

What's News?

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- Another member of the Catalina family passes on
- The Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd needs you!

2009 Catalina Festival – 24 October 2009

The third annual Catalina Festival at Rathmines is getting closer! This year's event will be held on Saturday 24 October 2009. Please don't forget to put it in your diary. More information will be provided as it comes to hand. Another great fund-raiser for our project!

Another member of the Catalina family passes on

As we reported in the July newsletter, 11 July 2009 was an exciting day for the CFML with the Catalina Festival Ball and the exhibition at the Powerhouse Discovery Centre. Unfortunately, the day also marked the passing of Mrs Winston Sheila Barker Smith, wife of Flight Lieutenant Malcolm D. Smith.

Flight Lieutenant Smith was the captain of Catalina A24-381 which crashed at Lord Howe Island on the evening of 28 September 1948, taking the lives of seven of her nine crew members, including that of Flight Lieutenant Smith.

Flight Lieutenant Smith's son, also called Malcolm (who was born five weeks after the death of his father), wrote to us advising that his mother passed away at 6.00pm on 11 July, only three hours after he himself had been released from hospital following an operation. Malcolm gave the eulogy at his mother's funeral, held on 16 July, during which he mentioned the fact that his father named a lagoon on Heard Island after her (Winston Lagoon) during the expedition which departed Australia in 1947 for the purpose of establishing the first permanent station on the island.

On 28 November 1947, LST 3501 set sail from Perth with Supermarine Walrus HD874 securely lashed and covered on deck. HD874 and her crew, of which FLTLT Smith was captain, had been allotted to the recently formed RAAF Antarctic Flight. LST 3501 eventually arrived at Heard Island on 11 December. The aircraft only made one flight under FLTLT Smith's command before it was destroyed on a beach during a severe gale on 21 December 1947.

It would have been during this flight that FLTLT Smith named the lagoon after his wife. In 1980, the RAAF Museum at Point Cook retrieved the remains of HD874, the aircraft being fully restored to static condition over many years. The aircraft was finally rolled out for display in 2002.

So while Mrs Smith finally departed this Earth after 89 years, in a sense she remains for eternity through the lagoon that bears her name. Malcolm Jr remarked in a telephone conversation I had with him that his mother attended many social functions at Rathmines, held in the very same hall as the event that took place there on the day of her passing. So one imagines that she was there, shuffling along in spirit, in partnership with her husband on the night.

We express our condolences to Malcolm and his family on the loss of his mother.

