

Wing Commander A.E. 'Ted' Ilton passed away on Saturday, 25 October 2014 on the Gold Coast, Queensland. His funeral was held on Monday, 3 November 2014.

Ted's funeral notice in the Gold Coast Bulletin noted "Your two great loves family and the RAAF".

Ted Ilton was a graduate of the RAAF's No. 22 Advanced Staff Course in 1968. Amongst his fellow 22 Course graduates are current Association members AVM Ken Tuckwell (President 1996 – 2003), AIRCDRE Ted Whitehead and WGCDR Tom Johnson.

Ted sparked the genesis of our Association after his retirement from the RAAF. At one annual College reunion in 1987 he noted that attendance by graduates had fallen dramatically and he took it upon himself to remedy the issue. Ted in his usual methodical way prepared a paper in April 1989, entitled "Should an Old Boys Union be formed for Reunion Management and Other Associated Old Boy activities".

Ted then instigated the gathering of address details of graduates – a gargantuan task. Initially he obtained from Staff College the nominal rolls for Courses No.1 (1949) to No. 42 (1988). He manually sorted these names into an alphabetical master roll as he had no electronic database functionality and after many months he had a workable nominal roll of some 1200 graduates.

At the 1990 reunion a steering committee was formed to progress the formation of an association. At the 1991 reunion the Association was founded and a constitution adopted. After some four years of intense effort Ted had achieved his aim. During this process two of our Association members, Noel Montgomery and Jim Huet, in their capacities as College Commandant, provided Ted with much assistance. Ted was elected as the inaugural President of the Association and continued in this position until he retired from office at the 1993 AGM.

Living in Queensland Ted was not always able to attend the annual reunions in the later years but he was there in August 2001 to attend the unveiling of the Staff College memorial plaque in the Group Captain Hughie Edwards VC Memorial Park, RAAF Memorial Grove, on the Federal Highway.

Ted's legacy is continued today with our Association being the only single Service staff college association in operation and, with graduates and DS from the joint Australian Command and Staff College now able to join, the Association continues to flourish.