



WATT'S
HAPPENINGS

JOURNAL OF THE UNITED SERVICE CLUB
NEWCASTLE

Issue 14, SUMMER 2022



Since 1927

Bar
Lounge
Club Museum
Snooker & Darts

***CHRISTMAS
PARTY NIGHT
Friday 23
December
LAST TRADING
DAY FOR 2022.***



2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Acting President /Vice President MAJ Simon Macks (Ret)
Hon. Secretary: WO2 Jason Gladys (Ret) Director: CAP Lyn Van Homrigh (Ret)
Hon. Assistant Secretary: Andrew Hill Director: Phil Screen
Hon. Treasurer: Joel N. Griffiths BCom CA Director: David Thomas
Director: Richard Lees Director: James Wallace

2021-2022 PATRONS

BRIG Derek Sharp (Ret) OBE MAJ Roland MILLBANK (Ret)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me start by thanking all the members, historical committee members and board members for the work they've done to not only keep the club running but also moving it forward.

This last year has been better than previous COVID years but we aren't back to normal as yet. I implore you all to keep yourselves safe and look after your loved ones yet find the time to come join us at the club.

Our first big event for the New Year is the Newcastle 500 on 10-12 March 2023. Debuting the Mustang v Camaro racing which should be exciting. I hope to see you all at the club to join in the thrills. Remember, if you are able, that we will be calling for volunteers to help prepare and run the club.

Lastly I'd like to wish you all the very very best for Christmas and the New Year, I hope you all enjoy the festivities with family and friends. It's a great time of the year to think back on the last year yet look forward to the new.

"May the New Year bring you courage to break your resolutions early! My own plan is to swear off every kind of virtue, so that I triumph even when I fall!"

Aleister Crowley

Simon Macks, Acting President

SECRETARY'S MEMO

On behalf of the board of directors and members, I would like to welcome Richard Poole, Nic Morandini, James Wood and Stephen Callaghan who have recently joined our ranks. I look forward catching up with you in the club during the lead-up to Christmas.

This Spring has set a record for functions. There have been a wide variety of themes and purpose including staff meetings; hails; farewells: and member's birthdays. I'm pleased to note that Veteran groups such as the Patriots Military Motorcycle Club and Veterans Motorcycle Club – NSW Chapter have had a number of events with more bookings coming.

The United Service Club recently hosted a highly successful exhibition by students of architecture from the University of Newcastle.

Some events for Christmas have already taken place, including the NCYC Staff Xmas drinks.

As can be seen, work continues next door. We anticipate this will be completed prior to the return of Supercars next year.

Again, I would like to thank all those members for the patronage and support of your Club, please keep up the momentum!

So Join me at the USC. *Jason Gladys*

ADF DAYS OF COMMEMORATION (Summer)



February 19
Bombing of Darwin

February 24
War Animal Day

**DON'T MISS THE SALAMI BROTHERS
SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER
CLUB OPENS 7PM**

ARCHITECTURE EXPO

By Brenton Porter, ODE ARCHITECTURE STUDIO NEWCASTLE



Earlier this year, a group of 20 students went on a two-week journey to western NSW - exploring towns such as Wee Waa, Lightning Ridge, Gunderbooka, Tilpa, Wilcannia, Broken Hill, Menindee, Mungo & Grenfell.

The students engaged with the various cultures, buildings, landscapes, industries, histories and people of these isolated towns - and created an architectural design proposition for each town based on their discoveries.

This is a yearly trip led by United Services Club enthusiasts Brenton Porter & Dracy Dupe. We thank the club for accommodating us - it was a great night.

Left: Student's drawings displayed on the floor of the USC lounge.

THEY JOINED IN THE 1900's

Flight Lieutenant Wilfred Arthur Goold DFC (Feb 1919 - March 2010)

Long time member of the USC, Wilf was educated at Hamilton Public then Newcastle Boys High. Then a diploma after four years at Art School, during that time, turning 18 he Joined the Citizen Military Forces in 1937.



When war broke out, Wilf enlisted in the Air Force. His neighbour Les Irwin was in charge of air crew enlistment & classified Wilf as a pilot. He learned to fly Tiger Moths and Wirraways at Tamworth and Wagga Wagga before his embarkation in Sydney.

Returning to Australia In 1944, he Immediately married Phyllis. They had four children. After over 1200 hours flying time during the war, Wilf changed direction, taking his father's spot as head of the family furniture business and introduced a home decorator service, 'Goold Interiors'.

