

# The Mosquito Aircraft Association of Australia

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PATRON AIR VICE-MARSHAL J.C. JORDAN AO (RAAF-RETIRED)

**BULLETIN - No 1 - AUGUST 1992**

## Mosquito restoration



The Association was formed at Traralgon, Victoria on 21/ 7/92 with 40 Foundation Members. Its main aim is to see the Mosquito Aircraft, A52-600, pictured above "flying again", by supporting the dedicated team of young RAAF and civilian volunteers, who are restoring the Aircraft to flight condition, at 503 Wing, RAAF Base, Richmond NSW.

This will be a long, tedious and sometimes frustrating task, involving many specialist man hours and large expenditure. It will be our goal to shorten the period of restoration to ensure that we and the Australian public once again see the Mosquito Aircraft airborne again, as soon as possible.

Your interest will be raised, we are sure, by the challenge of this project, with the great satisfaction to be reached by all involved, at its conclusion. Judging by the many letters and telephone calls being received your wholehearted support will be forthcoming.

Bulletins will be issued periodically to report on restoration progress, other relevant matters of interest and "just to keep in touch with one another".

Your suggestions and contributions to future Bulletins will be welcomed and used within the limits of space commitments. This first Bulletin is being sent to every one the Committee considers will be wishing to support the Association by taking Membership, not only existing members.

- The objects of the Association shall be -
- 1 To provide fellowship and develop acquaintance among persons having a common interest in the DH98 Mosquito Aircraft in general and the Mosquito Aircraft A52-600 in particular, through participation in the activities of the Association.
  - 2 To provide a support group to the combined RAAF and civilian team involved in the restoration of RAAF Mosquito Aircraft A52-600.
  - 3 To keep members advised of progress in restoration with circulation of newsworthy items to members from time to time.
  - 4 To raise funds through entry fees, annual subscriptions, donations & any other source decided by the Committee to contribute to the costs of restoration of A52-600 and to promote public awareness of the project.
  - 5 To advance and preserve the memory of those persons who designed, produced, flew and serviced the DH98 Mosquito Aircraft.
  - 6 To undertake such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Association but having regard at all times that the Association shall not operate for the purpose of profit or gain to individual members and any distribution, whether in money, property or otherwise to members is prohibited.
  - 7 To assist in any display functions of Mosquito A52-600 to the public, whether static or aerial and actively promote the restoration programme and the Aircraft to the public.
  - 8 To be independant of any other organisation and to be a non political and non sectarian Association.

Meet your Patron, Executive and Committee.

Air Vice-Marshal J.C. Jordan has kindly accepted the Foundation Meeting's invitation to be the Patron of the Association.

He joined the RAAF in 1942 in aircrew training, was transferred to a wireless maintenance course and returned to aircrew training in 1944. Following his training in navigation on Mosquitos at No. 5 OTU (Williamstown NSW) he was posted to 87(PR) Squadron on 17th January 1945. His service with this unit continued till its disbandment when he was posted to Survey Flight, later expanded to Survey Squadron. After leaving the latter Unit in 1948 he attended No. 1 Advanced Navigation Course at East Sale. His selection to attend a specialist course at the Empire Air Navigation School in England was followed by loan service with the RAF at that School as an instructor. A brief term with No. 82 Squadron in East Africa followed, where he gained experience on G-H Mk ii Radar Survey equipment.

With appointment of a permanent commission in 1950, on return to Australia he was posted to No. 87 Squadron. On his posting from that Squadron in 1952 (as a Squadron Leader) in August 1952 he had flown a total of 1002 hours 20 minutes in Mosquitos, later appointments included:- Staff Officer - Washington; Wing Navigation Officer No. 82 (B) Wing, CO RAAF School of Air Navigation; Planning Staff HQ PFAF; Commandant RAAF Staff College and OC RAAF Base Fairbairn.

Duty with Joint Policy Staff in the Department of Defence, was followed by Air Vice-Marshal Jordan's appointment to a series of senior RAAF positions and he became Assistant Chief of the Defence Force Staff in April 1978, a position he held until his retirement in 1979.

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M. Ripper-President (Max)- Retired Farmer ex No.1 Mosquito Attack Squadron - Fitter iie . Long background in Local Government & Legacy, (past president)

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K. Johnston-Vice President (Ken) -Financial advisor; RAAF Reserve AIRTC; President Gippsland Branch - Air Force Association.

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A.L. Davies-Secretary/ Treasurer (Allan) -Retired. ex-52 and 454 Blenheim Squadrons, 87(PR) Mosquito Squadron.(Pilot)

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H.A.Gamble-Committeeman (Herb)- Retired. Long history in command of Aerial Photography RAAF Units and second CO of 87(PR) Squadron. (Pilot)

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R.M.Furlong-Committeeman (Rolly)-semi retired farmer.ex-No.80 Kittyhawk Squadron. (Pilot)

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R.Skinner- Committeeman (Ron) -Semi retired Developer and ex News Agency; ex-40 Course RAAF.

