jets and I have 2000 instructional hours. I also fly warbirds and I am qualified on Sabre, MiG-15, MiG-21, Strikemaster, L-39C Albatros and T-28 Trojan and I have been fortunate to have flown the Hawker Seafury, P-40 Kittyhawk, Fiat G-59 and Harvard as well as a few others.

Unfortunately the 76 Squadron unit history has fallen behind somewhat and I am trying to address that at the moment. I would certainly encourage any, and all of you in the association to contact me with any items you think are worthy of being recorded for posterity in our records. My e-mail address is phillip.frawley@defence.gov.au, my work phone number is 02-49646408 and my mobile number is 0439 355 499.

The outgoing CO WGCDR Ted Schneider went to a great deal of expense in privately purchasing a large number of 76 Squadron Ties [see picture] for the benefit of squadron and association members. I have the ties in my office and I would ask that you seriously consider purchasing one [cost \$20] so that Ted can get his money back and to show solidarity with the Squadron particularly at our functions.

I also have the latest Hawk print [see picture] available at \$15, these prints show amazing detail of the aircraft and are very high quality, I can even have them signed by current squadron pilots if you wish.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and I will attempt to enter some interesting articles from the squadron's history in the newsletter in future.



SQNTIE - \$20.00



HAWK PRINT - \$15.00

HONOURS AND AWARDS

CPL Sainsbury - Technician of the Year 2008

The 76SQN Hawk Technician of the Year is an award that is presented by BAE Systems for outstanding performance as a Hawk Technician. All the LAC and CPL maintenance personnel are eligible for the award. Nominations for the award are provided by the SNCOs and Officers throughout the year, and provides examples of outstanding performance. The final decision on who receives the award is left to the WOE and SENGO. The award was presented at a SQN BBQ on Friday 07 March 2008. BAE Systems has presented this award every year since the arrival of the Hawk127 aircraft into service (Approx 6 Years).



76SQN WELCOMES & FAREWELLS



76SQN welcomes the following personnel... ..

WGCDR J. Osborne	PLT	from	78WG	RAAF Williamtown
FLTLT S. McLoughlin	PLT	from	20CU	RAAF Williamtown
FLTLT A. O'Neill	PLT	from	79SQN	RAAF Pearce
FLTLT B. Solomon	PLT	from	CFS	RAAF East Sale
FLTLT V. Hare	PLT	from	79SQN	RAAF Pearce
LT M. Stubbs	AVN	from	79SQN	RAAF Pearce
FLGOFF N. Kowli	ELECTR	from	77SQN	RAAF Williamtown
PLTOFF J. Cross	PLT	from	79SQN	RAAF Pearce
PLTOFF A. Grinyer	PLT	from	79SQN	RAAF Pearce
PLTOFF A. Yelland	PLT	from	79SQN	RAAF Pearce
WOFF G. Everson	AVTECH	From	SRG	RAAF Williamtown
FSGT P. McSherry	ATECH	from	38SQN	RAAF Amberley
FSGT P. Wilson	ATECH	from	2SQN	RAAF Williamtown
SGT J. Brown	CLK	from	HSF Tindal	RAAF Tindal
SGT K. Callan	AVTECH	from	77SQN	RAAF Williamtown
SGT D. Canning	ADASTFITT	from	TFSP0	RAAF Williamtown
SGT M. Cronin	CLKSPLY	from	HQ81WG	RAAF Williamtown
CPL R. Bartley	CLK	from	26SQN	RAAF Williamtown
LAC K. Smith	AVFITT	from	RAAFSTT	RAAF Wagga Wagga
LAC Whittaker	GHAND	from	AFG	Canberra
AC R. Beaty	CLK	From	RAAFSALT	RAAF Wagga Wagga
ACW D. Brooks	CLKSPLY	from	RAAFSALT	RAAF Wagga Wagga
AC R. Dukes	AFITT	from	RAAFSTT	RAAF Wagga Wagga
AC S. Poole	AFITT	from	RAAFSTT	RAAF Wagga Wagga
AC B. Robertson	AVFITT	from	RAAFSTT	RAAF Wagga Wagga



76SQN farewells the following personnel....

WGCDR T. Schneider	PLT	to	CAP DEV	Washington USA
FLTLT C. Almenara	PLT	to	DG PERS	Canberra
FLTLT A. Clark	PLT	to	2OCU	RAAF Williamtown
FLTLT T. Ireland	PLT	to	CFS	RAAF East Sale
FLTLT M. Pearson	PLT	to	CFS	RAAF East Sale
FLTLT D. Spear	ELECTR	to	78WG	RAAF Williamtown
FLGOFF S. Hamilton	PLT	to	2OCU	RAAF Williamtown
FLGOFF A. Kloeden	PLT	to	6SQN	RAAF Amberley
FLGOFF R. Procter	PLT	to	38SQN	RAAF Amberley
PLTOFF E. Borrman	PLT	to	2OCU	RAAF Williamtown
PLTOFF J. McCaldin	PLT	to	6SQN	RAAF Amberley
PLTOFF S. Merrick	PLT	to	6SQN	RAAF Amberley
PLTOFF A. Nilson	PLT	to	2OCU	RAAF Williamtown
PLTOFF J. Ralph	PLT	to	AMCC	RAAF Richmond
PLTOFF B. Thompson	PLT	to	79SQN	RAAF Pearce
OFFCDT J. Rae	PLT	to	2FTS	RAAF Pearce
WOFF D. Slattery	AVTECH	to	DGSP-AF	Canberra
FSGT S. Alcock	AVTECH	to	6SQN	RAAF Amberley
FSGT S. Norton	A TECH1	to	77SQN	RAAF Williamtown
SGT T. Kennedy	AVTECH	to	DGTA	RAAF Williams - Laverton
SGT K. Jones	CLKSPLY	to	AEWC SPO	RAAF Williamtown
SGT P. Lalic	AVTECH	to	77SQN	RAAF Williamtown
SGT J. Perriman	AVTECH	to	278SQN	RAAF Williamtown
CP S. Devereux	A TECH1	to		Discharge
CPL P. Hyder	AVTECH	to	1AOSS	Orchard Hills
CPL E. Jacobson	CLK	TO	322ECSS	RAAF Tindal
CPL J. Marshall	A TECH	to	TFSP0	RAAF Williamtown
CPL J. Paues	A TECH	to	3SQN	RAAF Williamtown
CPL P. Wakelam	ALS	to	79SQN	RAAF Pearce
CPL S. Weaver	A TECH	to	77SQN	RAAF Williamtown
CPL D. Young	AVTECH	to	CFS	RAAF East Sale
LACW R. Duhigg	AFITT	to	11SQN	
LAC S. Edwards	AVTECH	to	75SQN	RAAF Tindal
LAC J. O'Brien	GHAND	to	1RTU	RAAF Wagga Wagga
LAC D. Street	CLKSPLY	to	1AOSS	RAAF Williamtown
LAC S. Svilans	AVFITT	to	75SQN	RAAF Tindal
LACW E. Wallace	CLK	to	381ECSS	RAAF Williamtown
AC J. Roberts	GHAND	to	AFG	Canberra