Wilf Goold was a distinguished WW2 RAAF fighter pilot. Apart from winning a DFC, Wilf had the distinction of being an acknowledged RAAF Fighter Ace. He achieved this feat of arms whilst on secondment to RAF Squadron 607 operating against Japanese forces in Burma. Only 57 Australians earned the title of Fighter Ace in WWII.

In England following embarkation, Wilf was assigned to RAF squadron 607 stationed in Kent and took part in battles over the English Channel.

The squadron was transferred to India as part of the South-east Asian Command, flying Spitfires against the Japanese Oscars. Here his dog-fighting skills became legendary. There were 21 in the squadron – 12 scrambled at a time against 50-plus, sometimes 100-plus Jap planes flying in a beehive formation.

On February 9, 1944 in a dog-fight over Burma Wilf brought down two Japanese Oscars during a particularly fearless assault during battle for the Imperial Valley. Flight Lieutenant Goold scored five 'kills', a few 'probables' & eight 'damaged' overall during the war and was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross. After three tours he was offered a squadron, but declined the promotion and returned to Australia

Recommended viewing: A May 2003 video interview with Wilf is Archive number 117 in the 'Australians at War Film Archive' UNSW Canberra.

Gloria Thirkell, History Committee.

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FOUNDATION MEMBERS 1927

William Charles Walters

Member Number 10 of the USC was William Charles Walters, born 1889. The son of a miner, Walters lived on Bull St near where member No. 9, Frederick Street, grew up. (Street featured in our Spring issue.)

The two boys went to Cooks Hill public school. As returned soldiers, they served on the Club's inaugural Board. However, the two led very different lives.

Walters was a labourer in Sydney when he enlisted in October 1915. Military records describe the tattoos he bore on each arm. His enlistment form allocates most of his Army salary to his wife and children, but the marriage was actually de facto. It was formalised on December 16th, 1915, the day before he embarked for Egypt as a Private in the 20th Infantry Battalion.

Walters was admitted to a Cairo field hospital with mild sciatica. In April 1916, he was transferred to the newly formed 56th Battalion, promoted to the rank of Driver, responsible for carting ammunition, provisions and so on.

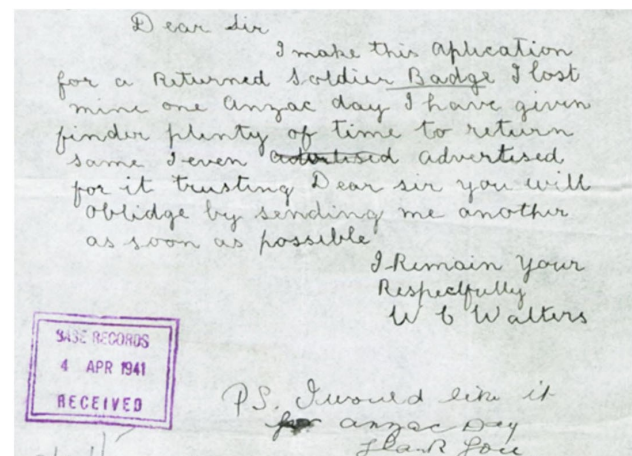
Walters landed with his Battalion in Marseilles at the end of June and within a week was thrown into the disastrous battle at Fromelles. Then followed a bitter winter dug into trenches. 56th Battalion saw relatively little action until late in 1917 when it fought at Polygon Wood with 54th Battalion (whose CO was Frederick Street).

Following hospitalisation with "mild appendicitis" Walters asked to be demoted to a Private so he could join the Australian Army Service Corps, responsible for providing logistic support, other than munitions.

The transfer didn't appear to go well. First, Walters complained of chest pains, then was disciplined for disobeying orders & using threatening language to an officer. He was in the same trouble the next March.

Walters returned to Australia in June 1919 and was discharged with a 10% disability pension. He worked as a labourer until his death in 1949.

Despite everything, his war years obviously meant a lot.



Janet Aisbett, History Committee.

FUNCTIONS



Above: A no-brainer which of the Unicom family is the birthday boy.

Function catering options

- * Do your own;
- * Hire a caterer;
- * Choose our preferred In-house
LYNCH'S HUB



Above: Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club staff at their annual Christmas function.



Above: Retirement function held for John Smith.

THANK YOU



To club member Gary McAllister (Sid) for the gift of a framed photo of a 3RAR dual parachute jump - one person from each side of the plane.

Left: Sid with Jason Gladys

To Past President Ernie Thirkell for the gift of a framed dedication to the memory of Teddy Sheehan VC.