Colin Cool, Editor

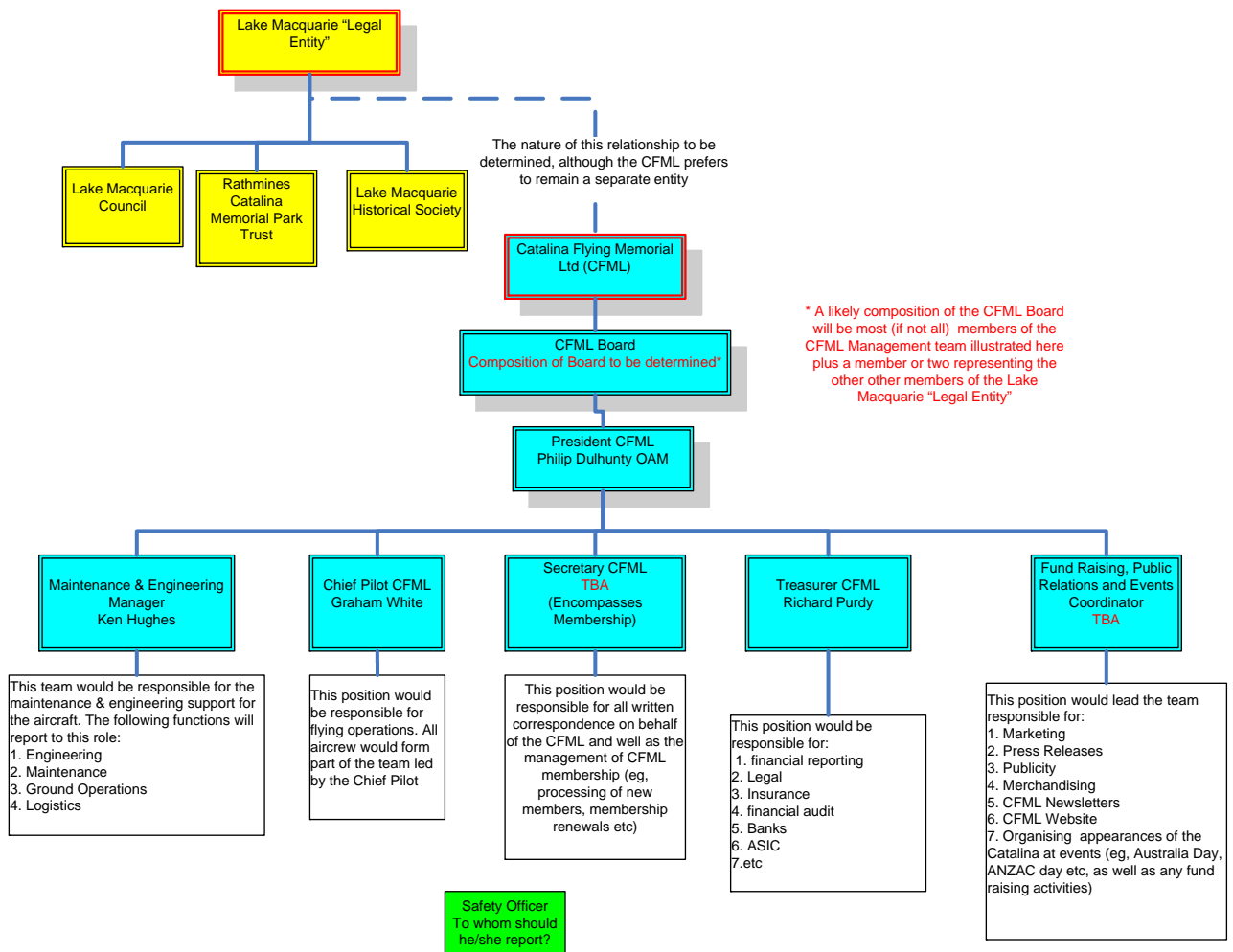


**The Catalina Festival Ball – 11 July 2009
(Photo courtesy of Mr Greg Piper MP)**

The Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd needs you!

The CFML is looking for volunteers to fill a variety of roles, highly essentially to the success of our project.

The CFML is currently formulating its organisational structure as part of its effort to build the team required to ensure the success of our project. Whilst this is still a work-in-progress, we have determined the senior management roles required for the CFML and in some cases we have been able to appoint people to these roles. The latest version of the CFML organisation chart appears below.



The positions yet to be filled are indicated as "TBA". In addition we need to find team members to assist those in the management positions.

The current CFML management team will be holding its next monthly meeting at the CFML clubhouse at Bankstown at 0900 hours on Saturday 22 August 2009. We would like to use the first hour of this meeting to try and fill all available roles.

To this end, we are inviting all CFML members and volunteers who may be interested in filling one of the vacant manager roles, or becoming a member of one of the support teams to attend the first hour of the management meeting on 22 August to express an interest in (and perhaps become appointed to) a role.

The CFML teams are:

- Fund Raising, PR, Events
- Engineering & Maintenance

- Flying Operations (headed by the Chief Pilot)
- **Company Secretary**
- **Treasury**

The support teams are those in red font.

Note that the Fund Raising/PR role has been placed at the top of the list. This is because we desperately need to obtain funding NOW. This role is perhaps the most critical because without money, nothing happens - no C of A, no flying, no project. We realise most want to work on or fly the aircraft, but all support roles – Fund raising/PR, Treasury, Company Secretary are essential if we are to have a project. Yes, they may not have the glamour of the operations side of the business, but without them there will be no operations.

So how about it folks, can we interest you in leading or becoming a member of one of the support teams? If so, we'd love to see you on 22 August.

The Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd isn't just about pilots, engineers and grease monkeys. We need managers, administrators, communicators, fund raisers, organisers – you name it, we need it! So if you think you fit the bill and you can help us out, we want to see you on 22 August. If you can't make the meeting, please contact us if you want to express your interest in a support role.

As for the Engineering and Maintenance (E&M) team, you'll notice that we have the capable Ken Hughes in the senior role. As you all know, we already have a number of volunteers identified for this team and some of them are already at work.

However, Ken may need someone to take on specific responsibilities such as logistics, volunteer coordination and so on. So if you want to put your hand up for a specific role in the E&M team, that would be great. You can come along to the meeting and express your interest to Ken. In the future, once the aircraft becomes operational, there will also be a need to ask for volunteers for ground operations (refuelling etc), but that can be dealt with later on.

Finally, a comment about the Flying Operations team. No doubt, the queue for this team will stretch for miles. At this stage, we won't be looking to assemble this team until we get closer to the time that the aircraft becomes operational. Right now, we need to focus on the support teams. Remember, no support, no flying.

The Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd has been allocated a temporary office/clubhouse facility at 8 Gypsy Street, Bankstown Airport, close to Airag Services where our Cat is currently situated. The meeting will be held at the Clubhouse.

Colin Cool

News or comments

If you have any news or comments regarding the website, please forward to Colin Cool (colin.cool@jemena.com.au) or Jill Brandon (info@catalinaflying.org.au).