



## No 76 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2016

### PLEASE READ THIS:

In the Autumn newsletter we advised:

“ In early May this year we will be sending individual automated invoices to those members whose subscriptions expire on 30 June 2016 according to the web site nominal roll.

Though we have alluded to this over the past 12 months we now have the capability to do this, and in addition to providing accuracy not available before will reduce a significant annual load on the Treasurer (currently me) whereas previously the individual invoices were identified and generated manually.

There may be errors in the conversion and we would ask those receiving an invoice that may be in error check that payment is due by visiting their individual page on the nominal roll through the association web site <http://no76.squadronassociation.org> and request the secretary to make the necessary amendment”

**This advice is now updated as follows:**

**Following review of membership and the association's satisfactory cash and cash flow position the management committee have agreed to suspend subscriptions for current members for at least the coming two financial years from 1 July 2016.**

**Consequently, the currency of all those paid up to June 2016 will be extended to 30 June 2018 with those on additional or 10 year tenure also extended an additional 2 years.**

**Unfortunately we can do nothing for life members who only have the prerogative to live a healthier life to extract the benefit intended from the extension.**

**Any member financially current prior to June 2015 will not receive this benefit and be relegated to the inactive segment of the nominal roll on 1 July 2016. Those current at 30 June 2015 will receive a 1 year extension to 30 June 2017 when their situation will be reviewed.**

**The principal reason for this is the sound financial position of the Association and uncertainty of any outcomes arising from the discussions amongst the independent squadron associations and RAAFA (read FSB) currently taking place.**

**So may we suggest those who are lagging in the payment of subscriptions consider rectifying the situation before 30 June 2016.**

## **1. Association Web Site.**

The Constitution along with the nominal roll, minutes of meetings, newsletters, subscription payment alternatives , Combined Fighter Squadron Association social functions and other current documentation can be found on the Association web site at

<http://no76.squadronassociation.org>

## **2: Application Details - Currently Serving Personnel:**

Due to the requirements of the site it is necessary to assign a rank and PMSKey to applications from currently serving personnel.

We would ask that all future applications, on line or in paper format, encompass his requirement.

As many currently serving members have not put their rank on their application form we have looked at the service history given and attempted to make an intelligent guess. Please correct your record if this is incorrect.

## **3: Future Activities:**

### **Combined Fighter Squadrons Association Activities and Dates 2016:**

10 June 16: ....Lunch Hornsby RSL Club. **CANCELLED and replaced by activities at WLM 23/24 June**

23 /24 Jun 16: Dining in Stockton RSL Club and Course Graduation / Open Day on Base:

12 Aug 16 .....Hamilton/Newcastle plus 77 Squadron Association AGM

4 Nov 16 .....Hornsby RSL Club :Christmas Format: 76 Squadron Association AGM preceeds.

9 Dec 16 .....Hamilton/Newcastle (Managed by 77 Squadron Association)

Go to 76 or 77 Squadrons Association web sites around a month prior for details.

## **4 :Independent Squadron Associations and RAAF Association NSW Division - Administrative Change Discussions:**

Meetings were held on 10 December 2015 and 6th May 2016 with representatives of the Independent Squadron Associations and the Fighter Squadrons Branch of the RAAF Association to consider possible alternatives to future structural and governance changes within the fighter squadron community.

Agreement was reached that the guiding principle is that changes, if any, will be in the interests of all memberships, with the understanding that the current structure of 7 independent squadron associations is essentially a loose collection of warring tribes that is ill structured to best represent many individual members who have served in more than one fighter squadron. It is also financially unfair to them by encouraging multiple subscriptions.

Though social activities are now combined and advised through a common social web site and a financial member of any independent squadron association is welcome to all of them, a significant number are still paying subscriptions to more than one association where one annual subscription covering all associations should suffice.

Further discussions will be held through 2016.

Irrespectively, it was agreed that no significant or structural changes would be made while WW2 veterans remain on active nominal rolls.