Above: Ernie with Phil Screen & Jason Gladys.



To Assistant Secretary Andrew Hill for the gift of a series of models including tanks, planes and submarines.

Left: One of the model tanks gifted by Andrew.



Lynch's Hub is our preferred catering partner for USC functions.

Support your club by holding your next function or event with us.

Request menu or grazing platter options from the bar manager or direct from Lynch's Hub on (02) 4925 2926



MEET THE BOARD



Richard (Dick) Lees, Director

Dick was born in Adelaide, coincidentally during the same year in which the keel of his yacht 'Freyja' was laid down. He Married Margaret in 1970 and they have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Having graduated Adelaide Medical School, Dick worked as a Specialist Radiologist both at home and in the USA during 1976-78. Coming home he did the exams to gain a UK Fellowship, returning to adelaide before being appointed director of Radiology, Royal Hobart Hospital.

Dick held the rank of Surgeon Sublieutenant (PNF) in 1968, promoted to Lieutenant 1969-72 during which time he served overseas in 1970 aboard HMAS Stuart & on HMAS Hobart in 1971. His main shore posting was HMAS Cerberus (Victoria).

As a member of the Active Reserve to 1983, Dick's main Service was with HMAS Encounter (Adelaide) and HMAS Huon (Hobart). He continued service on the reserve list to age 60.

Dick's civilian work has been concentrated in Adelaide, USA at the University of Virginia, Hobart Tasmania and finally Newcastle. After moving here in February 1983 he became a Partner at the Hunter Imaging Group and then, a member of the board when they later merged with several Sydney practices.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Is celebrated on Armistice Day, which marked the end of WWI. It was a day to remember those who died in that war. After WWII, the Australian Government agreed that it be renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars.

In 2022, the 104th Anniversary of the event which ended 4 years of continuous fighting, we commemorated loss of Australian lives from all wars & conflicts.

Traditionally on 11th November, the eulogy for the Unknown Australian Soldier is read during the Last Post Ceremony live streamed from the AWM at 4:45pm.

The service at 11am in Civic park was attended by Acting President Simon Macks and Property Member, David Thomas who laid a wreath on behalf of our members.



Above: USC members and visitors wrote the names of those they remember during the traditional 1 minute silence onto 'Poppy cards' attached to a memorial board.

CHILLING OUT



Above: Peter Sneesby's family get-together.



Above: Phil & James.



Above: Alex (Gummut) & Paul



Andrew Knight is a Partner at local Hunter law firm **Sparke Helmore** and is also a member of the USC.

He specialises in property law and estate planning and can help you with wills, trusts, powers of attorney and guardianships as well as assist you in preparing a comprehensive estate plan.

You can contact him on andrew.knight@sparke.com.au or call him on (02) 4924 7606

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THE SALAMI BROTHERS - A special event



Above: The disco lights turned off for a photo of 'The Gang'.

Before their return to America, Jim & Jahnke were very involved USC member/volunteers. Members heard there would be a flying visit.

The Salami Brothers
+
"the Gang"
=
REUNION PARTY

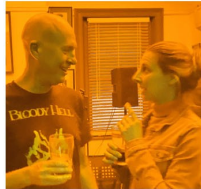


Right: Jim & Jahnke with Catherine.

Below Right: Helen, Jume, Ken



Above: Shaun, Susan & Lisa



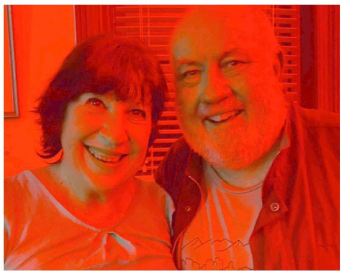
Above: John & Sandy



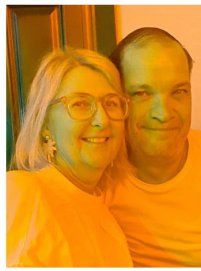
Above: Sue, Narelle and Richard



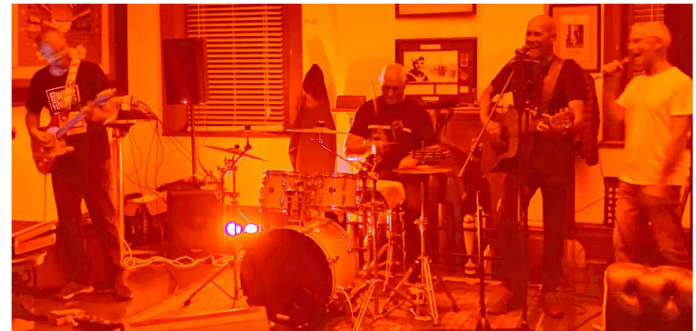
Below: The Salami Brothers



Above: Kaherine & Jim



Above: Dean & Sam



SILVER FRAME SET

Thank you to new Director Dick Lees for sharing these 5 photos taken during his overseas deployments. Dick was seconded to the board following Ernie Thirkell's mid-term retirement and will nominate for re-election at the next AGM.