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J.Burns- Committeeman (Joe) Retired. RAFVR ex 467 Lancaster Squadron (rear gunner) - Joe actually had a test flight as passenger in a Mosquito at Hatfield, England with Geoffrey de Havilland during the war.

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#### Mosquito Restoration Projects in Australia.

A52-600 ex - 87 (PR) Squadron -during & after the war. Now owned by the RAAF & in early stages of restoration to flight condition, at 503 Wing, RAAF Base Richmond, NSW. The "Team" of young volunteers, headed by F'lt. Michael Shaw, assisted by Fl'Lt. Mike Mayfield, have completed a great deal of preparatory work since 1989, recent progress being as follows. -1) Cockpit almost completely stripped & Photographed. 2) Design for fuselage jig completed, construction in progress. 3) Various hydraulic components disassembled & cleaned, most are in excellent condition. 4) Hard copies made of 20% of publications from microfiche received from RAF Museum. 5) List of part numbers for Mk. XVI obtained. Negotiating acquisition of complete set of drawings from British Aerospace. 6) reassembly of original fin progressing (used as pattern). The fin is to be swapped for a horizontal stabilizer from a Museum in Darwin.

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A great step forward was the allocation to the Team of a large workshop on the Base, exclusively to house the Mosquito, with ample working space, whilst restoration works are in progress. This permits a continuity of work plans & procedures not previously possible.

There are many civilians (many ex-service) with highly skilled experience on the Mosquito construction & repair still "out there", who are being "found" & are playing a part in advising the team from time to time. Some of these men are early members of the Association.

Later Bulletins will keep you advised on the continuing progress of restoration of Mosquito A52-600.

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A52-319 - PR Mk. 41 - Had several owners after being sold by the RAAF in 1953. Purchased by The Australian War Museum in 1979, for restoration to static display condition by Hawker De Havilland as an exercise for apprentices under technical training, at the Bankstown, NSW establishment.

Mr. Gerry Gray of HDH has supplied the following info, & will give us more detailed information on the project at a later date.

Work virtually ceased in 1983 as the badly deteriorated wing posed major problems. Since then fuel tanks have been removed from the wing & the whole structure surveyed. Remnants of the leading edge removed & major repair carried out to the front & rear spars. Large areas of the wing skins replaced, filled & reprofiled. In Nov. 1989 the wing was installed in the fuselage & over the next 2 years new leading edges & trailing edge shrouds were made "Freehand" & fitted to the wing together with flaps & ailerons. Engines were trial fitted in March 1991 & are currently on display at the Museum.

Considerable work has been carried out on the forward fuselage assisting in the fitting of radiators. A donated (derelict) cockpit door has been successfully restored & fitted. Gerry tells us the A52-319 is once again, beginning to look like an aircraft. Our thanks & congratulations to HDH & the Museum on their preservation of this Mosquito.

#### BOOKS TO READ.

MOSQUITO MONOGRAPH by David Vincent- Many of you will have this fine book, it is extremely well researched & illustrated, in the main on RAAF Mosquito Units & Squadrons - a must for the ex-personnel of the following Units. Europe. 456 & 464 Squadrons, RAAF.

Pacific. No.1 & No.94 Sqdns. - No.1 PRU - No.87(PR) Sqdn. Survey Flight - Survey Squadn. - No.87 Survey Sqdn. No 5 OTU (Williamstown)NSW. all RAAF & No.618 Sqdn. RAF.

The book is historically precise, relates Squadrons histories in narrative style & provides an index of all personnel named, or appearing in photographs in the book. A chapter "Surviving Mosquitos in Australia" outlines the adventures of Mosquito A52-600 to 1982 with photographs.

Price & purchase. - In 1984 was \$29 plus \$4-00 postage & handling (this from memory) Write direct to the Author, David Vincent, 29 Xavier st; Highbury S.A. 5089.

THE de HAVILLAND MOSQUITO by Stuart Howe - just hot off the press in England, the Author having previously published "MOSQUITO PORTFOLIO" & "MOSQUITO SURVIVORS". An excerpt from John Cunningham's Foreword highly commends, he says, "Stuart is well known for his work in the field of Mosquito preservation & in this book--- he presents the story of this superb aircraft using many rare & never seen before photographs, covering all aspects of the Mosquito's design, development & operational career. THE MOSQUITO HAS A UNIQUE PLACE IN AVIATION HISTORY."

Price & purchase. S £17-95 plus 15% postage & handling (air mail may be extra at cost) Write direct to Stuart Howe, RAF Museum Shop, Hendon, London, England NW95LL.

