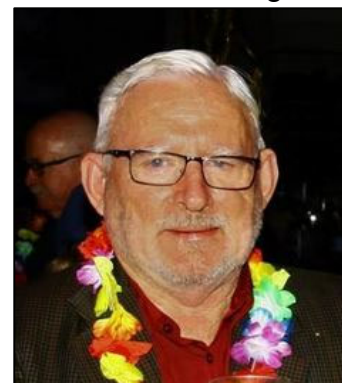


10SU Vietnam.

Whenever people talk about the Air Force and their role in the Vietnam War, people automatically think of the units that operated aircraft, there are lots of stories about 2 Sqn's experiences with their very efficient Canberras, 9 Sqn which operated the immediately recognised Iroquois and the best of all, of course, 35 sqn with their trusty old Caribou. But there was another unit in Vietnam, one which gets practically no recognition, but without which the RAAF in Vung Tau would not have worked and that was No 1 Operation Support Unit (1 OSU) – or 10 Sewerage Unit as it was affectionately called.

John Cridland says "I was posted to 1OSU (Dec 1969 – Dec 1970) even though it is listed in some documents as HQ Vung Tau. For the last 35 years or so I have marched with 9 SQN in Brisbane following an invite from a WOENG I knew in Vung Tau to make up their numbers. Not complaining as I have not missed out on any benefits, but think it is sad that a unit which must have had at least 500 personnel pass through its ranks is so forgotten these days."



Originally established as Base Support Flight in May 1966, it was renamed in May 1968 to reflect the increase in its responsibilities and strength.



1 OSU, Vung Tau, 1968

10SU was similar to a Base Squadron, its staff consisted of Comcen Operations people, Orderly Room, Pay Section, Transport Section, Cooks, Service Police, Education, Radio Station Staff, Airfield Defence Guards, (many of whom were seconded to 9Sqn as door gunners), Medical Section, Air movements, Equipos and anyone else who needed a home



It returned to Australia in 1972 and was disbanded only to be reformed 12 years later at RAAF Richmond. On the 1st January 2007 the unit merged with No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron (1ATS) to form into the unit it is today. 1AOSS is currently the most diverse and dispersed unit in the Air Force, with an approximate staff of 470 permanent, reserve and civilian personnel serving at 9 permanent detachments at bases all around Australia.

35 Sqn end of year 'Thank You's'.

At the end of the year, 35Sqn, arguably the best Sqn in the Air Force, gathers the Sqn personnel together to thank everyone for their efforts during the year and to hand out awards to who everyone agrees was the outstanding person in a particular field.

The current Sqn and the RTFV-35Sqn Association have, over the years, formed a close relationship and this year the Sqn CO, WNGCDR Scott Egan, graciously invited several from the Association to the event, for which we thank him very much. We were met at the front gate at Amberley by FSgt Russell Reilly a bit after 9.00am, signed in and given a good look around the Sqn buildings and its aircraft. Due to the current security precautions in place at ADF bases across the country, poor old Russell had to stick to us like glue, you can bet he wished he was somewhere else, doing something else, with someone else, not tied down to a bunch of boring old buggers who talked of nothing but "when I was in....."

Thanks Rus, we appreciated it.



L-R: Russell Reilly, John Sambrooks, Lloyd Godwin - inside one of the C-27s.



Trev Benneworth, John "Sambo" Sambrooks – the Secretary/Treasurer of the RTFV-35 Sqn Assoc.





Pride of place on the wall in the Squadron room is this wonderful motif which was created by aboriginal man, Maurice Woodley. Maurice was born in Cairns but moved south to Ipswich when he was 13. He is a self-taught artist who started creating artwork not long after moving to Ipswich. He works under a business which he has established called Picqui Arts.



There is a strong rumour that 35 Sqn will drop the Spartan as their emblem and early in the New Year, will revert back to Wallaby Airlines, a name that originated in and was carried with pride by 35 Sqn in Vietnam in the 1960s. The painting on the wall depicts the three major natural disasters for which 35 Sqn, the Wallaby, has supplied aid and comfort to the poor unfortunate people affected by them.

The one on the left depicts fire, the middle one drought and the one on the right, flood.

A brass plaque is mounted below the pics, it reads:

“The story of Picqui

Picqui is the Yinwum people’s Dreaming. Picqui is the Wallaby.

Picqui taught the Yinwum people the way to live. The way to live off the land, how to interact with each other, the seasons, when to hunt and our connections to land’s winds and waters. When Picqui had taught our people, he became restless on earth. He would look up into the night sky and notice how peaceful it was. He then told our people “I cannot rest here on earth, I am going to go up there into the night sky to find some rest.” He left the area of the Embley range and Wentlock river and followed a star path into the sky where he was able to rest. He then said to our people, “I have found rest up here, I am at peace. I will stay up here and watch over you from here. When you finish your time on earth, your spirit will meet me here in the sky.” When our spirits meet with Picqui, it will be decided if our spirit had enough time to reach its full potential. If it has we will become part of the spirit world or universe. If not, our spirit will be sent back to earth and be re-incarnated either as a person, an animal, a seed or a single drop of rain.”





Another item on display, and once again, at pride of place in the Squadron rooms, is this table of model aircraft. Each model represents aircraft that the Sqn has operated at one time since its formation at Pearce in February 1942. (Click the pic for a bigger view). What a lot of people don't know, and we won't say, but "Sambo" paid for these from his own pocket and donated them to the Sqn.



At 11.00am, Scott Egan called everyone together for the presentations. Those receiving an award were:



Damien "Turbo" Power



Mharc Crame.



Michelle Li.



Amelia Ticehurst. (We think Amelia just told Scott a very good joke)





Michael Prince, Darius Karkaria – Northrup Grumman



Yanon "Bob" Du, Jasmine Obst, Abbey Green



Evan Cannard (Sqn W/O) Felicity "Flick" Hull



Evan Cannard then told the troops to get back to work, it's not Christmas yet!