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HISTORY COMMITTEE

Sue Britton (History Committee)

Few people realise the impact community clubs like ours can have. While many clubs in Newcastle support the strong community spirit of our city, few can claim the support and “launching” of another. But as legend has it, that is what happened at a United Service Club in the 1920’s.

In 1928 at one of the early meetings of the United Service Club, talk turned to flying and aviation. As two founding board members, Captain H. S. Preston (Director) and Captain Les Irwin (Club Secretary) were wearing their service wings it was suggested that they should give a flying demonstration. (Clearly our club still has this same “up for a challenge attitude”!

Both, being younger men at the time, met the challenge with gusto and launched themselves from the top of a nearby bookshelf! After some amazing aeronautical acrobatics and one or two stalls, both did perfect three-point landings on the hall floor. And this, ladies and gentlemen, became the first flight of the Newcastle Aero Club.

This resulted in a public meeting at Newcastle Council Chambers, 55 Watt St, Newcastle, in October that year, at which time Mr Irwin was elected President and Mr Preston a member of the Committee. Preston was Secretary Manager in 1953 when the Club became the Royal Newcastle Aero Club, a year before the USC purchased the Council Chambers for a club house.

The aero club became so popular that it went on to become the greatest aero club in the world well into the late 20th Century. But, when it began, it had two great deficiencies – no aerodrome and no planes! Later a small park was set aside for landings and the first plane is believed to be an Avro 504K GA-USG, purchased from Skipper Mathews, an initiator of the first England – Australia Air Race.

The club is internationally recognised for its contribution to civil aviation and has been commended by NSW Police for its assistance during floods, especially those of 1950.

Surely this is further proof that not only do we have great fun at the United Service Club but even our humorous dares can lead to great things.



USC Inaugural Secretary Les Irwin was the last person born in the nineteenth century, the last person born before Federation, and the last World War I veteran elected to the House. He held Mitchell until his defeat in 1972. Irwin died in 1985.

Left: Les Irwin (approx 1965)

BOARD PROPERTY MEMBER

David Thomas, Director

I am pleased to report that recently we had an informal visit from the Hon David Elliott MP. As most would be aware, he is the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Western Sydney and, most importantly to our members, NSW Minister for Veterans. David was accompanied by his Senior Policy Advisor, John Abi-Saab.

We were honoured to be included in the Minister’s itinerary. He expressed a keen interest in small Military museums and his family military ties to this area.

To fit in with the Minister’s tight schedule on Monday 31 October our Club Secretary Jason, Gloria representing the History Committee, and myself greeted our two visitors and gave them a guided tour of our eclectic collection of military artifacts and souvenirs as well as our historic building.

Gloria was disappointed in that she had the ‘Visitors of Note’ book opened ready and then forgot to get our visitors to sign it. As she points out, the Minister and his Senior Policy advisor have been the most prominent guests in recent years. Both gentlemen have indicated a desire to visit again in which case she will not be forgetting the book for a second time!

Entries in this visitors book for the years between 1954 when we moved into our current premises, and 2009 are numerous and impressive. They include two Governors General, State Governors, a past Prime Minister, State Premiers, a NSW Government Minister, local politicians, Captains of Naval ships including some from Australia, New Zealand, America and Great Britain.

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USC - Newcastle

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAM RAFFLE



Six Hams

*Baked Uprising
Boozy Christmas Cakes*



Drawn - Friday 16 December 2022
You don't have to be there to win

\$5 tickets from the bar
Cash or Eftpos



OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE

Time - 5PM - 9PM - later if enough demand

**Pop in - for a pre or after dinner drink - On your way to a big function
- an evening in a comfortable intimate atmosphere**

JOIN ME AT THE USC

CONTACT US

Address:

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Newcastle, 2300, NSW

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secretary@uscnewcastle.com.au
Secretary Manager,
Jason Gladys

Bar & Functions

functions@uscnewcastle.com.au
Bar Manager:
Catherine Fidock-Jones

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