THE RAAF 70TH ANNIVERSARY AIR SHOW. With Foreword by Air Marshal R.G. Funnell. This is a beautiful pictorial record of the Aircraft participating in this wonderful air pageant. A top production which includes a two page spread of the Exhibit featuring Mosquito A52-600. you will love this book, (soft cover) which is 90% in colour, with many of the pictures providing action shots of aircraft in the air.

Price & purchase. Your friendly, corner Newsagent, if not stocked write to publisher Chevron Publishing Group P/L, PO.Box 206 Hornsby NSW 2077. PRICE \$ 19-95.

When ordering Books recommended to you in these pages, mention your Association Bulletin as your source of interest, The PR resulting won't do us any harm at all !!

SQUADRON NEWS.

Combined Reunion. - For Mosquito Units & Squadrons operating in the Pacific areas during and after the war, will be held in late Feb; or early March 1993. A very good entry has been received to date. The Units involved are - No.1, No. 94, No. 1 PRU, No. 87(PR), & No. 87 Survey Squadrons, Survey flight & Survey Squadron.

Those attending will view the A52-600 project, meet the restoration team & get all the Gen from F/Lt; Mike Shaw. It is hoped that Registration forms can be sent out reasonably soon to those who have entered.

The reunion will provide a forum to discuss Anzac Marches, Combined Unit & Squadron Banners, inclusion of other Mosquito Squadrons, small committees in capital cities to convene future functions, & any other relevant matters. The reunion will be at Richmond, NSW.

In putting the Reunion together, to date 112 members of Pacific based units have been "found" (at Confirmed Addresses)

456 & 464 Squadrons. - These two renowned Mosquito Squadrons operating in Europe during the war, have many ex- personnel scattered all over Australia. They have not been easy to locate until Col Griffin of Gisborne (Pilot 456 Sqdn;) produced the addresses of his last CO. Bob Cowper & ahead on 464 ex-personnel through Ray Lackey, whom he feels between them, will have addresses of all surviving members. Rex Timbury, a mate from 87 PR Sqdn; & others suggested we include these two Squadrons in the reunion. However the extreme difficulty & the time factor precluded that possibility. We are now very hopeful that this recent clue will result in a good coverage of ALL RAAF MOSQUITO SQDNS. for all future events.

If you have any "SURE" addresses of 456 or 464 ex-personnel --- Please send them in to yours truly.

Personal Contacts. - Squadron ex-members may like a list of addresses published in future Bulletins. Your opinion on such a release is necessary & will be appreciated, the majority will get the decision so write in. Those who would prefer not to be included in such a list could also let us know. Such a list would enable old mates from way back, to reach one another after nearly 50 years of separation.

Quite unashamedly this Association is seeking Membership, an Application for Membership is enclosed with this Bulletin. If already a Member pass it on to a friend you have interested in the A52-660 project in particular & the Mosquito Aircraft in general.

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You may be sure you will receive personal satisfaction from your Membership of M.A.A.A.; as you play your part in publicising the restoration project, helping in finance through your subs, & in the support you give your committee & the restoration team just by being a member.

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Vale - ROSS LITTLE. DFC. - Sad news for ex-personnel of No.30 Squadron, No.1 Squadron and No. 5 OTU; and all others who knew him, admired & respected him, in the Service.

Sincere sympathy from all to his widow and family in Perth.  
30th; May 1992

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It is not generally known, but there are two Mosquito Aircraft flying at this date.

1) RR299 a Mk. T3 . belonging to British Aerospace in England. This Aircraft is flown regularly by Aerospace Chief pilot in Air Pageants all over Britain, where it creates great interest whenever it flies.

2) RS712 a Mk. B35. Owned by the Weeks Museum of Miami, USA. More information is being sought on this Mosquito for later Bulletins.

Also there are Mosquitos in various states of repair & disrepair in the following countries - Great Britain, USA; Canada, South Africa, New Zealand & on last check some 20 odd Survivors can be counted. Few of these, if any, will be restored to flight condition. However A52-600 IS THE ONLY Mk.PR XVI LEFT IN THE WORLD, truly a unique Aircraft.

Most of these Mosquitos have survived, not just because of Government or Corporate direction but mainly through the effort & interest of individuals & groups such as our Association and the dedication of volunteer groups, such as the restoration team at 503 Wing RAAF Base, Richmond NSW.

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Your contributions to the Bulletin are sought, to stir your Editor's sometimes moribund mind. Where space permits, your news, anecdotes, notes on old friends & the like, will be printed. Also let your committee know whether you want a list of all the Mosquito (RAAF) Units ex-personnel with addresses made available to you, through these pages.

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Thats all for now - more news on the "Mossies" in the next edition. Till then - Hang loose.

Best wishes from your Editor,

\*\*\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\*\*\*

The last CO. of 456 Squadron, Bob Cowper, (who has joined our ranks) has provided a list of 112

names with current addresses of ex-personnel of 456 Squadron. We know they will be interested in this Association and the restoration of A52-600. They will receive this Bulletin & other "Gen", as soon as time will permit.

