

# ***“The Tiger Rag”***

The Newsletter of the 8 E.F.T.S. Association Inc.

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## **A new CO at Narrandera Shire Council**

After 24 years as the Shire General Manager, Ken Murphy has retired. Ken has been an extraordinary supporter of 8 E.F.T.S., and by his precept and example, this has been carried through to all his Staff. We have been most fortunate to have had such a good friend. I have been assured by the new General Manager of his continued support.

I had the privilege to be invited as a guest speaker to Ken's Testimonial Dinner. Ken, and his wife Gayle, both Members of the Association, will be remaining in Narrandera and will continue their commitment.

## **Are you being Served or Screwed?**

For many, many years I was involved in very senior Corporate Financial Management Accounting, in other words, Costing, so I do know a little of what is included in “Cost of Sales”. Most of us at the mercy of a limited income, some more than others, so it is in our interests to seek out the best price for all our purchases. Unlike the “good old days” when a supplier of goods and services reduced his selling price as his scale of production and sales increased, this does not appear to happen. Perhaps we need a Ralph Nader of years ago to monitor what is going on. Well, as a start I have researched the cost of Motor Vehicle Insurance. There are significant differences in the cost of identical insurance cover. Over the Internet I obtained quotations from five different companies, using my own vehicle and personal details. My vehicle, a Subaru Liberty now with a market value of \$24,000 was used as the basis.

These are the results:

Company	Cash Cost	Instalment Cost	Remarks
Shannon's	\$1,020.30	\$1,020.30	Nil Increase
N. R.M..A	1,231.53	1,329.48	Plus \$ 98.95
Allianz	1,911.90	2,045.76	“ 133.86
QBE	1,410.00	1,552.80	“ 142.80
GIO *	1,234.03	1,293.96	“ 59.93

\*15% discount if purchased On Line.

These may change without notice, but you can see it is worth checking around. If there are discounts for having other insurance, any saving is likely offset by higher premiums for that cover. If you have to 'phone for a quote, at Shannon's you talk to a knowledgeable person who is willing to negotiate. At others, only a keyboard operator responds.

## **We have something nice for you**



These are metal, enamelled replicas of WW II R.A.A.F. Pilot's Wings.

They are available in two forms, with or without Pin and Clasp. Your ladies can pin them on their clothing or they can be adhered with Araldite to any memorial plaque or surface. Or they can be attached above your Association pocket badge on formal occasions, clearly and proudly identifying your mustering.

They look great! They are just 50 mm or 2 inches wide. They will cost you \$12.00 including Postage. They will also be on sale as a souvenir to the public at the Narrandera Tourist Office, adjacent to the Memorial, at the cost of \$15.00.

In addition, as a result of a number of inquiries, both local and overseas, I have been able to locate a supplier of absolutely identical cloth WW II R.A.A.F. Pilots Wings, all with the Tudor Kings Crown.

These are available to Members who wish to adorn a framed portrait with such coveted brevets. Cost, \$15.00 including postage.

Over the past six months or so there has been a significant upsurge in interest of both the R.A.F. and R.A.A.F. and their involvement in WW II.

I have already dispatched a number of these Wings to relatives of R.A.A.F. Pilots who settled in the U.K. following the end of the war.

In particular, we are interested if any Member has any specific knowledge of a Max Trethewey, an early Flying Instructor at 8 EFTS.

Have a look in your Log Book please. Max's daughter in London would dearly like to know any little detail.

You can contact her; Mrs. Pippa Ettore, through your Hon. Secretary. Pippa is a very active member of the Battle of Britain Society.

## **Visiting Narrandera?**

On your next visit to Narrandera we recommend you

stay at the Fig Tree Motel situated on the Newell Highway, just up from the Memorial.

Proprietors, Jennifer and Colin Burrell, long time residents of Narrandera, particularly care for 8 E.F.T.S. Members.

And while in Narrandera do not fail to visit the Airport and chat up Wally Ruden of the Airwing Recreational Flying School. You never know what you may score.

### **The Tiger Moth**

Did you know that there were 8796 "Tigers" in service in the 12 E.F.T.S. units in Australia. Of these, 1070 were built in Australia. They were assembled at Sydney's Mascot Aerodrome from parts imported from England. One aircraft, A17-440, which flew at Narrandera is now flying under its WW II colours in Wisconsin U.S.A. It was restored by Cpt. Dave Harris of United Airlines, an Honorary member of 8 E.F.T.S. Assoc.

"Tigers" were built in Canada, New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia, South Africa and India.

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 1940 RAF loses top Aussie "Ace"**

Flt. Lt. Paterson Hughes D.F.C. Was born in Cooma, NSW. He was educated at Cooma Public School and Fort Street High School, Sydney. He entered the RAAF College at Point Cook as a Cadet 1936.

After gaining his Wings, he sailed for the UK on January, 1937. He was commissioned into the RAF but continued to wear his RAAF uniform.

On October 30, 1939 he was posted to 234 Squadron as Flight Commander.

On Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1940, at about 1600 hours, the first of around 350 bombers and 629 escorting enemy aircraft began crossing the English Channel. Twelve Spitfires of 234 Squadron were facing incredible odds. While engaging a Dornier bomber, it is thought that the Dornier exploded, and parts struck Hughes Spitfire. His Spitfire crashed at Darks Farm, Bessels Green. He did not bale out and was killed. He is buried in St. James' churchyard, Sutton, Hull.

Flt. Lt. Hughes was just 23 years old, and had been credited with fourteen enemy aircraft destroyed.

### **The Battle of Britain**

Members with access to the Internet are recommended to log on to the following Battle of Britain Society site,  
[www.battleofbritain.net/bobhsoc/](http://www.battleofbritain.net/bobhsoc/)

A total of 2,936 Pilots took part in the Battle of Britain, 32 from Australia and 127 from New Zealand.

14 Australian and 15 New Zealanders were killed during the Battle. 3 were taken Prisoners of War. 3 were killed in accidents.

Many were killed in later operations of the war.

There are many young people in the U.K. taking a very active part in the B. Of B. Society. Crash sites are being explored and parts of aircraft are being recovered, identified and put on display.

There is a remarkable revival of interest in "The Few", and also in the exploits of all those Aircrews, so many who were Australians.

### **Our next Reunion**

With age catching up with us all, a formal parade at the Cenotaph is becoming difficult.

We will continue to have a Wreath Laying Ceremony

at the Cenotaph at 1100 hours accompanied by the playing of The Last Post.

Those who are able, are invited to assemble at the Cenotaph.

Our luncheon will continue to be at the NSW Leagues Club, who have graciously committed to provide for us as long as we need.

Because of their generosity, we should take every opportunity to give them early estimates of our numbers, so they can plan our accommodation. So, please respond early to your 2008 Reunion Notice.

### **The Memorial**

Slowly but surely, the addition of digital displays in the Memorial is progressing.

Our benefactor, "Pepi" Meza, a Media Producer, is devoting as much time as he can to the project. Obtaining graphic material from the War Memorial in Canberra is a painful task.

### **Narrandera Public School**

The children at the Primary School had been striving to raise funds to replace their School House Flags. 8 E.F.T.S. contributed to this project in addition to our annual High School Awards Presentation.