## **5:Family Day - Williamtown.**

Financial members of the association (and other fighter squadron associations) have been invited by 76 Squadron to a family day which encompasses a dining in at the Stockton RSLClub on Thursday 23rd June, and a course graduation and family day on squadron facilities at Williamtown on Friday 24th June.

Details are attached to this newsletter

**7: Membership:**

The “audit” of the nominal roll was completed in February and believed to be correct at the time.

In February 137 members are financial, including 12 WW2 Veterans and 17 currently serving members in 76 Squadron some of whom may now have moved on.

**8: Finance:**

No significant change from 30 June 2015 (last published accounts) as the November lunch was run at break even when some \$134 of outstanding arrears are received.

**76 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION LIAISON OFFICER’S REPORT**

Greetings Association members, there is very little to report this time around. Nos 50, 51 & 52(A) IFC is drawing to a close and will graduate on 24<sup>th</sup> June. At the moment they are working through the Air Combat Manoeuvring phase (2V1 combat) and will finish off with intercepts to ACM.

The Basic Fighter Manoeuvre phase of the course was held in Tamworth a couple of weeks ago. This is a big boost for the trainees as they return to their starting point of their career now flying jets. It is also a big incentive for the trainees on basic flying courses to see jets operating.

The course has two females, one pilot and one ACO with the ACO, ‘Liv’ already finished and awaiting a posting. The pilot, ‘Jess’ will graduate next week. We are looking forward to both of them graduating from their respective Hornet courses.

The Squadron building is in a shambles at the moment having been flooded during a recent heavy rain storm. All the carpets have been inundated and had to be pulled up and disposed of. The cement slab has to be thoroughly dry before the new carpet can be laid so we are walking around on a sticky mess with the carpet glue still covering the cement.

On the maintenance side the Squadron transition to civilian flight line and first line maintenance using BAE Systems personnel has all but been completed and by all accounts has gone very smoothly. To quote one James “Jimmy the Tread” Treadwell, be of good cheer.



Cheers, Phil Frawley [Frawls]

## INVITATION TO 76 SQUADRON END OF MAINTENANCE CELEBRATIONS

As part of the current Air Force reshaping to introduce future capabilities, Number 76 Squadron will transfer aircraft maintenance responsibilities to BAE Systems from 01 July 2016. This will see the end of uniformed maintenance capability within 76SQN for the first time since the SQNs inception.

To acknowledge this milestone and to celebrate the SQNs distinguished maintenance history, an official dinner will be held on Thursday 23 June 2016 at the Stockton RSL. Cost for dinner is \$35 per head with refreshments available throughout the evening at members' own cost.

The Stockton RSL was selected as the event venue due its long association with many members, as the local Squadron haunt.

The maintenance dinner will be complimented with a 76SQN family open day coincident to the graduation of the current Introductory Fighter Courses on the following day - Friday 24th Jun 2016.

Please note that while the evening will primarily focus on a maintenance theme, all 76 Squadron members; past and present, are equally invited to celebrate this end of an era.

Interested members are asked to register their interest as early as possible if this has not already been done.

Payment is via bank transfer and due by **17th June**.

### **Further Details are:**

Time: 1830 for 1900  
Dress: Smart casual (RSL attire)  
Memorabilia: Will be available on the night

### **Payment details for Bank Transfer**

Account Name: Panther Club  
BSB: 803 205,  
Acct : 2050 9998,

Please include Maint Dinner as the descriptor with name, rank and initials.

To gain access to the base on 24th June and you are not a serving member, **you must E-Mail the following particulars of all attending to WOFF Craig Morris by the 8th of June**

First name - Last name - Date of Birth - License Number - Nationality (and if not Australian Passport numbers)

WOFF Morris details are as follows:

"Morris, Craig WOFF" <[craig.morris@defence.gov.au](mailto:craig.morris@defence.gov.au)>